



The ENCOUNTER

Know... Grow... Flow into fullness

ROMA
Dec 2019 | Issue 2



Dwell
in our home
O INCARNATE
LOVE



Collection of photos
← from the album of
Sr. Dr. MARY GLOWREY

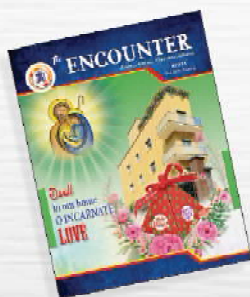


▲
Visit to Australia by
Rev. Fr. Cherian Thunduparambil,
the Postulator for the Cause of
Canonization of Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey
and Sr. Mary Karickakunnel,
the External collaborator of the Cause

"I have not done enough. I could have done more" - MARY GLOWREY

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OUR NEW GENERALATE at Via Tevere 5/d & e, in Roma
is a bounteous gift of God for the
Congregation of JMJ for Christmas 2019.
We pray: **Dwell in our home O Incarnate Love!**



Editorial



Through media at our disposal, we are constantly aware of the impact of climate change on the future of our Planet. More recently *The Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service* (IPBES) published its global assessment report which disclosed that nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history with grave impacts on people (and all other species) around the world.

Nearly five years after the publication of '*Laudato Si'*', Pope Francis' encyclical on the care for our common home, the Pontiff's prophetic words continue to ring in our ears:

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (LS, 160).

Are we looking at the crisis of our common home from a holistic perspective so as to hear "both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor?" (LS, 49).

The inspiration to care for our common home ultimately springs from our faith that the natural world is God's creation entrusted to our care. The time has come to inspire a "massive movement" for the care of our common planetary home. The ultimate challenge of '*Laudato Si'*' is to act together from the grassroots level with "*all people of good will*" leading by example for integral human flourishing.

The campaign "**Sowing Hope for the Planet**" is urging us for an ecological conversion – "*to become painfully aware of what is happening to the world, daring to turn it into our own personal suffering and to discover what each of us can do about it.*" (LS #19)

The Union of International Superiors General (UISG) invites our Congregation, to whole heartedly promote the campaign *Sowing Hope for the Planet*. It's an opportunity for JMJ to become involved in this vital undertaking of the Universal Church. The fundamental connection that exists between the environmental crisis and the social crisis reminds us: "Everything is interconnected."

We are encouraged as a Congregation to reflect more deeply on *Laudato Si* and to consider ways to make Pope's message a reality, both personally and within our communities. In this issue of '**The Encounter**' you find articles on the UISG Campaign for the Planet: *Laudato Si* and *Justice Peace Integrity of Creation* (JPIC).

It's a project in which every Sister of our Congregation takes an opportunity to make a difference in Our Care of the Planet. For more information and self-learning, you may visit websites given in these articles.

The current issue of *The Encounter* presents inspirational articles radiating Wolff's vision, Wisdom's whispers, Echoes of our young sisters and Myriads of mission from Sambuli, Rome and New Mexico. It's heartening to read the Appraisal on the first issue of '*The Encounter*' by Sr. Catherine Ravulapalli. Pictures express some significant events in the Congregation during recent months.

24 May 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of the launch of the Encyclical '*Laudato Si'* – **On Care of Our Common Home**'. In our third issue of *The Encounter* we wish to publish articles, write-ups and inspiring stories of our activities on the *Laudato Si'* – *On Care of Our Common Home* and UISG Campaign *Sowing Hope for the Planet*. We look forward for your articles by email: cjmjencounter@gmail.com before 30 April 2020.

Gratefully we acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of our sisters for this issue. This attractive bulletin could reach you in its best form because of two wonderful people. We are indebted to Christina JMJ for editing the manuscript and Gopi for designing it.

May this issue of *The Encounter* challenge all the members of our JMJ family to deeper commitment and passion for Christ's mission!

- Sr. Vijaya Mary Udumala



A Christmas Poem by MARY GLOWREY

(Written in 1900 at 13 years of age)

*A little babe lay in my arms
Within my arms reposing
Its face lit up by innocent charm
The grace of God enclosing*

*As I felt the clasp of its tiny hand
Around my own entwining
In fancy I passed to a distant land
And saw a babe reclining*

*Upon his Virgin Mother's knee
Oh, boundless love confiding
Oh, wonder of wonders that a God should be
Upon this earth residing*

*I bless Thee Oh! sweet gracious Son of God
And on Thy help relying
Will tread the path that Thou has trod
With Hope and Faith undying*



Appraisal *of the first* THE ENCOUNTER

Sr. Catherine Ravulapalli

"Blessed are you if you put into practice" (Jn.13-17)

The first issue of *THE ENCOUNTER* from the CJMJ General Team is very creative, enlightening, enriching and brought forth vast knowledge and experiences of the JMJ Sisters from all over the Congregation.

I hold in high esteem the editor Sr. Vijaya Mary Udumula who brought out the true meaning of '*THE ENCOUNTER*' in her editorial. "The mystery of an encounter occurs between persons and to encounter another person is to experience the grace of the living God. Indeed, to encounter a poor person is to encounter Christ."

I extend my hearty congratulations Sr. Innamma Yeruva, the Superior General for the initiation and leadership in "Dare to be real and brave to be doer." The Congregational Commitments are promising and they reveal to us the zeal and enthusiasm of the General Council.

As I scanned through the article of Sr. Mary Karickakunnel "A Luminary of Inner Beauty", my thoughts traversed back to 1954-56, when I was a Sec. Grade training student in St. Joseph's Training School, Guntur. I had a loving encounter with Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey and experienced her personal divine touch!

I appreciate and thank Sr. Mary the general councilor who took upon herself from the Congregation the great responsibility of working for the cause of the Canonization of Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey. May her hard and zealous work be fruitful and may we see one day within my life time that Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey be raised to the Altar of God and be called Saint Mary Glowrey of JMJ.

When I went through the Encounter story between Sr. Suze lases and Sr. Regula, I affirm with Sr. Valsa that Sr. Regula is a woman full of grace. Yes, I remember her when she was in India, a beautiful, slim, young and fair nun, walking gracefully in the campus of St. Joseph's Guntur. We appreciate her love and

genuine attitude towards Indian Sisters expressed in her own words.

Wolff's Vision Radiates:

There are eight articles under this heading, all sharing of their encounters with the Lord and others in their apostolate and life situation. I am sure if Fr. Wolff walks around these places, he would be proud of his sisters extending their services in the four corners of the world '*with the Lord and for the Lord of the world.*' All the articles are well written and of course well edited by the experts.



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Wisdom Whispers: The four write ups given under this title are the pearls from the wisdom of aged and experienced JMJ Sisters. They speak volumes of their love of God and humankind. We can read their yearnings for the union and intimacy with the Divine as they grow in their encounter with the Lord.

Youth Echoes: The young JMJs are energetic and are convinced of their vocation. The beauty of JMJ Community living by Sr. Elizabeth Rani, rich experiences of consecrated life by Sr. Sanjukta Ekka, my calling and conviction - gifts from God by Sr. Anitha Showri Rani, and encounter between misery and mercy by Sr. Christina are very inspiring. Well done, dear sisters congratulations to you!

Myriads of Mission: The two articles from overseas mission experience are very motivating and exciting even to an elderly sister like me to join you in this challenging encounter.

'Missionary Zeal from Ghana radiates hope' by Sr. Regina Zangiti made me to read it three times. The cheerfulness and joy of Sr. Regina radiates and expresses her inner beauty and missionary spirit. According to her, she is in Ghana from 2001 up to date. We can analyze her vast and rich experience in that country and admire her strong will power and adjustability to the changing situations of life day by day. Hats up dear sister Regina. JMJ presence in ZUNI, USA by Sr. Ansi Anthonysamy also expresses the greatness of the missionary spirit of our JMJ sisters amidst the poor, broken and drug addicted families.

Global News: Compliments to our General Council for giving a chance to the sisters to participate in the International Workshop on Project Management in Rome and get trained in project management and fundraising. We hope that these sisters (Brigit, Saritha, Susheela, Sobha and Jessy) with their rich experience and learning will respond to the cry of the poor, the migrants, human trafficked, refugees, women, children and youth - taking up suitable projects through our

social apostolate. In this way, our new Congregation can hope to build God's kingdom of love among the least, last and lost.

Sustainable Development GOALS: Reading this writeup, I have learned that there are 17 Sustainable Development Goals adapted by the United Nations Member States. Pope Francis urges personal conversion in implementing these goals. He calls for conversion of heart and reconciliation with others, with creation and the Creator.

I am happy to know that the Union of International Superiors General (UISG) is inviting every member of the Congregations to reflect on becoming: "Sowers of Prophetic Hope by caring for Creation."

Once again, I applaud and appreciate the initiation of our General Council and the excellent way *THE ENCOUNTER* - issue one is presented to the whole Congregation. Reading through it in details, I comprehended the vibrant presence of JMJ among the people of God! I hope next issue will be equally exiting to read!



As our young members grow up, they look up to the seniors teach them important values not by preaching but by our very life to help them lead a healthy, happy and satisfying life. Our founder says to the young ones – "just look at them do what they do"!

JMJ SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY:

Legal Aid Centre, Nallapadu.

Sr. Saritha Prattipati

In 1980s as a child I watched a movie 'Lawyer Bharathi Devi', portraying a strong personality of a woman who stands courageously by her principles, for the sake of justice not minding the difficulties and tough times she had to encounter from her family as well as the world outside. The central role played by the veteran actress *Sarada* got imprinted on my mind and heart so strongly that I dreamt of myself becoming a valiant lawyer. This dream was eventually undermined and got settled at my sub-conscious mind as my fascination grew more towards religious life thus, I became a JMJ nun.



The Society of JMJ prepared me for education ministry with Master's Degree in Arts and in fact, I worked as a lecturer for a few years at St. Joseph's Junior College, Nallapadu. It was in the year 2009 a seed of desire which at the soil of my sub-conscious surfaced and suddenly shoot up like a Chinese Bamboo Tree. This awakening of my inner self took place while I was at 'JMJ SWADHAR Home' at Tenali - an abode for women in difficult circumstances, who are deprived of their basic human rights. This changed

my entire perspective of life and I was in a verge to capture any chance come on my way. Sr. Stella Maris Bellamkonda, the then Provincial Superior of Guntur

Province with gifted broad outlook encouraged me to study LLB and with the encouragement of Sr. Regina Chinnappan, the former Provincial Superior I was able to complete my Law Degree. Today as a religious and a lawyer, I am highly contented, in my profession and be a part of Jesus' manifesto: 'to bring liberation to the captives' and 'to bring Justice for the poor.'

From my experience as a practicing lawyer, I realize that Law is a powerful tool to combat harmful practices such as Human Trafficking, Child Marriages, Sexual Violence, Exploitation etc. The Law can be used to hold perpetrators to account, as well as defining the obligation that governments have to protect women and children from all types of violence and discrimination. The Law is a central pillar in the work needed to end injustice against women and children across the world.

In my six years of experience and with the support of my senior advocates, I am able to address on an average 20 cases per annum. Most of the cases are civil in nature, specifically matrimonial disputes (Domestic Violence, 498A, Divorce, Maintenance, Widow's Property Rights etc.) a few land disputes, criminal and POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences - Child Marriages Prevention, Child Sexual Abuse, Minor Children) cases. Most of the matrimonial disputes are settled outside the court at JMJSSS-Legal Aid Cell by way of summoning both the parties and counseling. Legal guidance through tele-conversations is sought by some people in case of emergency and necessity.

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The Legal Aid Cell at JMJSSS, Nallapadu

The Legal Aid Cell at JMJSSS aims to provide free legal aid services, to achieve legal literacy among the masses and to bring positive changes in the lives of the people.



Our clients are poor, illiterate, innocent and ignorant who hail from rural background and cannot afford to bear the court and advocates' fees. Occasionally, people come to us at the end when everything is lost, at the hopeless situations. They are easily exploited by most of the advocates who charge high fees for their ends to be met. I am proved to be at the side of the helpless especially for the emancipation of the women.

JMJSSS Legal Aid Cell organizes Legal awareness camps to various groups of Women, Children & Students in collaboration with other NGOs, District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), Guntur Bar Association, Child Line, Child Welfare Committee. We give also legal services to the victims who are

trafficked and taking shelter at JMJ UJJAWALA Home in Nambur, A.P.

I am grateful to the Congregation of JMJ for consenting me to practice Law by which many women, poor, innocent, marginalized and ignorant people are benefiting. With the growing civil-land and disputes related to labor laws between the religious institutions and the dioceses, amid the Individuals and religious bodies and among the Government and the religious institutes, there is a definite need for the religious Nuns to be trained and seasoned in the legal field as expert



advocates who can genuinely plead for our own Congregations & Institutions. Inspired by the charism of our founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff (to read the signs of the times), I wish there arise many more legal practitioners among us who could meet the present day's cry of women and those in need. Thanks to 'The Encounter' for tuning my inspirations in the heart of the whole Congregation!



