



The **ENCOUNTER**

Know... Grow... Flow into fullness

ROMA
June 2020 | Issue 3



Call from
Pope Francis
Laudato Si

Care for our common
HOME



Blessing of New Generalate

Via Tevere, 5/D, ROME



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Editorial



1

Sr. Christina Manickam

‘**The Encounter III**’ invites us to encounter Jesus, our Master in and through our mission. It reveals the way we respond to His Will through the gift of vocation we received. Treading towards the Bicentenary of the foundation of our Congregation, in a small or greater way possible, we all have added life to the Charism envisioned by our Beloved Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff. The aim of ‘The Encounter’ is to sparkle light on those ways of greater love shown in our service to humanity and ultimately fulfilling the responsibility of building the Kingdom of God amidst us.

I am elated to pen a few lines on this episode of the Encounter as it widens the scope for our future to be more enthusiastic and innovative in our ministries and spiritual life as members who are called to interconnect interior and exterior of our spiritual life. It has space for every one.

Despite the stay-at-home orders and social-distancing guidelines we are able to bring out this issue with more inspiring descriptions. The short life sketch of the ‘*Servant of God*’ connects our commitment to God by drawing our attention to the first and the root of our vocation. Our response is ongoing process – how do we keep it alive?

Through the articles under WOLFF’S VISION RADIATES and MYRIADS OF MISSION, we focus on the true spirit of our founder leading us forward through creative and reformative ministries. The WISDOM’S WHISPERS reveal the burning zeal of our senior sisters, who continue to the young members to keep the Spirit and Charism of JMJ.

The young are envisioned to sparkle the flame of service and it is soothing to witness the rapid growth of the young members not only in active apostolate but also diving deep into our spirituality.

Reading through the reports and viewing the attached pictures from across all communities gives us an impression that JMJ is “*greening*”. We are indeed glad that all our sisters in the congregation have launched into environmental ministry, bringing credit to Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, “*Laudato Si*”, on Care for Our Common Home,” for raising awareness and motivating others to act in countless ways to protect creation.

A weeklong church-wide observance of *Laudato Si*’ Week, celebrated between May 16-24 sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development,



marking Pope Francis' signing of the encyclical May 24, 2015 is commendable. It was a time for us as well as Catholics around the world to pray, reflect and prepare to build a better world together. In this issue we have covered some articles on the Laudato Si' week celebration. In addition, we also share COVID-19 experiences and JMJ spirit of solidarity with the people in need during the lockdown period.

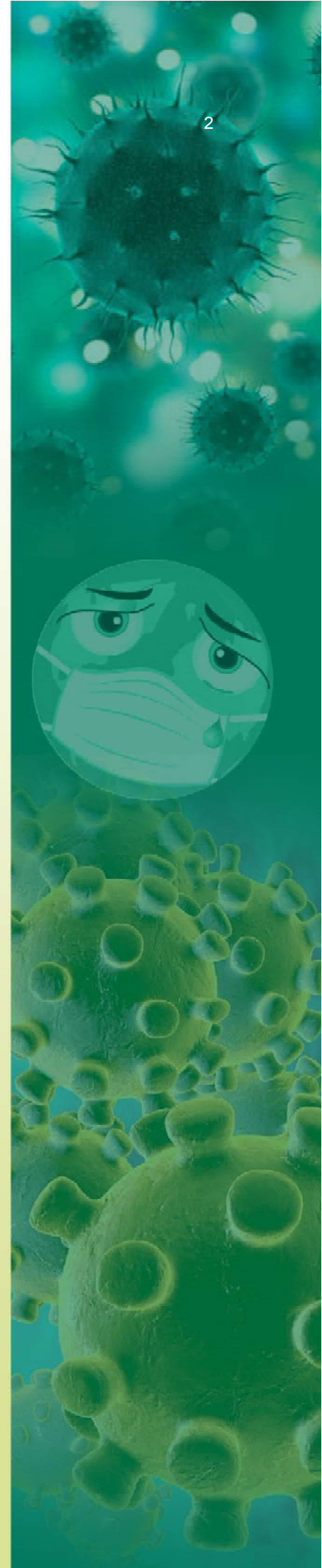
For our Congregation we introduce a five-week *Season of Creation* program from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, 2020. The program includes a week-by-week guide with daily actions, reflections and background science information, weekly messages, the planting, going green and community's organization to show environment-themed films. (visit <https://seasonofcreation.com/calendar/>)

Laudato Si' Week "launches a yearlong journey of transformation from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021, as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow. This year - a really special opportunity to pray together for a more just future, to pray for our shared home and be united in a wave of prayer. We try to focus on workshops that will discuss ecological spirituality, sustainability and social justice advocacy. (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/laudato-si-year/>).