A Jesuit, a Dominican, and a Franciscan were walking along an old road, debating the greatness of their orders. Suddenly, an apparition of the Holy Family appeared in front of them, with Jesus in a manger and Mary and Joseph praying over him. The Franciscan fell on his face, overcome with awe at the sight of God born in such poverty. The Dominican fell to his knees, adoring the beautiful reflection of the Trinity and the Holy Family. The Jesuit walked up to Joseph, put his arm around his shoulder, and said, "So, have you thought about where to send him to school?"

Joy of being in COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

I was fascinated at the first sight of the entire Ignatian campus spread in eight acres of land. I could smell the scent of comforting silence, tranquillity, beauty and warmth of the campus. The statue of St. Ignatius at the entrance of the campus, reminded me of the motto of St. Ignatius of Loyola "All for the greater glory of God." It was quite amazing to know of all the projects that were going on in this big campus.

St. Ignatius campus, located at Prabhatnagar in Honnavar, Karnataka, is on a hillock and is a coastal area. It is a taluk bordering Arabian Sea with Paddy fields, Coconut and Areca plantation. Honnavar is 80 kms from JMJ Sirsi. Sharavati River is one of the main attractions of Honnavar. Blessed with much of rainfall the Ignatian campus is blessed with plenty of water. St. Ignatius Institute of Health Sciences is established in the year 2003. The Institution is managed by the Congregation of Sisters of Mary Queen of Apostles. It is affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore and recognized by Indian and Karnataka Nursing Councils. Blend with the beauty of nature this campus is an edifice of compassion and love with the vision to build up a Christ centered, integrated human society, proclaiming the compassionate love of God.

The campus consists of: St. Ignatius Hospital, School and College of Nursing, Mental Health Center for long and short stay patients and St. Ignatius Social Service Center with orphan and single parented children. In addition, BSS Community College, approved by the Central Government - conducts short term courses of six months like Lab technician; Patient care and First aid; X-ray; CT; MRI & Dialysis.



Sr. Joyamma Chanikuzhy

I am working as a Faculty in St. Ignatius College of Nursing. I am very much edified by Sisters' spiritual, community and apostolic activities. There is a perfect integration of *ora et labora*. There is no holiday for prayer. No compromise for any of the spiritual activities and sisters do them joyfully. Joining for the community prayer, I experience novelty in prayer every day. Prayer is very palatably integrated with singing bhajans and chanting psalms. As the days and months passed by, a particular thought flashed through my mind '*with busy apostolate, it is possible to maintain harmony between prayer and work*'.

Everyone is a friend to all and the culture of respect, unity and charity promotes happiness and health. There is a cook, but none to clean the Convent. 'None' is replaced by all the 'Nuns' doing all house hold activities. When the cook goes for holidays the Nuns take turn without compromising prayer and apostolate. It is very delightful to see the sisters praying, sharing meal and working together always.

Confronted with daily chores of life, the only thing that keeps the Sisters go on with the cheerful spirit and enthusiasm is "the extra one hour of prayer they spend every day, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament." In spite of the busy schedule their involvement in the parish activities is praiseworthy. Celebrations are very amusing and lovely, where staff and students are involved without any discrimination. Something which captured my attention is that the local sisters attend important family celebrations but for a day or two. They are very responsible and dedicated that they return quickly to be in the community.

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As I completed one year of my service here, I am happy to share my inspirations with you:

- Never compromise prayer and pray with Joy of being with your best friend, that will strengthen you to respond to the call of God every day.
- Never put down your Community Sisters before the others at any cost, no matter how wicked or useless the person is, that is the real respect given and charity done.
- Keep the decorum of a religious Sister, as set apart for the mission of Christ, so that our life itself becomes a witness to Jesus Christ.
- Learn to trust your co-workers and allow them freedom to be themselves, which will earn you their cooperation and confidence to improve the quality and quantity of the product.
- Live in the Community with family spirit that will bring joy, peace and unity instead of division.
- Never do anything with an attitude of an obligation but be spontaneous that will keep us authentic and committed.

Expect nothing – you will enjoy everything!



LAUDATO SI' OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS



**“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” -
“Praise be to you, my Lord”.**

In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.

Laudato Si’ is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. Since Lumen fidei was largely the work of Francis’s predecessor Benedict XVI, Laudato Si’ is generally viewed as the first that truly represents Francis’s outlook.

LAUDATO SI’ ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Laudato Si’ is a passionate call to all people of the world to take “swift and unified global action”, particularly in relation to the saving the environment from destruction. Pope Francis writes that while humanity has made incredible progress in science and technology, this has not been matched with moral, ethical and spiritual growth. This imbalance is causing our relationships with creation and with God to break down and our hearts to become hardened to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. We become arrogant and neglect creation and everyone that is part of it; forgetting what God has entrusted to our care.



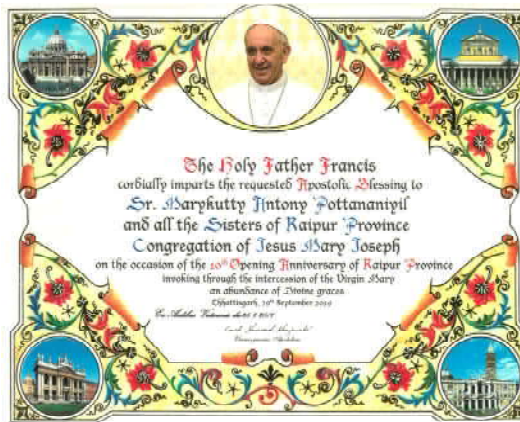
Read Progressio’s [guide to Laudato Si’](#) (768K PDF) providing a summary of the encyclical through its main themes and most important quotes.

RAIPUR PROVINCE DECENNIAL CELEBRATION 2019

Sr. Prem Kumari Hansda

"In Him we live move and have our being." Acts. 17: 28

On 29 September 2019 Raipur Province commemorated the 10th anniversary of its erection. It offered the sisters in the Province a fresh opportunity to thank God for all the accomplishments and to reflect upon its growth and relevance as a young Province of the Congregation of JMJ in India.



Kumari & team and the Eucharistic celebration and the sermon by Rev. Fr. John Ponnore rejuvenated us. Our joy was doubled as the Province received the Apostolic Blessing from our Holy Father Pope Francis on this memorable day.

The experience of unity, untiring enthusiasm and dynamism of the Charism spurred us to carry out our life and ministries with renewed vigor and commitment in today's world, facing challenges as well as embracing opportunities.

The festivity of the day commenced with a soul elevating prayer service in the morning followed by luscious community breakfast. An inspirational thought by Sr. Marykutty Antony the Provincial Superior, insights on JMJ Spirituality by Srs. Prem

On this significant occasion, various competitions were conducted for the sisters and prizes were sponsored by Rajnandagaon and Bhilai communities to the winners. A colorful evening with cultural program and recreation was organized by Sr. Albina Minj and aspirants transforming the JMJ family gathering into a memorable one. The day's celebration was recapped and evaluated by Sr. Pushpy Michael and it was culminated with a scrumptious dinner. We all experienced the festive joy everywhere and the spirit of JMJ in the air.





Prior to the decennial celebration, the spiritual animation committee of the Province designed a nine days novena in order to create a spiritual atmosphere among the sisters in the entire Province. Appropriate themes for the novena were chosen and every community prayed the novena in a creative way.

Biblical significance of number 10 is known as a symbol of the authority of God and His governance of the world. Actually, number 10 is also considered to be the symbol of obedience and responsibility of people towards God's law. In the Bible, the number 10 is used 242 times. The designation "10th" is used 79 times. Ten is also viewed as a complete and perfect number. On this significant and fruitful 10th Anniversary of the Province founding, we thank all of those who have supported us through the years! We are grateful to God and JMJ leadership of the past and present for their great contribution and dedication to our Province. We continue to climb the new heights in God's service to humanity with every sister's hard work, zeal and commitment.

On this magnanimous event, we had every reason to cheer, and appreciate one another, for the role each one played for the growth of the Province. As a symbolic act of our membership and contribution, each sister came forward and pinned a flower each to the number ten. At the end the flowered number ten, which

symbolically stood for our rich diversity and oneness, making our province rich and colorful with all the talents, gifts and energies each one is blessed with, was offered to the Eucharistic Lord during the adoration by Sr. Marykuty Antony.

It was indeed a great day for the Raipur Province to celebrate 10th Anniversary of its formation. We were blessed with the opportunity to celebrate this wonderful occasion in a spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude looking at various aspects of our life as an individual, community and as a province. The Lord gave us the vineyard to take care of the harvest and multiply its fruits in abundance with great love and faith. It was a time to look back with gratitude, to look at the present with confidence and to dream of the future of the Province with positive energy and newness of the Gospel.

Compliments to the undying spirit of the pioneers who have achieved the impossible, which makes the Province vision steady and mission growing. The 10 years story in the history of the Province is truly inspiring and motivating to live up to the spirit and charism of the Founder ever more.



A Ray of Hope

for Women in difficult circumstances

- JMJ Swadhar Home, TENALI

Sr. Nirmala Mary Allam



Women constitute not only half the world population, but also influence the growth of the remaining half. Yet they are unrecognized and vulnerable to all sorts of humiliations and injustice. To cater to the needs of women in difficult circumstances, the Government of India under its Ministry of Human Resource Development has introduced the Swadhar scheme in 2002.

JMJ Swadhar Home at Tenali was founded by Sr. Rosaline Gade in 2005 in collaboration with Govt, financed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi. In the past 14 years our sisters have rehabilitated approximately 1002 women and given them dignified lives. The Swadhar Scheme targets the women victims in difficult circumstances, who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could live their lives with dignity. The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for these women.



The objective of JMJ Swadhar Home are:

- To cater to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in distress and who are without any social and economic support.
- To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.
- To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.
- To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally.
- To act as a support system that understands and meets various requirements of women in distress.
- To enable them to start their life afresh with dignity and conviction.

At present there are 45 inmates at JMJ Swadhar home. Rehabilitation process is implemented according to the need, capability and age of the victim. Out of these, six are engaged in formal schooling, three are studying in high secondary and degree courses. Seven are mentally challenged and are under treatment and three are employed. Almost twenty-six of them are involved in vocational training such as tailoring, computer & hand embroidery, batik printing and painting. They are trained to be skillful in making bags with banana

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and jute fiber, basket, flower and jewelry making, greeting cards, disposable leaf plates, preparation of preserved pickles and bakery items.

Special services are provided to our residents, like yoga, meditation, art of living, counseling, legal aid, formal education, vocational training, placement services to the trained, adult literacy, part time jobs, fine arts and literary activities. We create JMJ family spirit among our residents with innovative recreational activities, celebrate of birthdays, festivals and many more. Assistance is provided to the members to get reconciled with their legal partners / in-laws, rectify marriages, restored to parents, and reunion with the family.

My interaction with the inmates taught me to fight life in joys and sorrows with faith and resilience. Our inmates express a deep sense of gratitude for the love, care and support they receive from JMJ Swadhar. It's always stirring to do something brave and exciting, which give us self-assuring outcome and flying wings. I am so grateful to God and JMJ for the opportunity to give myself to these wonderful women and young



girls, liberating them from oppression. I am thankful to my JMJ sisters for sharing their knowledge, skills, experience and time with me. My love and care for these less fortunate people was possible, because of their continual encouragement all through. All in all, I feel so privileged to have had this chance to learn that these women / girls living in difficult circumstances are human beings and as such, they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect just like any one of us.

Thanks for the wonderful experience and great memories JMJ Swadhar!

NON-JUDGMENT

Once upon the time there was an old farmer who had worked his crops for many years. One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, his neighbours came to visit. "Such bad luck," they said sympathetically.

"Maybe," the farmer replied.

The next morning the horse returned, bringing with it three other wild horses. "How wonderful," the neighbours exclaimed.

"Maybe," replied the old man.

The following day, his son tried to ride one of the untamed horses, was thrown, and broke his leg. The neighbours again came to offer their sympathy on his misfortune.

"Maybe," answered the farmer.

The day after, military officials came to the village to draft young men into the army. Seeing that the son's leg was broken, they passed him by. The

neighbours congratulated the farmer on how well things had turned out.

"Maybe," said the farmer.

Explanation: The farmer is practicing non-judgment. He understands the true nature of life, that you can't judge any event as an "end" in a way. There's always tomorrow. And whether the day was good or bad, there are a million effects which can arise from one event. Good and bad are interconnected. They are, in fact, two sides of the same coin. If things seem perfect, they aren't. If it seems like it's Armageddon in your corner of the world, it's not. Things can change in an instant, at all times.

This doesn't mean that we can't be happy. On the contrary, it means that we need to realize this truth and live in a way that we're constantly aware of it in order to find peace and happiness. This act in itself can bring you a great sense of peace.

Love & Loyalty

Sing in Secret Symphony



Sr. Lalitha Syamala

*I know very well what I am getting into:
I am getting into a bond that
Overflows with streams of blessings.
A bond of my love and loyalty -
That stands strong the test of time*

*I know very well what I am getting into:
I am getting into a relationship that
Brims over with a transforming love
A bond of my love and loyalty -
That transforms naivety into maturity*

*I know very well what I am getting into:
I am getting into a community that
Uplifts and elevates to perfect happiness.
A bond of my love and loyalty -
That endeavors to wipe off every tear*

*I know very well what I am getting into:
I am getting into a lifelong promise that
Changes challenges into opportunities
A bond of my love and loyalty -
That sings the JMJ Spirit and Charism
in secret symphony*

"Yes Lord" Episode



Sr. Hilary Chethalan

God called Adam, "yes Lord" he said
God told him BUILD A WORLD
Never you rest; until the World becomes the best

God called Noah, "yes Lord" he said
God told him BUILD AN ARK
Never you rest; until the Ark becomes the best

God called Moses, "yes Lord" he said
God told him BUILD A CLAN
Never you rest; until the Clan becomes the best

God called Peter, "yes Lord" he said
God told him; BUILD A CHURCH
Never you rest: until the Church becomes the best

God called Mathias Wolff, "yes Lord" he said
God told him BUILD A CONGREGATION OF JMJ
Never you rest: until the Congregation
of JMJ becomes the best.

God called you, "yes Lord" you said
God told you BECOME A MISSIONARY OF JMJ
Never you rest: until you become a Missionary
of JMJ the best

Mercy in Action at Bijapur Mission

JMJ Sisters, Devarahipparagi

People living in Devarahipparagi, Bijapur in Karnataka state are basically Dalit, Tribal and socio economically poor whose living standards are 'below the poverty line' (BPL). Neither they are employed nor possess any land. Most of them do not even have a proper house to live in, they live either under tent roofed houses or thatched houses. They earn their livelihood as laborers in the farms of the rich landlords. The lands here are dry with no ground water, so cultivation solely depends on the rains during monsoon.

Acute poverty, forces Devadasi system where women and young girls become sex slaves or child prostitutes as early as from four or five years old. Adding to this child marriages, illiteracy, extra marital affairs, unemployment, superstitious beliefs, child/ women trafficking, malnutrition, and migration makes the problems worst and thus Devarahipparagi struggles to develop. JMJ Social service sector works in collaboration with the Bijapur Jesuits. The excellent part of Bijapur mission is that there are nearly 65 religious networking with one another, strengthening and encouraging each other to grow in the love of God being passionate for their mission.

Women empowerment:

Sr. Fathima Rani Sanivarapu is directly involved in Social action to liberate people from oppression. With her goal-



oriented vision and mission, in collaboration with the Jesuits, she brings a ray of hope in lives of people through the health and social awareness programs and empowers the women through organized seminars and discussions forming them into Self-help Groups. She trains them to make full use of their talents and abilities and counsels the youth for a purposeful life. Together with the field workers and area animators, she gives them training in small income generating activities, so that they live a self-reliant life with self-dignity. She helps getting pension cards for the aged, widows, Govt. housing schemes, subsidy loans, passes for public transport etc. Besides she visits the government schools to supervise the mid-day meals, surveys the school dropouts, distributes note books, school bags to the poor children. She assists the differently abled children and supports them for physiotherapy.



The following activities are taken up in JMJ Social Centre:

- Women Empowerment Programmes
- Devadasi Rehabilitation Program
- Child Focused community development
- Construction workers groups
- Programmes for the unorganized youth
- Ration and Nutritious food for HIV positive clients and destitute
- Sponsorship for children's study
- Lok Manch Programme (National platform for ensuring dignity and rights of the marginalized through policy interventions).

JMJ School: In order to give to the children of the area, Bangalore province had started JMJ English medium school in 2013. Hardly any school admits these backward and dropout children because of their poor economic status. Thus, today JMJ School is a great boon for hundreds of most backward, neglected, and downtrodden children. Our school is not a welcome to most of the children from so called upper class and rich families just because they have to study with poor and less privileged. We believe that God who began this good work through our Congregation will see that it may continue and bear fruit in the lives of the children.



EVERYTHING CHANGES



“Suzuki Roshi, I’ve been listening to your lectures for years,” a student said during the question and answer time following a lecture, “but I just don’t understand. Could you just please put it in a nutshell? Can you reduce Buddhism to one phrase?”

Everyone laughed. Suzuki laughed.

“Everything changes,” he said. Then he asked for another question.

Explanation: One of the foremost teachings in Buddhism is that everything in life is impermanent. Suzuki Roshi is referring to this impermanence by saying “everything changes”. This is a very deep teaching.

Because it encompasses everything, you can contemplate for hours on end and not realize the full magnitude of the principle of impermanence. You are impermanent, your loved ones are impermanent, your home is impermanent, even our planet is impermanent.

Why is this important? Because it teaches us that greediness about owning things is one of the major reasons as to why we suffer. We need to live being aware of the ever-changing nature of reality and appreciate the present moment. It’s not about letting go, it’s really about not grasping in the first place. If we can learn to live in this way, we can find peace in everyday life.

I AM INSPIRED BY MY SISTER



Sr. Emmanuella Gopu

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.”

I am the youngest child in my family of five children, hailing from a small catholic village Lourdunagar, Warangal District now in Telangana. Two of my sisters and one brother were married and God blessed them abundantly. My eldest sister Regina Gopu joined the Society of JMJ after completing her study in midwifery and nursing in St. Joseph’s Hospital, Guntur under the mentorship of Sr. Mary Glowrey. I always admired at Sr Mary Glowrey while I studied in St. Joseph’s Boarding School. She loved to teach and nurture the children in our school.

My sister Regina JMJ was my inspiration to join the Society of JMJ. I had a great desire to join the convent from a very young age. Of course first I had to complete my 10th class studies only then I can become a sister. So, I enrolled myself as an aspirant and then studied 10th class and PUC. Again I was asked to do my degree in English literature privately as an aspirant. It was not easy for me to study privately yet I successfully completed my studies with the help of B.Ed. College staff and then I joined the formation.

After becoming a sister, I was asked to take up any work, anywhere always being available for any ministry. It was hard to continue my studies privately and at the same time teach in the school. But sisters in my community were really kind to me. Our Founder said “be ready to do any work” and to go wherever

you are sent. I placed my entire self in God’s loving embrace being very faithful in my commitment throughout my religious life.

At every stage of my religious life, I experienced God’s guiding hand following me with assurance of love. I had the opportunity to live with our Dutch missionaries from whom I learned self-discipline and being always ready to help the other in need. As a young sister mostly, I worked in schools and later I was available to the Society as superior, general councilor, provincial councilor and vice provincial. I am always happy and tried my best to make others happy.

I cherish my association with good number of Indian, Dutch and Indonesian sisters by whose love and care, I have grown in my life as JMJ. My Sister Regina a cheerful memory, always encouraged me and guided me through life at home and in our congregation. All through my life, I stood the test times trusting God alone and remained a sincere follower of the Lord.

As a sister JMJ, I wish to advise our young sisters to be faithful to their call till the end and God rewards you a hundred-fold. I pray that all our sisters in the Congregation grow from strength to strength not only in numbers but also in their spiritual life, being true witnesses of God’s love through their committed service to humanity.



My Faith

in word and deed



Sr. Felix Choondal

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah: 1:5)

‘God is a mystery’ who can understand the mind of God! says the Psalmist. Through this article I would like to recall some of my faith experiences, down the lane of my life.

To be a missionary to save souls was my greatest desire and I left everything and started my journey. Thorns and thistles were not far away from the path. I struggled but did not give up. “It is I! don’t be afraid” (Jn: 6:20). The gentle voice of Jesus gave me much courage. As years passed by pains and sufferings became part of my life. To Jesus the incarnate missionary, I offered minute sufferings as my share in my little efforts to save souls. This positive thinking gave me inner courage and helped me not to give up but suffer for the Lord.

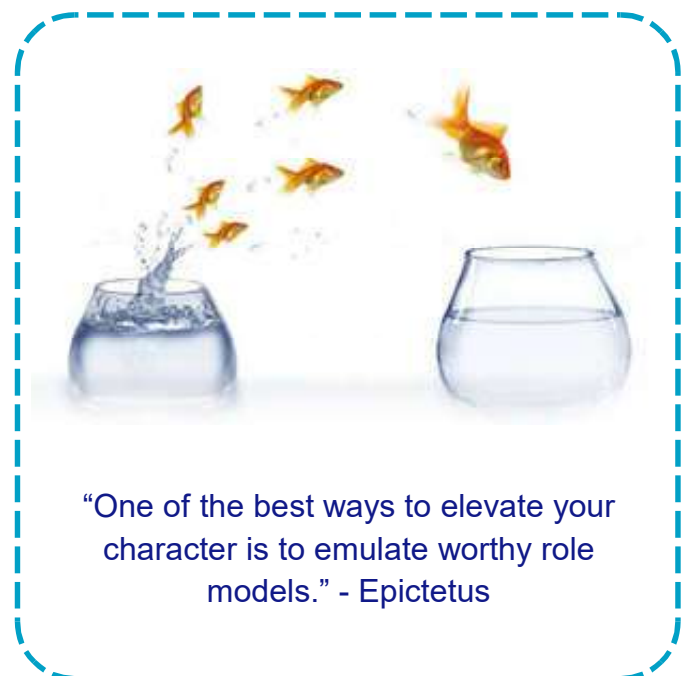
Fifty-six years of my life in the garden of JMJ were full of exciting and enriching experiences. As the years passed by, the good Lord taught me by revealing certain insights, such as the purpose of my existence and its fulfillment. I had a chance to work in the Rehabilitation Home run by the Indian Red Cross Society. There I dealt with many children who were broken and rejected. I worked with much love even taking risk of my life to bring a smile on their faces and to help them lead an upright life. While working with them I had a chance to save a child.

In the Rehabilitation center campus, there lived a watchman’s family in a small residential quarter. He had a son who was ten years old. His wife conceived for the second time. She was very weak and had severe morning sickness. The watchman was afraid that his beloved wife may die, therefore they decided to abort the child. Each time they wanted to go to the hospital,

I prayed and spoke to them in a way that they may postpone their visit to the hospital. After a few days she felt better and when it was time for the delivery, she gave birth to a boy baby. Seeing the child, they were very much excited. If I was not instrumental there, the child would not have seen the light of the day.

A few days later this couple gave me a surprise by revealing their inner urge to accept Jesus as their Lord and God. I gave them few days of instruction and prepared them to receive Baptism. They were from traditional Hindu background. I realized that each one is an instrument in the hands of God to fulfill His plan on this earth. If we refuse or neglect it will be undone. Every opportunity the Lord offers us is accompanied by the responsibility of a corresponding response from our part.

“Life is very worthwhile; if we can love God and have concern for our neighbour.”



“One of the best ways to elevate your character is to emulate worthy role models.” - Epictetus

Mother Mary's Marvellous Miracles

Inspiring Faith story of Sister Stella Maris



Dr. Sr. Theresa Bellamkonda

"Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to His name; make His mighty deeds known to the people"-(Is 12:5)

Sr. Maris Stella Bellamkonda JMJ, my only younger sister was born in a traditional Catholic family in Patha Reddipalem village, near Guntur, on 28th October 1945. My father was a tobacco cultivator and businessman, who was very loving and affectionate to Stella. When Stella was four years old, my mother passed away. Providentially my stepmother also is very much committed to us.



Stella completed her primary schooling in my village, after which my father discontinued her studies, as it happens invariably in villages in those days, while at the same I was studying at St. Joseph's high school, Guntur. Before I began my 10th class, I besought my father to send Stella too, to the same school in Guntur. After my 10th class, I joined the JMJ Congregation and Stella continued her studies at St. Joseph's High School. By God's grace, she passed the 10th class and wished to follow me to become a nun in JMJ. Although my Father disinterestedly agreed to send her to convent, later I came to know that he had secret plans for her marriage!

When Stella was in the first year of Novitiate, my father became serious. So, I went home with my sister accompanied by Sr. Josephita to see my father and returned back immediately to the Novitiate. Unfortunately, he passed away on 3rd January 1968. We could not go to attend his funeral. After her temporary profession, Stella joined for B. Com at St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, followed by M. Com at the Central University, Bangalore. But during her 1st year M. Com., she was asked to stop her studies to help Sr. John of the Cross in accounts section at Hyderabad. During that time, Sr. Stanislaus Swamikannu casually asked her the reason for discontinuing her P. G. studies. She replied that she just obeyed the Provincial Superior.

After a few months, Stella went to Bangalore for retreat, and when she was still in the retreat, she got a telegram, informing her to stay back and continue her post graduate studies. Once she completed M. Com in 1974, she was transferred to Tenali, JMJ College to work in the Degree College. During this period, she became sick and frequently suffered from asthma. Gradually, episodes of asthma intensified, and she had to be admitted into St. Joseph's Hospital, Guntur. Dr. Gladys Lobo's treatment was a happy memory and she was extraordinarily kind to Stella whenever she was admitted.