The Encounter Editorial Committee appreciates the Provinces and Region for the overwhelming response to this issue. I applaud the tremendous interest and efforts of Sr. Vijaya Udumala, the coordinator of the Encounter as each article has been tuned by her master mind and inspirations. Thanks to Gopi for beautifully designing the manuscript with impressive images.

Next issue of 'The Encounter' comes out in December 2020. We regard all contributions so far and seek your continued cooperation as always. Kindly share your articles and views / suggestions explicitly to the email: cjmjencounter@gmail.com before 30 November 2020.

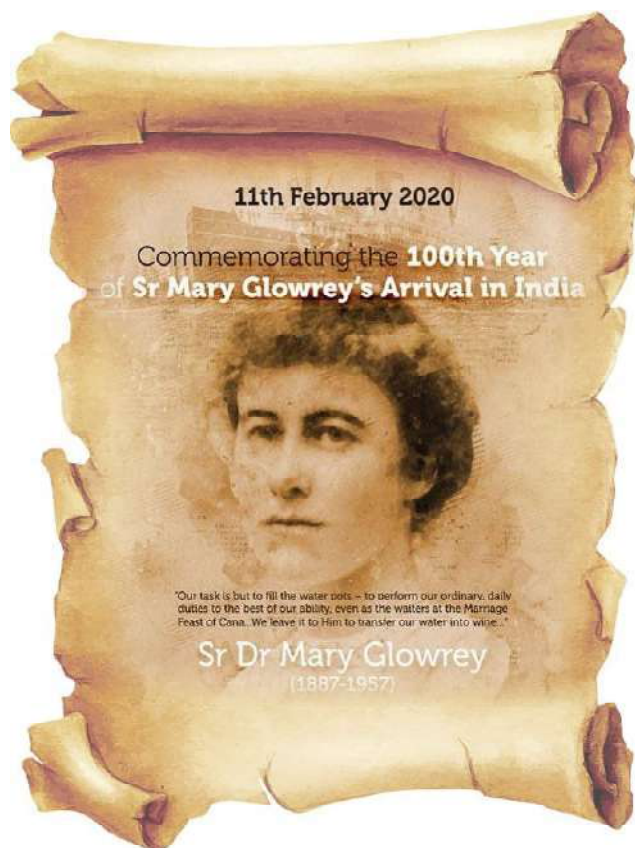
May God continue to bless and lead us in our service to humanity!



Mary Glowrey

100 Years in India

(1920-2020)



Who was Mary Glowrey?

It's worth reflecting on Mary Glowrey's short biography as we commemorate her centenary presence in Guntur.

Born on 23 June 1887 in Birregurra, Victoria about 135 km west of Melbourne, Mary Glowrey was the third of nine children. She was a "shy, quiet and humble" child. Intelligent and eager to learn, she did well at school and by the time she left her outstanding academic accomplishments had earned her a cash scholarship to begin studying for a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne. However, after a great deal of prayer and encouragement of her father, Mary

switched to Medicine, an unusual choice for a woman in those days. By 1910, one year after the death of fellow Victorian and religious, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, she graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery.

The next two years were spent in New Zealand where she did her residency. Returning to Melbourne in 1912, Mary Glowrey built a successful private practice with rooms in Collins Street. During this time, she also worked at Victoria's St Vincent's Hospital, where she had gained invaluable clinical experience, as the hospital's "Physician to Outpatients." She would later say: "I can never sufficiently express the gratitude I owe to St Vincent's Hospital." In addition she also worked at Melbourne's Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

Mary's religious vocation came in 1915 after attending Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, when by chance she happened to read a pamphlet about the appalling death rate among young mothers and babies in India, and the urgent need for medical missionaries there. The 28-year-old fell to her knees and knew that God was calling her to a life of medical mission work in India. But with the world in the turmoil of World War I, she had to wait until the global conflict ended before she would be able to travel to India and begin her mission.

"From the Cathedral, I went to my rooms in Collins St," Mary wrote. "On the hall table there was a small pamphlet addressed to me. The pamphlet was about Dr Agnes McLaren, a pioneer Scottish doctor who became a Catholic at 62 and at the age of 72, went to India to establish a hospital for the care of women. It brought me face to face with Christ. My life's work lay clear before me now. It was to be medical mission work in India".

Sr. Vijaya M Udumala
JMJ Generalate, Roma



Despite her spiritual humility and natural reserve, the following year Mary was elected founding president of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga in 1916 and led this inspiring group of young Catholic women seeking to change society through prayer as well as action.

During this time, she also studied for a higher medical degree in obstetrics, gynaecology and ophthalmology, and in 1919 graduated as Doctor of Medicine.

Finally, in 1920, the war well over and shipping lanes open once more, 33-year-old Mary sailed for India where she joined the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph in Guntur.

During the years of her religious formation, she has not worked as a doctor but rather, helped in the clinic while studying two new languages: Dutch, the language of the congregation, and Telugu, the local Indian language. Sister Mary Glowrey returned to medical practice after her temporary religious vows. She dedicated her life to care for the sick and bring comfort to the afflicted. She treated countless patients and even those without any means of transport came long distances from the farthest villages to see her.

At first, the sight of the gentle white doctor moving between earthen huts of Guntur must have caught the eyes of everyone. Her face was serene, her eyes focused and her heart moved. That this extraordinary woman leaving her successful practice in Melbourne, arrived in Guntur on 11 Feb, in 1920. She was first nun doctor who had received special permission and blessing of Pope Pius XI, to administer care to the sick and practice obstetrics and gynaecology to save thousands of mothers and babies added further grace to her work.

She worked so tirelessly for 37 years ministering to the spiritual and medical needs of the people of India, particularly the poor laying in the mud huts of interior hamlets of Guntur District. Her love for India, its culture and its people led her to explore traditional Indian medicines and to use these as part of her medical arsenal.

Mary Glowrey JMJ, Servant of God, was the world's first Sister-doctor. She remained close to her family all her life, despite never returning to her homeland. Her mission was "to radiated Christ by word and example."

In 1925, Sister Mary founded St. Joseph's Hospital, Guntur and within a year, records state that there were 90 in patients and 44,180 outpatients - Sister Mary working as the only doctor. When there were no recognised programmes for nurses in India, she initiated training courses and trained herself as alone teacher to midwives, nurses and pharmacists, both nuns and local women, in order to visit villages to extend health care to those who could not travel. Reaching out to the incapacitated poor patients and those suffering from incurable diseases in rural villages by mobile clinics in bullock carts or small motor vehicles was her innovation.

Recognising the need to promote the Catholic Healthcare reach to the poor across all the Indian States, in 1943 in the midst of World War II she founded the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) which serves millions of people every year. Several years later a Catholic Medical College was established in Bangalore to train health professionals to provide health care for all as well as to promote



Catholic teachings and protect the sacredness of human life.

Sr. Mary had suffered terribly from cancer in her last few years. Her life filled with an indomitable zeal, unshakable faith and self-surrender, with sincere humility and serene simplicity, was like a holocaust, that led to her intense suffering. She accepted everything as God’s will and suffered willingly and joyfully till her last breath. She left her earthly life on May 5, 1957 with the words, “Jesus Mary Joseph and my Jesus, I love you.”

Today, Sister Mary Glowrey is venerated by many and her legacy continues to bear fruit in India. Her life stands as an icon of extraordinary humility, missionary commitment and zeal. She faced seemingly impossible obstacles, including famine, drought, difficulties caused by World War II, inadequate finances, and impenetrable bureaucracies; Sister Mary always remembered that the work she was undertaking was not only her work, but God’s work.

Walking in her footsteps is truly humbling. Many of us are privileged to live on the same holy ground she lived and served, while some others take a chance to visit and feel her presence. It must be truly an amazing experience and blessing to meet several elderly JMJ sisters who had worked with Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, and cared for her in the final months of her life. Listening to their stories certainly impress and inspire us!

Now it’s our turn to grow in holiness. Let’s pray intensely and honestly for favours and miracles through the intercessory power of Sister Mary Glowrey.

***Mary Glowrey, Servant of God -
sign of God’s mercy and love – Pray for us!***



Servant of God Mary Glowrey: Centenary Celebrations of Arrival in India



Sr. Mary Mazzarello Narisetti
JMJ Convent, Kakani.

The 11 Feb, 2020 completes 100 years of providential entrance of a great visionary, zealous missionary and brilliant doctor - Mary Glowrey to our Mother Land India; to Guntur city the pride of modern Andhra Pradesh. Certainly, it was a day of gratitude and joy for every JMJ, as the Congregation observed this distinctive Centenary Celebration of the NUN who revolutionized the Catholic Healthcare in India.