In May 1982, she suffered with severe asthma attack and rushed to Guntur for the treatment. As her condition was severe Dr. Lobo referred her to Hyderabad for further treatment. She was treated for 15 days in St. Theresa's Hospital, Sanathnagar. After her discharge, she stayed at St. Theresa's convent for a few days of rest. One day at around 4.30 am, she was in deep sleep and dreamt that someone was standing by her left side. Unexpectedly she looked at

The Encounter

an unbelievable and amazing appearance of our Lady of Perpetual Succour with Baby Jesus in her hands. The Divine Mother smiled at Stella and instantly disappeared. From that day onwards until today, she never had any asthma attack. Miraculously she was healed by our Blessed Mother Mary. Thanks to our beloved Mother and glory to God!

In 1983 she was appointed as the superior of JMJ community, Tenali. After the division of the JMJ Indian province into three provinces in 1987, she was appointed as P.C for 6 years with Sr. Rosina Antony as the Provincial Superior of Guntur Province and then for 3 years with Sr. Pauline Joseph as the Provincial Superior. After 3 years gap, she was appointed as the Provincial Superior of the Guntur Province and had the privilege of serving as province leader 12 years. During this period, she had an opportunity to visit The Netherlands, Indonesia, Rome and Africa. This gave her chance to encounter our Sisters within India and outside.

In 2005 she was again admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital, Guntur with a severe abdominal pain. She needed to undergo an emergency surgery because of a tumor, as the doctors suspected it to be cancerous. I was called to attend the operation. During the operation, she had a vision of Mother Mary at Cana Wedding feast (Jn 2:1-12). Instantaneously, she felt reassured by our Blessed Mother that everything shall go well with the operation. Such was her unshakeable trust in the maternal intercession of Mother Mary! Much to the surprise of everyone, by the providence of God, the biopsy report revealed that she had not

even a trace of either tumor or cancer. She couldn't but wonder at the marvellous way God intervened in her life.

In 2011 after 12 years of her tenure as the Provincial Superior, she was transferred to JMJ Convent, Tenali to help Sr. Mary Thomas, the then correspondent and later to become the superior. During her second term as superior Stella became sick with a kidney problem and hence, she was relieved as superior. At present, she is in St. Joseph's convent Guntur, undergoing medical treatment.

On the whole, Stella is overwhelmed with gratitude to God Almighty for her vocation and for the great opportunities she had to serve the Lord. She is profoundly indebted to JMJ, and to all the sisters for all their love, prayers and encouragement. It is the acceptance, support and cooperation of everyone that enabled her to serve God and our Society in her own humble way.

Stella is a very precious, noble, very loveable, affectionate, tender, kind, gentle, meek, compassionate, sensitive, generous, and optimistic person and the list is much more. These qualities become self-evident in her when anyone relates with her even for a short while. Above all, she is a deeply religious person with a profound sense of faith, trust and confidence in God. Our humble prayers for this humble handmaid of the Lord is that, the Gracious Lord would continue to accompany her and bless her abundantly with His love, grace and health for many more years, so that her life becomes an embodiment of gratitude for God's glory!



There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim.
When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?"
The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me."
A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked,
"Hey, do you need help?"
The preacher replied again, "No God will save me."
Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven.
The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?"
God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"



I Treasure My Response to Divine Call

I am convinced that my vocation is a divine call and a gift of God to me. My call to religious life was first nurtured in JMJ, Hanuman Junction. JMJ sisters at Christu Jyothi taught me right from the eighth grade through Intermediate, and that period had a profound influence on my vocation. Their exemplary life in the school and hostel was an inspiration to me. With this impact a flashing thought traversed in my mind - why can't I too become a sister like them and offer my life to God, in service to humanity.

Teaching and caring for children became a strong attraction to me right from my eighth grade. As an inmate of the boarding school, I drew inspiration from my warden Sr. Annamma, who in all her simplicity and as a faithful follower of Jesus, has helped me to understand God's call to religious life. After Intermediate I was determined to join the Congregation of JMJ and expressed my wish to my parents. I being the eldest daughter, my parents were unwilling to send me to religious life. As I was resolute on joining, they finally accepted to offer me to the Lord's service, being certain of their faith yielding a hundred-fold.

All through my formation, I had all trimming and pruning by my formators. I realized that a rose bud blooms in the midst of thorns and this realization was a special moment of grace, as progressed through the years of my formation, becoming convinced of God's loving invitation to follow Him. What a wonderful time it was the beginning of my formation! I enjoyed learning how to pray, how to do spiritual reading, journaling, having spiritual direction, learning to read and understand the Bible, the Church history and the biography of our Founder.



Sr. Swetha Paresa

The beautiful spirit and charism of our holy founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff made me realize that I should foster a deep intimacy with Lord and be available to the needs of my Congregation to spread the kingdom of God. I am certain that my God who is faithfully calling and loving me, does great things for me through my prayer life, sacrifice and service to suffering humanity.

I owe deep gratitude to my Congregation and Province who nurtured me and gave me an opportunity to develop my skills and talents, especially in healing ministry. I experienced the inner happiness of serving my patients with compassionate love of Christ. I feel happy and purposeful when I recall those memories of my patients appreciating me for the *healing touch* and *loving gaze* they experienced through my care.

Seeking God in all things and doing His will, has kept me mindful of my call for a greater purpose; my ministry has kept me in touch with reality. Once I entered, by the grace of God, I knew I had made the right decision and I have never doubted my decision since then. As I look back over the years as a JMJ, I feel that I have chosen 'the best part'. While my life – like everyone else's had its ups and downs, good times and bad times, I have felt fulfilled, because of my consecrated life. I love my Congregation, and my sisters, and I feel grateful to God for calling me to labor in the Lord's vineyard. May God grant me courage for now and insight for the future that I may continue to learn from the past and set the best example as a sister of JMJ.

In Season, Out of Season Called to Proclaim Joyfully

As the famous song goes ‘I have a dream, a song to sing...’ as a child, I never had dreamt of being a religious nun. As an ordinary young girl, I had a dream to meet my prince charming... love marriage... cute chubby kids etc. But God’s plans??? My life’s U-turn. Everything was changed.

Jer. 29:11 says, ‘For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.’ Having this trust, with the guidance of my vocation promoter Fr. Mark Furtado, with the encouragement of my then Parish Priest Fr. Patrick, with the permission of my parents I took a step forward to serve in the Vineyard of God through the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph on 19th June 2012.

‘Love begins at home and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action.’ The year I professed my vows, it was the Jubilee year of mercy and it was a privilege to serve the elderly at home for the aged for a year. As our senior citizens are in their second childhood with various ailments, defects such as loss of hearing and eyesight. Helping them in maintaining personal hygiene, sanitation of the surroundings with abundant love and doing it all for the greater glory and honour of God gave me inner joy and contentment.

Last three years I was in Devara-Hipparagi (non-Christian area) at Bijapur. For two years I accompanied the Parish Youth as their animator. I am convinced that the Lord has picked me up and held me in His loving hands. He has protected me from the pressures of the day and removed the heaviness from my heart. Saying ‘Yes’ to God, was like signing a blank

cheque and He would fill the amount. He has inspired me with the knowledge that He and I together can handle anything. I really believe three reasons why the Almighty interrupts me are: (a) to let know that He trusts me, (b) to strengthen my faith in Him, (c) to lift me up.

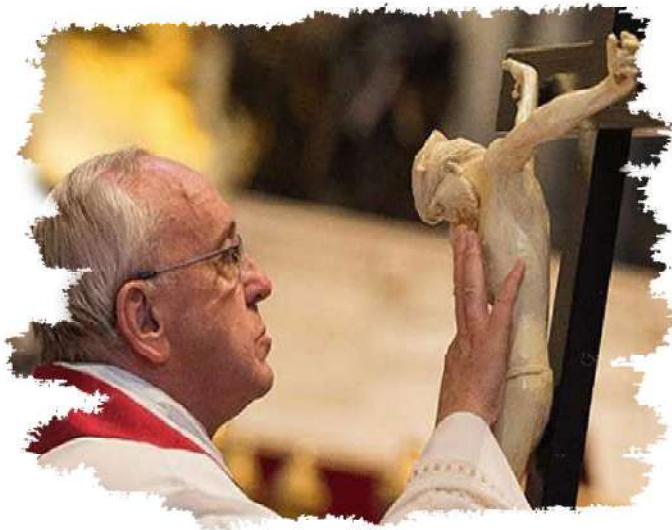


The Lord has constantly been my accompaniment in reaching out to me through different people. There are times when I question myself ‘WWJD’ – if Jesus was present here and now ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ The most assuring words, ‘The best is yet to come’ and ‘I am not called to return to dust but to become the Image of the Divine.’ The Lord has always been gracious to me and has taught me not to be discouraged, but to surrender everything to him, constantly strengthening my vocation.

When the quality of consecrated life is diminishing, community living becomes more hostel-like rather than home-like, when our ministries are fast ceasing to be mission-making and fast becoming money-making, when our consecrated presence is becoming counter



Sr. Annet Rodrigues



witness rather than creative witness to the Gospel goals... I always ponder over, ‘Why have I become a religious?’ and then I surrender my case to the Holy Spirit as He is my advocate and has never failed any case. Unless I let Jesus warm me up more and more with His love and tenderness, I will not catch fire. Jesus is the crux of my religious life. He has set me an

example. He has been my consoler 24 x 7. Pope Francis, Fr. Tom SDB and some more are real inspirations to me to live as a young authentic religious.

Almost a year ago, on 25th December 2018 when my dad had a heart attack for the first time, followed by angiogram and angioplasty on 1st January 2019; things just happened one after the other. In the blink of the eye, everything went on smoothly. In every moment, I experienced the finger the God. I am convinced that when God has called us, He will definitely take care of us, our dear ones and all our needs.

Lives of service, Lives of Joy. Let our ongoing formation be as exciting as *YouTube*, mission be as exciting as *WhatsApp*, religious journey be as exciting as *Facebook*, being a blessing to the Congregation and Church at large by setting our lives on fire for the sanctification of oneself and others.



“Consecrated life means going to the very root of the love of Jesus Christ with an undivided heart and putting nothing ahead of this love.”

- Pope Benedict XVI



My call to JMJ is my choice

– it's God's gift

I feel greatly privileged to commit myself to be part in Jesus' salvific mission through the Congregation of JMJ. "You did not choose me but I chose you" (Jn: 15:16). I am convinced that Jesus had chosen me from all eternity, even before I was conceived in my mother's womb and nourished the seed of my vocation.

I studied at Ravipadu in Guntur district of A.P., a very good traditional Catholic village from where God called other 35 priests and 40 nuns to build God's kingdom of love, peace and justice. Sisters of St. Ann of Phirangipuram were instrumental in nurturing my faith which enabled me as a child to participate in sacraments with great devotion and admiration. My role model is my great grandmother *Papamma* who taught me the pious practice of attending daily mass. I cherish the moments walking with her for daily Eucharist and praying family rosary.

Sr. Ignatia Pudota JMJ played a great role in fostering my vocation to JMJ. I entered the postulancy with great zeal and enthusiasm. During this period, I lost my beloved mother which created a great vacuum in my life. In that great pain and sorrow, the Lord stood by me through my formators and well-wishers and helped me to turn to Him. This was indeed a great turning point in my life as I realized that my Lord is my only solace and in fact, I experienced Him more closely than ever before. With the grace of God, through the intercession of Mary and Joseph and with the blessings of our founder Fr. Mathias Wolff, I joyfully said 'my final yes' to the Lord on 29th January, 2014.



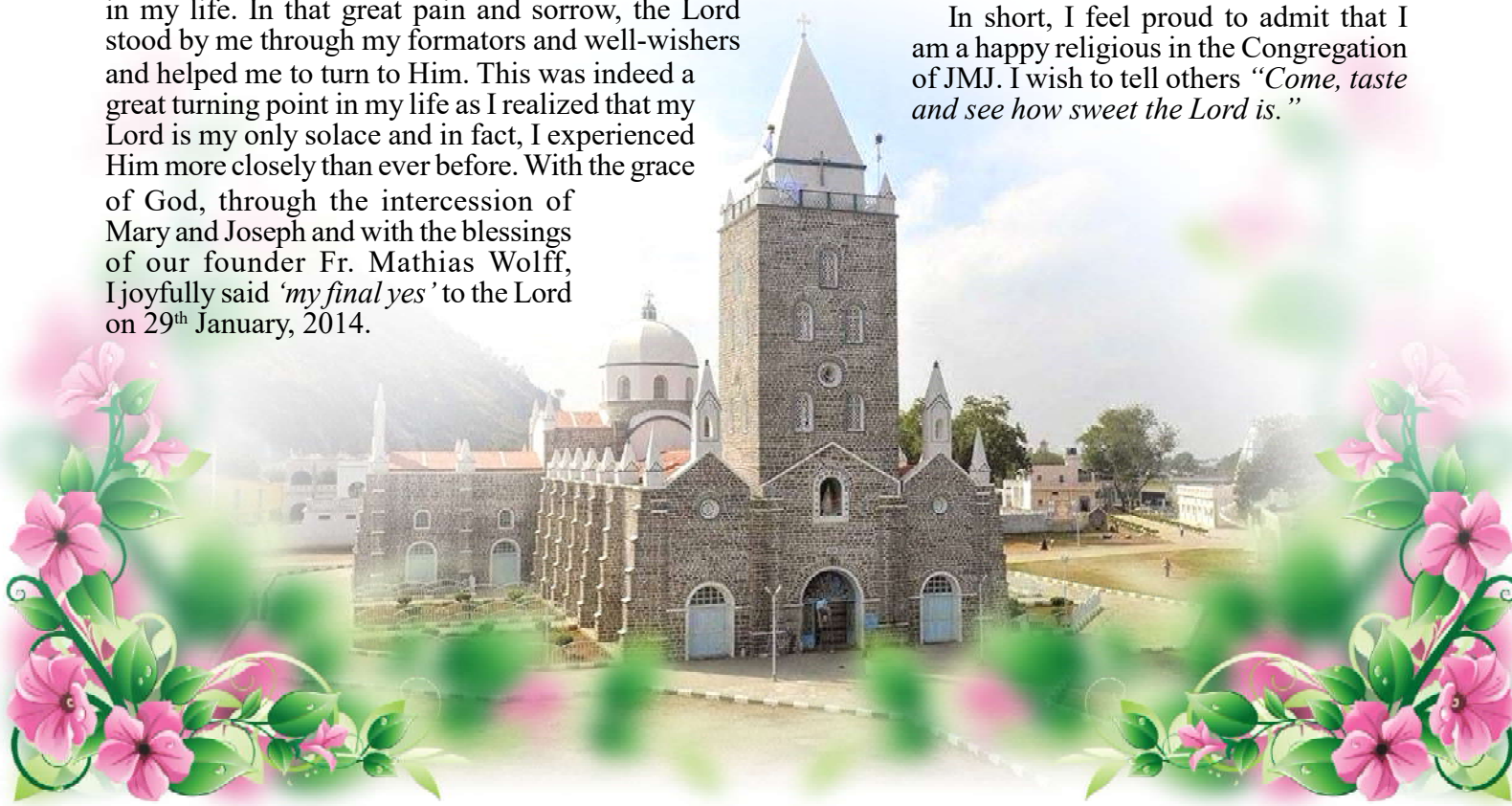
Sr. Sundari Reddimasi

"My food is to do the will of God" (Jn 4:34). "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. (Lk: 4:18). In the same way I envision myself as a JMJ sister carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ. I am greatly convinced that my spiritual life is growing and flowing into ministry through the spiritual exercises of daily holy Eucharist, adoration, community & personal prayer, community life, recollections and retreats.

Working with the students in different schools has been a great joy and blessing. My loyalty and belongingness to my community enables me to be totally committed to the growth and wellbeing of my students, molding them to become good citizens.

I am happy and feel proud to be a JMJ sister for the greater glory of God. I enjoyed the communities wherever the Lord has sent me. My heart is filled with gratitude to my beloved JMJ sisters especially with whom I have lived. I am proud of my companions who are loving, caring, and supporting and my sincere gratitude to my province leaders, formators, superiors and friends who continue to nurture my vocation.

In short, I feel proud to admit that I am a happy religious in the Congregation of JMJ. I wish to tell others "Come, taste and see how sweet the Lord is."



Consecrated Life is a gift to the Church



Sr. Jyothi Pamiseti

“If you are what you should be, then you will set the world on fire” (St. Catherine of Siena)

“To discern our personal vocation, we have to realize that it is a calling from a friend, who is Jesus. When we give something to our friends, we give them the best we have. It will not necessarily be what is most expensive or hard to obtain, but what we know will make them happy,” the Pope Francis wrote in *Christus Vivit* (“Christ Lives”).

Through the life of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, we offer our lives to God, reflecting the life of Jesus Christ and His gospel. Our focus on God becomes daily a new experience in prayer and in the manifold care for our neighbour. Thus, in the midst of a wounded and threatened world, we become a living sign of hope, encouraging people to look at Christ through everything!

In the course of Church history, countless women and men have become followers of Jesus. As religious we give a strong testimony to our bond with Christ. Our consecrated life through the evangelical counsels is a divine initiative through sanctification, inviting us to a deliberate renunciation of what many consider essential.

Yes, as a consecrated JMJ Sister, I am set apart for a special purpose for God. The Evangelical Councils I have pronounced in public on the day of my commitment are directing me to live up to the gospel values of God. The vow of poverty enabling me to keep God and Community first in my life. Through consecrated chastity God is giving me the potential to share the love of God to His people especially through my healthcare ministry. The more I care for them the greater satisfaction I enjoy. By the vow of

obedience, I pledge to live a life defined by God’s will and by the needs of my religious community. I am able to submit myself to say ‘yes’ to God and to my authority to fulfil what is asked of me.

I thank our Congregation for the freedom given me to do my ministry of healing with responsibility. The words of our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, “*Ora et Labora and ascending to God and descending to people*” encourage and inspire me to live my life authentically as a consecrated person.



“Every consecrated person is a gift for the People of God on a journey.” From the elderly there is much to learn, we value their presence and wisdom, that strengthens and renews the commitment of the young to spread and live the gospel of love, justice and peace. Together the young and old, we become partners in prayer and work - *with Lord of the world for the world of the Lord.*

Our Congregation remains youthful by going back to its roots, by listening to the wisdom stories of our older members. There is no future without this encounter between the old and the young. There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds.

The lasting of value of Consecrated life does not happen when we organize beautiful vocation campaigns, but when the young people meet us, they feel attracted to us by our witnessing life style and selfless service to humanity. Likewise, our apostolic effectiveness does not depend on the efficiency and power but on our faithful commitment and apostolic zeal. It is our life that needs to speak - a life that expresses the joy and beauty of living the gospel and authentic following of Christ.



Sr. Sanjukta Kujur



Mathias Wolff *walks amongst us today
As he did all those yesteryears
And through JMJ Spirit and Charism as our way
Come my daughters to save the souls*

*Blessed Spirit and Charism ever fair!
Gazing at the signs of time with Christ
Leading us to liberate humanity with care
With an ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability spirit*

*Spirit and Charism of our beloved Congregation
Stirs the heart and mind of everyone
Moulds and shapes one's own vision
Inspired by Founder to carry out God's mission*

*Though steep the path, we follow Christ today
The footprint of our founder shows us the way
For our pioneers travelled a similar road
And carried an equal apostolic load*

*Deep in our heart the fire of goodness burns
A vision of a world renewed through radical concerns
Our Spirit and Charism given wings of availability,
Bringing new hope and fullness of life to humanity*



Language of JMJ Presence at Sambuli, Ghana



JMJ Sisters, Sambuli

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps on the sea, And rides upon the storm. - William Cowper

There is always a prophetic element in the birth of a religious community. Religious life is prophetic by its very nature; it has its own unique way of being prophetic and living of the Evangelical councils, revealing the Spirit and Charism of one's Congregation in a tangible way.

JMJ Sambuli mission began on our Founder's Day in 2008 with health care ministry. Sr. Sahaya Vinarasi and Sr. Josephine Mallavarapu lived in mission house of the parish worked at Holy Cross Clinic of the Government under the management of Yendi diocese. Pioneering work has always to face many challenges with place, people, culture and work.

Later they moved to staff quarters until the convent building was ready. Sr. Rose Mary Maddineni was the first superior of the community in 2012. Sr. Vimala Jose Chittilapilli, Sr. Lourdu Rani Chimalapenta joined hands with Sr. Rose Mary and Sr. Marina Yeruva from September 2015. Sr. Anthony Mary Singasani, Sr. Showrilu Allam, and Sr. Berlin Grace Magimaidoss have also worked in Sambuli mission. We acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of our pioneers.

The Origin of Sambuli: The people of Sambuli originated from *Sambu*. History tells that a man called *SAMU*, left for Sambu as a hunter as early as 100 AD. He realised that there was bush meat, so he migrated to Sambuli for hunting and settled there. The people living in Sambuli are said to be his descendants. When *Samu* died, his children said that *Samu* is planted not buried. The people of Sambuli practice a culture known as *IKAAL* and they are called *konkombas* which means *unity* and they speak their tribal language called *LIKAPAN*.



They practice patrilineal inheritance and polygamy. When husband dies one of his brothers take the woman as his wife and all his belongings even the children. When married woman dies all belongings will be shared among her sisters. They have strong cultural beliefs, traditions and community bond. They have a chieftaincy system where the chief of the village takes control of the local governance. The whole land and the people are under his control. He distributes the land to the people according to their need. He is the one who brings peace and harmony among

the people. The functions of the Chief are multiple, ranging from maintenance of social norms to provision of basic social amenities to creating political awareness among the subjects.



In Ghana people give high importance to funerals. Ghanaians may spend as much money on funerals as on weddings, sometimes even more. "An average funeral should cost between \$15,000 - \$20,000," says

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Kwaku, a funeral planner. Mourners arrive dressed in traditional funeral colours of black or red. Often mourners wear mostly black, while close family members of the person who has died wear red. One lively tradition in Ghana is dancing pallbearers. For people funeral is a celebration and a dance.



Most of the Sambuli people are farmers and depend on their cultivation. They have food to eat for the whole year but no money to educate their children and to take care of their major illnesses. We are delighted to acknowledge that JMJ Presence has an impact on the faith of the people in Christ and on their life style. We are enabled to live up to our Charism – sharing in the redemptive work of Jesus through healthcare, education and pastoral care ministries.

Healthcare ministry: The Holy Cross Clinic and Maternity Home of Govt. of Ghana is handed over to the diocese of Yendi to manage. At the invitation of

Yendi Bishop since 2008 JMJ sisters are managing the Health Clinic. Our sisters as well as other staff are paid salary by the government. People from far and near appreciate the hard work of our sisters and avail the health facility. We take care of the poor and aged by providing free medicine.

Health education programmes are organised in the Clinic and School to promote healthy life styles and prevent diseases.

Education ministry: Although the school belongs to the government but managed by the Diocese, they are not able to support for the development of the school. We thank God for the help of our JMJ Congregation by which we are able to provide the students books, uniform and some school furniture. We also provide financial support for the higher education of some deserving students. Through our



teaching and moral instructions, we imbibe in our students Christian values and quality education.



Pastoral work: We participate in the parish church activities and visit families, offer them counselling and pray with them sharing the word of God. We also accompany the priest to out stations

Our Concerns: Together with the people of Sambuli we face lots of inconveniences such as poor transportation, scarcity of water, minimum availability of



commodities, inadequate electricity etc. Our school is in a very poor condition with lack of infrastructure and furniture. Most of the parents don't send their children to school in order to support them in their farm works. We educate parents on the lasting value of education to their children. In spite of all this our people teach us to be happy and grateful to God, experiencing His unconditional love and care and trying our best to bring good news to the poor.



Indeed, our folks are happy with JMJ presence. They are very simple, hardworking and caring. Our regular visits and interactions with them help us to maintain positive relationships. With JMJ Presence there is lot of improvement and development in

Sambuli community over past 10 years. Our *language of presence* is a blessing to them and they are God's gift to us. By God's grace we continue to serve our people totally depending on God's divine providence.



Incredibly Blessed Missionary in Rome



Sr. Celine Kakkatt

SEDOS

SERVICE OF DOCUMENTATION AND STUDY ON GLOBAL MISSION

I feel incredibly blessed to be a missionary in Rome - the holy ground marked with the blood of the apostles and martyrs. My stay in Rome ever since 2007, has abundantly strengthened me both personally and spiritually. Although initially I was apprehensive, at the same time excited as I stepped in Rome the Eternal City as a missionary to work at the office of SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study on Global mission). Working previously as librarian and now as secretary, I experienced God's absolute power, unending love and providence till date. God's guiding hand is at work in all my encounters with many religious men and women of different Congregations from across the globe. This meeting and greeting the people of God gives me a universal feeling of belonging to One Catholic and Apostolic Church, all working for the Lord's kingdom.

As a staff of SEDOS, my participation and partnership with other religious in organizing various International conferences, seminars and workshops for clergy, religious and lay faithful fills me with passion for mission, with all round exposure to the

Universal Church. It gives me a platform to interact and share my faith and expertise.

Our JMJ Community at via Monte Senario, Roma was established in 2000. I joined the community from 2007 and most of these years Sr. Elsy Chekkalkal and self-lived together although few years some of our student sisters and sisters from other congregations lived

with us. For me community is not just about being together, it's about living together and sharing our lives together. My little community here is like a hand to hold through the journey of life, where I am immensely loved and cared by my sisters. Personally, I found a loving mother and model of religious in Sr. Elsy Chakkalal and I treasure her accompaniment and motherly care.

Subsequently, from October 2018 our Congregation's Generalate is set up here. Living with the General team and other sisters gave me numerous opportunities to be of help to them. I am extremely joyful to witness the living examples of our General Council in adapting to every situation; crossing over the hurdles with faith and determination and joyfully moving forward to give their best for the development of our Congregation.