On Friday, the seventh February, 2020 the celestial rays of the dawn welcomed the JMJ family and a many well-wisher as they embarked into the holy ground of St. Joseph’s convent, Guntur to participate in this mega event. In the cool breezy twilight, JMJ got ready to rekindle and relive the missionary zeal of Mary Glowrey who set her foot on the Indian soil 100 years ago, to save souls and love the poor with an enthralling motto: *‘O Divine Heart, all for You!’*

It was a heart-warming sight to see sisters from four corners of India, religious of different congregations flocking to the venue to witness to the holiness and virtuous life of Servant of God. The ceremony of the long-awaited day began with ecclesiastical blessing of the refurbished Mary Glowrey’s museum decked by requiem relics of Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ by the Bishop of Vijayawada Rev. Dr. Joseph Raja Rao, and the Provincial Superiors of the four Indian JMJ Provinces namely Sr. Anthony Mary Dasari, Sr. Tresa Kandlakunta, Sr. Mukta Xess and Sr. Marykutty Antony Pottananiyil inaugurated the museum. The updated museum with additional portraits of the Servant of God is very impressive and a feast to the eyes!



This was followed by the ceremonial procession of 100 people symbolically marking the event led by the melodic band, marched forward to the stage. The climax of this significant occasion was the commemorative thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Bishop of Guntur Rev. Dr. Bhagaiah Chinnabathini, Apostolic Administrator of Kadapa diocese & Bishop Emeritus of Guntur Rev. Dr. Gali Bali, and Bishop of Vijayawada Rev. Dr. Joseph Raja Rao Thelagathoti, and several other Priests.

During the introductory address Sr. Tresa Kandlakunta, the Provincial Superior of Guntur Province applauded the relentless service and dedication of Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey to the poorest of the poor. She acknowledged that Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ was a pioneering visionary in Healthcare Ministry especially when Guntur was reeling under abject poverty and underdeveloped in many ways. She further noted that even today her miraculous touch is being felt by many as the Servant of God continues to intercede for the people of Guntur.

The chief celebrant heaped praises and paid rich tributes to the Servant of God and said, Mary Glowrey was an epitome of goodness and holiness, sacrificing a bright career she willing stooped down to win souls for Jesus. She loved the poor and by doing so, she became a sacrificial Pascal Lamb. He exhorted all the religious to imbibe her spirit in service to the poor and walk in her footsteps to give Jesus to all. The choir added solemnity to the celebration with its soul stirring songs at the Eucharistic thanksgiving.

A special Centenary Concert featuring a dance-drama ballet 'Glowrey Smruthilayalu' (*Glowrey's memorable moments*) was staged by students from JMJ Schools and College of Nursing highlighting the biopic of Mary Glowrey. It was a beautiful performance, very emotional, moving and inspiring awe-struck one and all. All dances and actors were highly praised for putting your heart and soul into expression.

The former Provincial Superiors were felicitated on this occasion. A fellowship banquet was spread for all at the end of the programme. Participants left the campus with the spirit of a goodhearted missionary, a Saint to become!



Healing through: The Servant of God



Sr. Vijaya Kumari Sure
Sacred Heart Convent, Kurnool

I am very much thankful and pleased to share a great miracle took place in my life through the intercession of our blessed Servant of God Mary Glowrey. I was suffering with severe ear ache and infection. Both ears were infected very badly. I could not hear properly. Doctor tested my ears and said that my left eardrum has a hole and I had to undergo a surgery otherwise I would become deaf. I suffered with severe pain and discomfort silently for more than 3 months. I could not sleep well during the day or night in spite of medication.

I shared this with Sr. Vijaya Udumala. She advised me to pray to Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey assuring that she will join in intercessory prayer to Mary Glowrey. Since then I started praying daily with great faith and hope through the intercession of Sr. Mary Glowrey. After starting to pray to Sr. Mary Glowrey, within 2 weeks of time I felt that I could hear well and pain has disappeared. Then I went to doctor for check-up.

To my surprise doctor told me that I am completely healed of my ear infection and the hole in the left ear is completely closed and there was no need to undergo surgery. I am ever grateful to God Almighty. I pray that our beloved Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey soon be counted one among his saints. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!