I believe that I am sent by the Lord to Rome not for a particular work, but for mission. When one is on mission, one ought to expect and be available for any responsibility, at any given hour. *'To participate in mission is to participate in the movement of God's love to the people, since God is the fountain of love.'* I am happy that by God's grace I am able to offer my hand for my community balancing quite well my office work at SEDOS.

I feel nostalgic to express my gratitude to our mother Congregation that has accepted me in, formed me all through and missioned to far lands to share the good news. Living as a missionary in a distant land although challenging, it has enriched my faith, enhanced my consecrated life and made my life worth living on this holy ground for greater glory of God!



The Encounter

Helping Hands at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and School City of Page, Arizona, USA



Sr. Reena Jacob

The City of Page is one of the youngest communities in the United States. It is located in northeastern Arizona, approximately five hours north of Phoenix and five hours east of Las Vegas.



The town began in 1957 as a housing camp for workers building the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River. In 1958, a larger tract of land was obtained from the Navajo Indian tribe. The city got its name from John C. **Page**, a commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

The City of Page is a clean, diverse and vibrant community that respects the quality of its environment, fosters a sense of community and family, encourages a healthful, active lifestyle and supports a wide-range of opportunities to promote a prosperous economy.

In summer 2013, Rev. James S. Wall, Bishop of the Diocese of Gallup, USA, granted the request of Father Thomas R. Maikowski, Ph.D., (Fr. Tom) the administrator of Immaculate

Heart of Mary Church and Principal of Immaculate Heart School, Page, for the assistance of Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph to staff the

school and to provide nursing service. Thus, Fr. Tom welcomed the JMJ sisters to impart catholic education to the children and to serve as registered nurses in the health facility of the city.



In May 2014 I, Sr. Reena Jacob was the first JMJ Sister to arrive in Page. I spent that summer teaching in the parish school. In October 2014, Srs. Satyamma Gallela and Sarojini Barla arrived to assume the teaching ministry in the school. In 2017, the school

expanded to include kindergarten. Thus, Sr. Sudha Bhasant arrived in December 2018 to join the two JMJ Sisters who were teaching in the school. In June 2019, I began serving as a registered nurse at the Urgent Care Clinic of Canyonlands Medical Center in Page.

We are four in our Community. Srs. Saroj, Sathya and Sudha work in the school and myself as registered nurse at 'Helping Hands' Mentally Challenged Clinic. As a JMJ

Community in Page, we are enabled to give quality and faith-based education in the school and share our mite in the parish activities. We are trying to involve





with the local community by door to door evangelizing presence. We are happy to acknowledge that like the apostles of Jesus, we have forfeited everything, accounting all else as loss, to be in close intimacy with Jesus considering Him alone as our treasured wealth.

Fr. Tom our administrator is truly a father to us who takes care of all our needs and wellbeing. He is our mentor, spiritual guide and a holy priest who

motivates, encourages and keep us all in one spirit and helps us to live up to our call according to the spirit and charism of our congregation in this distant country. We appreciate the people's openness and hospitality as much as we are to everyone in our ministry.

I thank 'The Encounter' for sharing about our JMJPAGE mission with our sisters everywhere.



CHRISTUS VIVIT (Christ is alive) Pope Francis' new Apostolic Exhortation

Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!"

Thus begins the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus vivit (Christ is alive)*, by Pope Francis, signed on Monday 25 March in the Holy House of Loreto and addressed to young people, and to the entire People of God and published today, Tuesday 2 April 2019.

In the document, composed of nine chapters divided into 299 paragraphs, the Pope explains that he allowed himself to be "inspired by the wealth of reflections and conversations of the Synod" on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment which took place in the Vatican in October 2018.

POPE FRANCIS
CHRISTUS VIVIT



DIVYODAYA JMJ Spirituality Centre, SIRUMALAI.

(10th September, 2019)

*Deep desire to encounter the God of mercy
Intimate moments with Divine love, in
Vibrant and vivacious breeze of the mountains
Yearning to savor the living waters of new life, amid
Oaks silver sways of stillness and serenity
Dancing like the palms and teak woods,
Attractive aromas of buds and blooms
Yielding to the moments of the Spirit
Amazing experience with the God of encounter*



*Sr. Shyamala Erry,
Director, Divyodaya.*



We are exceedingly glad to share about the ceremony of naming and inauguration of JMJ Retreat Centre as Divyodaya, JMJ Spirituality Centre at Sirumalai on 10th September, 2019.

The word ‘**Divyodaya**’ means **divine awakening**. Light is a common metaphor in the Bible. “God is light,” says 1 John 1:5. Proverbs 4:18 symbolizes righteousness as the “morning sun.” Philippians 2:15 likens God’s children who are “blameless and pure” to shining stars in the sky. Jesus used light as a picture of good works: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds” (Matthew 5:16). Psalm 76:4 says of God, “You are radiant with light.”

The symbol of ‘**Five Diyas**’ on the name plaque signify that everything in nature is made up of five basic elements: earth, water, fire, air and space. It is considered to be a symbol of goodness and grace of God.

Based on the directives of the First Congregational Chapter 2018, our General Council wished fostering a deep spirituality in our Congregation as priority. The Congregational Spirituality Centre at Sirumalai is the

heart of spiritual animation for the Congregation, expected to be at the service of each sister in our Congregation.



The inauguration of DIVYODAYA commenced with words of welcome by Sr. Prameela, the Superior of JMJ Convent Sirumala. The dignitaries were escorted by the JMJ Matriculation School band and dance. Superior General Rev. Sr. Innamma Yeruva inaugurated the centre in the presence of Fr. Danis Ponniah SJ the Provincial, Madurai Province, General Council, Provincials and Council from the four Indian provinces. Our sisters who had attended the spirituality course and sisters from nearby communities were present to grace the auspicious occasion.

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Rev. Fr. Danis Ponniah released a white Dove as an imposing gesture of invoking the Holy Spirit upon the Centre. This was followed by the Holy Eucharist in the beautifully decorated chapel. Srs. Mangala and Lisina with their musical and melodious voices added solemnity to the celebration.



On this significant occasion the following events took place:

Release of “ABCs of ‘Mathias Maxims’ and a book mark on “The Examen” – the spiritual exercise of St. Ignatius of Loyola” prepared by the general council.

Inauguration of the new website of the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph www.congregationofjmj.org.

Release of the Photo Album titled “**Prophetesses of an emerging future of JMJ from 1995 to 2016**” prepared by Raipur province.

Concerning our Spiritual life our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff said “*Let us pay attention to our spiritual journey and continue on it every day. Remember that those who do not progress on their spiritual journey regress. Concerning our spiritual*

life, we are like the oarsman who has to row against the powerful current of a river, when he stops rowing, the boat drifts backward. At a time when he thinks the boat lies still in the water, it is slowly going downstream. The same is true of the spiritual life”.

Let us hope that our Spirituality Centre plays a vital role in promoting JMJ spirituality envisioned by our Founder and lived by the pioneering sisters. May the fire of the beginning stimulate us to become vibrant and radical followers of Jesus Christ. We highly value this spiritual abode and hope that congregational and province / regional Spirituality Animation Committees uphold our JMJ spiritual legacy and animate our sisters in the entire congregation to get deeply rooted in our spirituality which is the foundation for our charitable and apostolic ministries.

I deem it a privilege to place on record our deep gratitude for the marvelous way our gracious Father revealed His divine plan for our spiritual growth and for inspiring our Congregational leadership to initiate Divyodaya, JMJ Spirituality Centre, Sirumalai.

O Lord!

*Keep me not in the phenomenal world of unreality,
but make me go towards the reality of Eternal self!*

*Keep me not in the ignorant state of darkness,
but make me go towards the light of spiritual
knowledge!*

*Keep me not in the world of mortality,
but make me go towards the world of immortality of
self-realization*

And grant us peace of mind and soul



JMJ Spirituality Course Divyodaya JMJ Spirituality Centre, SIRUMALAI.



Sr. Vijaya Rani Minnakanti

Grow, Flow, Glow in the spirit of Jesus Mary Joseph!

We, the 25 Sisters belonging to four Indian provinces are very fortunate to attend the first Course on JMJ Our spirituality especially arranged for the selected Sisters from each province. It was held from 11th to 16th of September 2019 at Sirumalai in the newly inaugurated spirituality centre Divyodaya. It was first of its kind and nature which stimulated all of us and filled us with an invigorating spirit.



The course helped us to deepen our spirituality and also to create a space for inward journey. All most all of us who had attended this course felt that it is a time to unravel and unfold ourselves to the spiritual revolutions and to the spirituality of the Congregation.



Though all those who attended the course lived good number of years in the congregation, yet we had gained the in-depth knowledge of our documents. We all

could experience the flow of new knowledge, fresh insights, deeper meaning and great inspiration. Especially we were enthused to know the history of the congregation and of our First Sisters. This seminar helped us to rediscover, appreciate and grow in the richness of glowing JMJ spirituality.

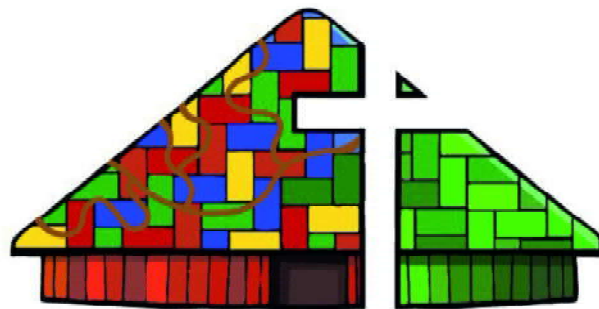


Along with the input sessions the daily Examen, meditation, personal study, theological reflections and contemplative dialogues contributed extensively towards our spiritual progress. The connectedness with the divine was established slowly and steadily and continued to amaze us throughout the course. The spiritual vibrations emanated from each other helped us to re-define and re-discover ourselves in the spirit of the congregation. It was an exhilarating experience. We learnt that spiritual development gains meaning and significance only in strong faith. To have unshakable faith in the Lord we all should have the good knowledge of the Holy Scripture and the documents of the congregation. It is only with the guidance of our Guru that we can soak our mind, intellect, heart, psyche and soul in the sweet ambrosia of God's grace.



The Spirit and Charism, Sent by the Lord, Ravening Wolf, and Constitutions of the Congregation are the citadels of our spiritual learning and the divine nectar they offer from time to time is like the GPS that helps us to go through the maze of life with ease. Growing in our spiritual life and deepening our connectedness with the divine facilitate us to face the huddles and challenges of life with greater ease.

Finally, we sincerely express our gratitude to Rev. Sr. Innamma Yeruva the Superior General of the congregation for initiating such an enriching programme to be rooted and grounded in the true spirituality of the congregation. We do owe great debt of gratefulness to Rev. Sr. Vijaya Mary Udumula and Rev. Sr. Chandra Thainese for being a catalyst to grow in our spiritual journey. Thank you, dear Sisters, for your systematic and meticulous planning of the course. We thank you sisters for your creative and insightful PowerPoint presentation through which we have expanded our horizon of experiencing and knowing the roots of the Congregation.



AMAZON: OUR COMMON HOME

Amazon Synod: The Church committed to be an ally with Amazonia

Conversion: this is the common thread running through the final document of the Pan-Amazon Synod. Conversion is expressed with different accents: integral, pastoral, cultural, ecological, and synodal. The text is the result of the “open, free, and respectful” exchange undertaken in the three weeks of the work of the Synod, to tell the story of the challenges and the potentialities of

Amazonia, the “biological heart” of the world, spread over nine countries and inhabited by over 33 million people, including about 2.5 million indigenous persons. Yet this region, by area the most vulnerable in the world on account of climate change caused by human beings, is on “a rampant race to death”. And thus the Document reiterates that a new direction is necessary in order to save it, to avoid a catastrophic impact on the entire planet.

JMJ Spoorthi Smaraka Chihnam, Vetapalem

We, the JMJ community – Sisters Caroline Pudoto, Lourdu Mary Palagiri and Judith George consider ourselves privileged to share with our congregation about the blessing and inauguration of the JMJ Spoorthi Smaraka at Vetapalem.



The dawn of 6th November 2019 with its astounding brightness and freshness, ascended to shine forth a new inspiration, hope and transformation, enlivening the JMJ presence at Vetapalem.

As the birds flew through canvas of the dawn, with wings in the sky became the colours of our dreams, a memory to lift us off the ground, with notions of illumination and hope to re-live the legacy of JMJ on this holy ground.



JMJ Community, Vetapalem

On this auspicious Wednesday dedicated of St. Joseph, about 60 JMJ sisters landed from near and far for this luminous loving memory of four Dutch Pioneer sisters of the Society of JMJ who served the people of Vetapalem at the present Govt. Primary Health Centre from 1st May 1905 to 11th to May 1911.

History tells that the three gigantic Banyan trees in this area were planted by our sisters to mark their landing and for the benefit of patients. Now the place belongs to Bandla Bapaiah Trust, which owns about 100 acres in Vetapalem. Our JMJ Pioneers memorial

named as “JMJ Spoorthi Smaraka Chihnam” is built in view of perpetrating the history of JMJ and heritage of Vetapalem.

The Lord takes delight in his people; happy are the people,

the Lord has chosen to be his own (Ps 149). 114 years ago, in 1905 four JMJ Sisters Rev. Sr. Arnoldine, Rev. Sr. Lebuini, Rev. Sr. Jacqueline and Rev. Sr. Seraphique were sent by the Lord for his ministry of healing and education to Vetapalem, a small unknown village that has no place in the map but today it is in the history of India, and the Society JMJ.

God’s designs are wonderful and amazing beyond of our human thinking. Having chosen for this mission, amidst of most deplorable conditions of weather, culture and language, our four sisters had extraordinary courage, faith and commitment. They began their journey of faith with the vision and mission of Rev.



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Fr. Mathew Wolff, carrying the four corners of the world in their hearts with unending trust in the Lord, served humanity, sacrificing their lives for sake of their calling!

The initiation of this significant 'Spoorti Smaraka' originated from Rev. Fr. Innaiah Govindu, the parish priest of Vetapalem and Mr. Gregory a faithful parishner and local political leader. The dream of constructing the platform and pylon in memory of our four pioneers, was actualised with the interventions of General Council and Provincial Council of Bangalore province and with the consent of Provincial Council's Conference of India (PCCI).

We are glad to thank and acknowledge the expertise of our Sr. Lourdu Mary Pentareddy, the architect who was instrumental to prepare the blue print of the memorial and supervised the construction, completing it in a short period, despite there were heavy down pours in October this year.

Today the three tiny plants of 1905, have grown into mighty trees spreading their branches, standing as great witness of our sisters' service, devotion and sacrifice. If you take a chance to sit under these Banyan trees in silence, they speak volumes of our history, the spirit and struggles of the pioneers. They speak to your heart of the tenderness and compassion of God during those difficult times. For reasons of weather, and ill health and above all as the plan of God they left St. Mary's Convent, Vetapalem and established JMJ Presence with the same name St. Mary's Convent at Nellore in 1911.

History repeats itself! In 2004 when the 100 years of presence of Soc of JMJ in India was celebrated, Bangalore Province had a re-entry of JMJ in Vetapalem. Now a community of three - Sr. Caroline Pudota, Sr. Lourdu Mary Palagiri and Sr. Judith George are actively involved in evangelization and pastoral work as well as healthcare facility to the people affected with Hansen's (Leprosy) disease in a nearby hamlet.



The Wednesday, 6th Nov, 2019 began with a thanksgiving Eucharist in Sacred Heart Church, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Innaiah Govindu at 11.00 am. Our General Council, PCCI and a band of JMJ sisters from other communities along with the parishners attended the holy mass thanking God for the wonders the Lord has done. After the holy mass, JMJ sisters, the public, parishners and well-wishers gathered at Spoorthi Smaraka Chihnam by 12.30 pm.

The abode was blessed by Rev. Fr. Innaiah Govindu, Parish Priest of Vetapalem and inaugurated by Rev. Sr. Innamma Yeruva, Superior General. Then public function was held in the presence of Bandla Bapaiah Trust and other prominent local leaders. The public and the municipal leaders applauded the contributions of Christian missionaries in the areas of education and healthcare in A.P.

On this magnanimous occasion our hearts sang with joy together "*we belong forever to this Holy Family - of Jesus Mary Joseph*", thanking and praising God for His benevolent blessings on our Congregation. At the close of the program everyone shared in fellowship banquet.

May the Lord sanctify and bless all our members to strive on our journey in God's service. May the inspiration and the fire of the beginning become 'spoorti' for our future generations.



Well began is Well done at KU Leuven, BELGIUM.

“Indeed, I say: ‘ready for anything’, for one who calls herself a true sister of JMJ must, as it were, carry the world in her heart.” – Mathias Wolff SJ

Powered by these words of our beloved Founder, we, Sr. Anitha Showri Rani, Sr. Arputha Lilly Antony and Sr. Joseph Mary Mruduravali began our journey as students in the outstanding Catholic University of Leuven, in Belgium (In Flemish - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

We are privileged to get admitted in this world-famous University to study Theology and learn Dutch acquainting ourselves in the land our roots are present. We deem this opportunity as a bounteous blessing and gift from the Lord Almighty, who has inspired the leaders of our Congregation to choose us for these studies with a future vision for our Congregation, trusting in God’s providence.

Library at the Catholic University of Leuven

Every day is an adventure for us to live in Belgium as it is a country well-disciplined and systematic and of course it’s a challenge for us to be on par with the natives in all that we do. While we observe crisis in Christian faith, we are happy to witness the new catholic communities emerging in some parts of the country.

Leuven is a vibrant and fascinating city, presenting a unique mix of university tradition and captivating culture. The KU Leuven is renowned, with 45,000 students’ strength among whom nearly 7000 are foreigners and with over 1000 plus faculty. The faculty is incomparably competent in professional experiences and knowledge. It’s a city made for students; the whole

surroundings are pedestrianized to reach the shops, parks and train station on foot. The university buildings are close together and it has many beautiful architectural buildings.

We arrived in Lueven by the end of September and could soon get acclimatized with the food, climate,

study and way of life in the campus. Day by day we experience and are convinced that it is the spirit of our Founder that guides us as our first sisters felt strengthened in his guidance and presence.

One of the enriching experiences is the celebration of our Founder’s feast with parishioners of St. Kwinten’s Church. We displayed the biography of our Founder and excited to witness the eagerness of the people to know about our Congregation. We profoundly thank Rev. Fr. Don Bosco Dasari for making the event memorable.

We remain wordless to express our immense thanks to the General Council and the Provincial Councils of India for the best opportunity placed before us. We cherish the warm welcome at our arrival by Sr. Valsa, Sr. Gre Pronk and Fr. Don Bosco and meeting all our needs which affirmed the heritage of our Congregation – the personalised care and hospitality. We express our sincere gratitude to our General Council for all the arrangements made for our admission as well as our comfortable stay and study. It enthused our spirit to be more productive and committed to the cause entrusted to us.

The most delightful feeling that we cherish is that we are in the land of our Founder, learning the same





Library at the Catholic University of Leuven

language (Dutch) he spoke and wrote. This exposure and experience assuredly enable us to be attuned to the whispers of his inspirations and encouragement as we proceed with our study and youth ministry.

We are humbled and grateful to God for giving us this wonderful opportunity and be aware of the trust placed in us by each member of the Congregation. We seek all your continued prayers and vibrations of

support that we may grow deeper in the spirituality of our Congregation and serve humanity for the greater glory and honour of God.

*Don't have to be great to start
Promptings of Spirit is enough to restart
So we are sent out to start
In the lane called Naamsestraat
And it is a very good start*

RIGHT AND WRONG

When Bankei held his seclusion-weeks of meditation, pupils from many parts of Japan came to attend. During one of these gatherings a pupil was caught stealing. The matter was reported to Bankei with the request that the culprit be expelled. Bankei ignored the case.

Later the pupil was caught in a similar act, and again Bankei disregarded the matter. This angered the other pupils, who drew up a petition asking for the dismissal of the thief, stating that otherwise they would leave in a body.

When Bankei had read the petition, he called everyone before him. "You are wise brothers," he told them. "You know what is right and what is not right. You may go somewhere else to study if you wish, but this poor brother does not even know right from wrong. Who will teach him if I do not? I am going to keep him here even if all the rest of you leave."

A torrent of tears cleansed the face of the brother who had stolen. All desire to steal had vanished.

Explanation: This story is pretty straightforward, but it certainly doesn't make you think any less than the rest. How quickly would most people turn their back on those who commit a crime like stealing, just as the pupils did. But look deeper and you might just see another human being. Someone that simply needs to be shown the path.

Don't write people off so easily. Expressing compassion isn't always easy, but we're all together in this life, so we can't just help those that keep good behaviour. Those people who commit such crimes are often some of the people that need help with the most basic spiritual and human principles, such as right and wrong. Sure, we need to keep order, so they should be disciplined for their behaviour, but we also need to take the time to teach them right and wrong. We should strive to lift them up just as we strive to lift ourselves and those we love up despite their own flaws.

UISG Campaign for the Planet: Laudato Si and the Way Forward



“Laudato si’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”.

In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”. (Canticle of the Creatures, in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, vol. 1, New York-London-Manila, 1999, 113-114)



**“If we destroy
Creation,
Creation will
Destroy Us!”**

“When we speak of the ‘environment’ what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it.” (LS#139)

Foundation of the Campaign for the Planet

On June 18, 2018, the UISG Board launched the campaign: Sowing Hope for the Planet, sharing efforts of women religious in putting **Laudato Si** into practice. Already, Laudato Si was spreading throughout religious communities, becoming a deeply meaningful connection with people and the earth through faith and the words of Pope Francis.

This realization led to the awareness of this phenomenon developing into a deeper interconnection, carrying the message to a global network of religious working together to “hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (LS #49) This collective listening creates a collective voice and a collective action that carries a powerful potential for making the message a reality rather than doing it as individuals. Emphasizing the fundamental connection that exists between the environmental crisis and the social crisis that we are currently experiencing, Pope Francis asks us for a personal and communal ecological conversion, often reminding us that “everything is interconnected.”

History

The timing of the campaign comes with the growing awareness and urgency of climate change and the need to address its impact on the environment and society.

The Encounter

Laudato Si' offers a spiritual relationship and solutions to a seriously critical situation that are so desperately needed in our world today. It begins with awareness and unfolds with inspiration, giving our Sisters' voice, the influential power to make a difference, coordinating experiences that provide them and their connections, the opportunities to become fully sensitive to the situation of our common home, so as

“to dare to turn what is happening to the world into their own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” (LS#19)

This provides an opportunity to not only develop a network that could help to spread what is being done, but also to highlight the work of women religious. For a long time, many have actively been working to stop the Earth's devastation and its people. The concept note was developed through the collaborative efforts of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Secretariat and the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) through the initiative of the International Union of Superior Generals (UISG), bringing together the richness and connections of its member congregations, so that the *“interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan.” (LS#164)*

As a Congregation of JMJ how can we become part of this campaign?

Individually and collectively we need to perceive the topics proposed by the Campaign, unfolding the space and time to transform ourselves with our natural passion and creativity for Laudato Si. Pope Francis states *“change is impossible without motivation and a process of education.” (LS #15)*

In our communities and institutions of all types it's time to wake up, venture into and get deeply involved into 'Laudato Si' movement across our Congregation.

What is expected from the Sisters of JMJ?

To initiate the process, we give the following action plan – Each Province / Region / Community / Institute is free to make their own time plans and targets.

1. Laudato Si': Everything is Interconnected

- ❖ Organising awareness meetings on the Encyclical 'Laudato Si' for Safe guarding the Life of the Planet through coordinated Action.
- ❖ Researching connectedness with our spirituality and charism referring to the documents and constitutions of the congregation.
- ❖ Listening to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor and growing Seeds of Hope for them in our ministries.
- ❖ Launching the campaign with objectives, actions, perceiving creative potential within us.
- ❖ Developing the foundational relationship that we are all interconnected... with each other, with the earth, with all living beings.

2. Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth

- ❖ Developing the awareness of the critical situations our world is in as well as opportunities to meet the challenges therein.
- ❖ Answering Pope Francis: “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

- ❖ Creating a massive movement to become aware of the crises in our world in the place you are now.

3. Inspiring Action with Love: Document Stories from Around the Congregation of JMJ

- ❖ Developing the Strategic Plan and Action at every level - Community, Institution, Region, Province.
- ❖ Organising awareness / promotion campaigns on 'Laudato Si Spirit' and get creatively involved with all those engaged in action.

The Encounter

- ❖ Learning from the contributions from those who participate in activities connected to justice, peace and integrity of creation.
- ❖ Offering sisters and lay collaborators best inspiring practices for major concerns like human trafficked, refugees, migrants, people affected by mining, child labour, prisoners etc.
- ❖ Celebrating the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si. (January 2020) in mega way and reporting the activities through creative YouTube / video / articles / art / sharing them extensively.



With our personal commitment to one another, we are ideally positioned to respond compassionately in an integrated effort. As a community of Sisters living the Gospel, in solidarity with one another, we know that everything is interconnected, and we wish to live our religious life for the common good in our environment, our common home.

Therefore, We commit ourselves to both personal and communal conversion and We wish to move forward together in an orchestrated and coordinated

response in Listening to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor As we go forth as instruments of hope In the heart of the world.

As Pope Francis reminds us, “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” (LS14)

As a result of our commitment, each one of us is asked to discern appropriate action in all or some of these areas:

1. Observing of the Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4 every year) <https://seasonofcreation.org>
2. Engaging in the experience of the Synod “Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology” <http://www.sinodoamazonico.va/content/sinodoamazonico/en/documents.html>
3. Advocating for the rights of indigenous people
4. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Earth Day (April 22, 2020) www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org
5. Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si – from January 2020 <https://laudatosi.com>
6. Supporting youth involvement in the campaign http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/christus-vivit.html
7. Choosing to observe international days concerning our planet

Thank you for all you do to make the world a better place!





JPIC Roma

INTERNATIONAL JPIC PROMOTERS FORMATION WORKSHOP



Sr. Vijaya M Udumala

Sr. Chandra and Sr. Vijaya had the privilege of attending the International JPIC Promoters Formation workshop from 2-6 Dec, 2019 at UISG Center for Religious Life in Rome. They had a wonderful experience of interacting and learning from renowned speakers from across the globe and interacting with around 50 participants from nearly 30 countries.

What is JPIC?

Justice Peace Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

JPIC is ...

JPIC is the conscious prayer and action to transform the world in the spirit of the Gospel through the lives of justice, peace and care for the integrity of creation and works for integral human development.¹

It's looking for ways to respond to our call to holiness as contemplatives in action who promote God's reign of justice, peace and love.

JPIC Commission: In 1982, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission was jointly formalized by the USG and the UISG.



The JPIC Commission promotes and supports the integration of Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) in the life and mission of the Union of Superior Generals (USG) and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) and their member congregations. It is responsible for animating men and women religious in justice, peace and integrity of creation according to the vows of the evangelical life, through experience, social analysis, spiritual reflection and action.

Each year, the JPIC Commission focuses its activities on a particular theme. This year, JPIC work centers on "*Looking for ways to respond to our call to holiness as contemplatives in action who promote God's reign of justice, peace and love*".¹

This means being able to create a sense of God's presence with our family, our neighbour, the community, people of other countries, all living creatures, the environment around us and the entire universe. Moreover, we must promote justice, uphold peace and be loving and compassionate at every opportunity.

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts." (GS 1²).

"Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us...as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel." (Synod of Bishops on Justice in the World, 1971)

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Consecrated life makes a Preferential Option in all spheres of poverty today – the displaced, discriminated, oppressed, exploited, immigrants, refugees, trafficked and underprivileged.

Our First Congregational Chapter 2018 recommendations gave a mandate to embrace the frontier ministries and integrity of creation.

JPIC Commission invites the leadership of every congregation to achieve a greater awareness, a clearer analysis and a more effective action in the field of JPIC.

JPIC Methodology in addressing the issues which relate to its mission



As consecrated people, we are:

“to **SEE** with the eyes of Christ, to **JUDGE** with his compassionate heart, and to **ACT** with the strength of this relationship.”

The Commission Fulfills its Mission Through:

1. Analyzing issues and challenges and disseminating information to the USG/UISG and its members and the larger public;
2. Providing resources and opportunities for initial and ongoing formation;
3. Promoting dialogue and solidarity among religious congregations and others throughout the world in support of valid JPIC concerns;

4. Facilitating mutual sharing and assistance among the generalates;

5. Serving as a channel for the voices of the poor and oppressed around the world to the generalates and other organizations

6. Networking among religious institutes, non-governmental organizations and other entities; Supporting advocacy and corporate action by the USG/UISG and individual member institutions.

The Commission is connected in a special way to the inter-congregational groups of JPIC promoters. Connected with community life and living the vows: of poverty in working for justice, of chastity in loving tenderly and of obedience in walking humbly with God. JPIC Coordinators were established to coordinate, communicate, collaborate and form thoughtful responses to needed situations.

JPIC website (www.jpicroma.org) offers a wide-range of information and resources on justice, peace and integrity of creation. It also serves as a forum for interaction among JPIC Promoters on issues and concerns regarding their ministry, and features a calendar of JPIC Commission events that you can link to your personal calendar. Bookmark on your browser and make it a favourite site to visit.

I entreat each one of you dear sisters to become aware of JPIC spirit; and address JPIC issues in your ministry promoting peace justice and integrity of creation.

Our Call to Holiness is through Contemplation and Action

What do you plan to do with your “one and only life?”



Do you know what Catholic Social Teaching is?

Catholic Social Teaching is based on the belief that God has a plan for creation, a plan to build his kingdom of peace, love and justice. It holds that God has a special place in this story for each of us, whoever we are. Our part in this plan isn't just limited to things 'spiritual', or things we might do on Sundays, but that it involves every aspect of our lives, from the things we pray about, to how we live as a responsible global citizen. Our part in this story is a kind-of vocation for the common good, a call to treat everyone as your brothers and sisters and is something that we all share. Catholic Social Teaching is the tradition of papal reflection about how we live this vocation for the common good in our world.



Catholic Social Teaching touches upon many different aspects of life, from the family to international development, how we think of those who are homeless to how we care for the environment, and from how we shop and consume to the rights of workers and the dignity of work. All the different areas that Catholic Social Teaching touches upon, have been developed from practical reflection on the realities of modern life in the light of the principles and themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

We hope the themes given below help you to better understand and reflect upon Catholic social teaching as well as challenge you and support you in better responding to our shared vocation for the common good.

Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Human Dignity

We must recognise we are all brothers and sisters which requires us to respect, value and uphold a common dignity for ourselves and each other. As human beings we are created in the image and likeness of God therefore, we have an inherent worth and distinction.

Community and Participation

As humans we are not created to live alone, community is clearly linked in the history of humankind. One way for Catholics to practise solidarity is to participate in pursuing the common good for a community. Every member of society has a duty to develop this common good and every member has a right to enjoy the benefits brought about by it.



The Encounter

Care for Creation

Respect for human life means respecting all of God’s creation. We must re-engage with our environment and take responsibility for it; live sustainably, live so that there are enough resources for everyone. Our environment influences almost all of our lives, and Catholic Social Teaching recognises that undervaluing makes us all poorer.

Dignity in Work

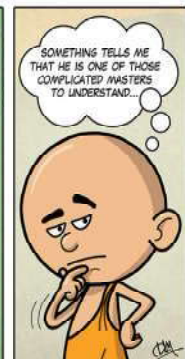
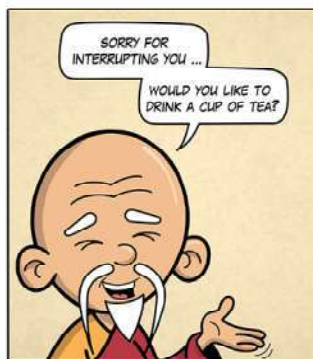
This theme looks at the importance of work, the dignity of work and the value of balance in our home and work lives. Catholic Social Teaching holds that work is not to be drudgery, but creative, positive and an intrinsic good. It is not however, all for yourself, ways to accumulate power and influence, but is rather to play our part in being co-creators in God’s loving act of creation.

Peace & Reconciliation

The Church teaches us that peace is central to the gospel and represents a challenge to many contemporary attitudes and assumptions. Pope Benedict XVI has challenged Christians to be true peacemakers bringing forgiveness and non-violent solutions to situations of hurt and violence.

Solidarity

Solidarity is an important concept for Christians and is one of the most mystical and deeply human founding concepts of the social teaching of the Church. It is based on the belief that together we can make a difference and together we are much stronger. When we value fellow human beings we respect each other as unique individuals and we can stand up for what is right for one another.



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Leadership in Religious Communities

When asked to take leadership we plead inability, it may be an expression of humility, but more often our timidity. We are afraid to be hurt. The Lord says: “Fear not, I am with you.” So, you need to take up with faith. You should think that my fellow religious are the greatest and most precious treasure that I have. They deserve all my attention, love and care. A little awareness and attention will ease most of our fears and biases.

1. Need for Recognition

- These are basic human requirements – recognition, love and care.
- The most valuable thing a person has is a sense of worth.
- No one is useless. Bad is better than useless.
- People hunger for recognition. Remember names, birthdays and feast days, reply letters, notice and appreciate their achievements/activities.
- Don't take peoples' services for granted. People do not like anonymity, silence can be as killing as criticism.
- Older people live on past achievements. Without it they become sinking personalities.

2. Value of Positive Strokes

- Love and care are expressed in various ways. One significant way is tolerating their weakness. Close an eye to their weakest point.
- Most of our defects remain with us and we do not like to be reminded of it.
- Take note of successes and a new strength is generated.
- Many weaknesses are corrected by positive strokes than negative ones.

3. Attention to Younger Members

- Old people are to be reminded of great things done. Young people need to be told of great things they can do.

- People rise to expectations placed on them. They respond to challenges. Their hidden talents, underdeveloped gifts and skills will reveal themselves.
- It is worth tolerating some mistakes and incurring some expenditure in order to give them a chance.

4. Importance of Relationships

- Insist on community successes and not on individual success. Give them the joy of working and achieving as a team.
- Develop non-critical relationships in the community. Much success depends on relationships.
- Tensions arise in communities. But unresolved tensions make communities weak and working together difficult.
- Admit of the problem in the community and begin working out a solution.

5. Valuing the Human Stuff in Persons

- The person who gives you trouble can also give you help. Get troublesome people to help you.
- Very often originality of thought, creativity, and special gifts seeking to express themselves, become occasions of trouble. Open a door to them and you will see winds of change.
- Persons who occasionally trouble usually need attention. They are dealing with unresolved problems. Not recognising this, makes an inner problem an inter-personal problem.
- While we remain unyielding on essential duties, we must be attentive to the person (ego) on the other side.
- Never hurt a person. Rough words, humiliating expressions, quick retorts are signs of our own hurt ego, showing how small we are.
- Keeping an account of unkind deeds make us even smaller.
- One excellent advice: offer the pain of the hurt you receive, for the healing and spiritual benefit of the person causing the hurt.

The Encounter

6. Offering the other Cheek

- There are times when a measure of concession to the other person's unreasonable demands may be an expression of our personal love and esteem.
- There is the so-called spirituality of defencelessness. We win many battles by losing it. If others are unfair with us, let us not react, no grudges, no grievances, no reactions. **Christ never reacted, he acted.**
- Have deep faith and serenity in the Lord and in this battle, you will emerge as the conqueror. This is in keeping with the Lord's exhortation to offer the other cheek.
- We always have the profoundest of respect for the person we have hurt and who preserves an unshakable love towards us just the same.

7. Some Practical Suggestions

- Be a little more attentive to a person of another (social, cultural and linguistic) group than your own.
- Allow in big communities the emergence of spontaneous and temporary sub-groups according to age, social background, etc. Slowly integrate them into the main group.
- Learn more about the background of each person, their home, people, interest, their work, health etc.
- Be willing to listen especially when the other person is angry. Sympathetic listening has healing power. Sift out the truth from emotionally charged words.
- Don't give answers/solutions too fast. Pay attention to them and they will give solutions.
- If someone else can deal with a person better than seek her help. We are all limited.
- Learn to combine the right people together. Sound combinations are a stimulus to each one's genius.
- We get respect by giving respect to others. Let others be important to you. Make them important and you will become precious to them.
- Respect the autonomy of your subordinates in their own field of competence. Consult and value their advice.
- A person is more important than rules. Values are more important than external expressions. The letter kills, the spirit gives life.

- Never adopt undignified ways in exercising authority – checking letters, tapping phones, etc. The information we gather with dignity and due respect is sufficient to guide the community. Take people at their word and that is one form of respect.
- Never be jealous of your subordinates. The greater they are, the greater you will be. Rejoice in their successes and popularity.
- When a religious is singly handling a work, she can be isolated and misunderstood. Interpret and explain the work to others in the community.
- The superior gives a 'public face' to the community. What you are is what people will gradually come to think your institution is. Be outgoing, warm, welcoming, attentive, available serviceable and the neighbourhood will be proud of you.

CONCLUSION :

- What we want from others, let us give.
- What we want in others, let us have: holiness, prayer, forgiveness, hard work, zeal, good relationships. Unconsciously others absorb values from the superior.
- The superior must give spiritual guidance. We will realise that people who are capable of deep feeling (deep hurts, agonising inner pain, deep resentment) are equally capable of great love, loyalty and sacrifice.
- The main task of the religious superior is to guard the religious values of the community, to safeguard the spirit of the congregation and to interpret it in daily life. Hence, keep close to the Lord in a spirit of prayer.
- Someone has said, 'the cross is the soul of the apostolate'. We can look forward to the expressions of the cross in many forms.
- Catherine Dorothy: There is no question of bloody martyrs, there is only a question of slow white martyrdom – the martyrdom of listening, the martyrdom of consoling, the martyrdom of loving, the martyrdom of hoping for oneself and for others. The martyrdom of total surrender to God through the other. Prepare yourself to serve God in totality.



11 - 16 September 2019:
JMJ Conference on JMJ Spirituality at Divyodaya



4 - 5 November 2019: Seminar on Canon Law for all the Leadership Team at JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore.



6 November 2019: Inauguration of Spoorthi Smaraka - 115 years of JMJ presence in Vetapalem



16 - 17 November 2019: Leadership Training Programme by Sr. Brigit Lawlor RGS at Good Shepherd Generalate, Rome



DIVYODAYA

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