MY INSPIRATION and life as a JMJ nun



What was a part of my childhood dream, that I now recognize as a privileged experience! Born in a peasant family, my childhood was enjoyable, mostly complacent and relatively solitary. It was between 1970 – 1980, as a youngster, I used to go along with St. Ann sisters in my village Dachepalle of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, to nearby hamlets distributing simple medications to those under privileged villagers to alleviate their pain and suffering.



These gestures of compassion and acts of mercy to the downtrodden poor rural folks and at the small health center along with the pastoral visits inspired me subsequently to embrace religious life to imitate Jesus Christ in healing ministry especially to the most disadvantaged rural poor who cannot afford to come to the main health centers. My Aunt Sr. Fatima Katakam was influential to join in JMJ.

God's personalized first gift to me is my life and second my vocation to consecrated life. As I nurture my vocation to be a faithful JMJ Sister, I fondly remember how deeply the life of our beloved founder Fr. M. Wolff impressed me during my formative years and even now his sayings resonate strongly - *"I like to work like a Giant"* and *"I want to gain as many souls as I can."*

Dr. Sr. Lilly Pushpa Katakam JMJ
O.L.F. Convent, Porumamilla



I am convinced, my vocation isn't about serving myself, but others. I often ponder over: "How can I serve people better and prove most helpful to our world and to the Church? What is my real witness as religious to the people around me? What can I offer to my Congregation?"

Always, I desired to be a nurse, for a nurse has innumerable opportunities to show the compassionate love of God to the persons suffering with pain and sickness. God's ways are always beyond our human thinking and aspiration. After the Temporary Profession as a young JMJ sister, I was sent to study B.Sc. Degree, while attempting to enter a Medical College to pursue MBBS.

Discovering God's will through my prayer and encouragement of our sisters, I could find the exact road map for my life as JMJ, clearly marked by my entry into St. John's Medical College campus, Bangalore to pursue MBBS, and later post-graduation M.S in General Surgery. Looking back to those blessed student days, I deem it as a privilege to serve as first General Surgeon among JMJ Doctor sisters being inspired by the Motto: "You shall live because of Me".

Ever since I became a full pledged doctor and later a General Surgeon, my childhood dream to serve the rural poor patients became real as I worked at JMJ hospitals - JMJ Health Center, Sivadi, OLF Hospital, Porumamilla and St. Joseph's Hospital, Nellore.

To be a good doctor is to stand out from the crowd and let patients know that I care about them. In healthcare where everything is digital, I always tried to keep that human touch with my patients. Yes, human experience at the forefront of my care keeps elevating my resilience, brings well-being to my patients and joy to me. Spending life in the service of rural people creates memorable experiences. At no time I have regretted for not being in the big cities, but rather overwhelmed and satisfied to reach out to the poor, extending the mercy and healing touch of Jesus, bringing joy and solace to thousands of rural folks.

From OLF Hospital we conduct health camps reaching out to the village centers catering best possible professional healthcare. These health camps include basic blood tests and ultrasonogram when essential and prescription of medication besides educating and counseling people regarding hygiene, balanced diet, exercise and healthy life style modifications. This approach is highly beneficial to the poor, reducing their expenditure, travel burden and timely treatment of illness. Even some of them are referred to higher centers for further management depending upon the nature and severity of their diseases.

Being a Nun, a Doctor, a Surgeon and a Friend to so many of patients is a blessing of God! I wonder at my patients' trust and confidence, who come for treatment travelling long distances from different districts, States and few even from overseas. My taste for the Divine, is born from the seed of faith planted in me by my dear parents and the full support I receive from JMJ Congregation throughout my journey as a JMJ Sister. I am truly grateful to God! Yes, I enjoy my vocation as a precious gift, a call to happiness through mission as a Sister Doctor in a specially designed structure to

work like a giant, never tired of doing God's work, in spite of risking, facing and challenging many hurdles as I trek forward.

My passion to learn more and more, helped me to gain expertise in Laparoscopic procedures, which facilitated to do minimally invasive Surgeries even in the Rural Hospital like OLF Hospital, Porumamilla against all odds, with dare minimum facilities with no assistants. I thank God for Anesthetists from other districts who are available once in a fortnight for planned laparoscopic surgeries by pooling patients up to 10-15 in a group. Being a General Surgeon, I have taken time and effort to study and qualify in PG. Diploma in Diabetology, PG Diploma in Ultrasonogram and also Fellowship in Minimal Access Surgeries (FMAS – Laparoscopy) which are very useful and great help in treating patients, lest they have to travel more than 100 Km for the medical/surgical help.

I love our beloved Servant of God - Mary Glowrey for her indomitable spirit and great role model who embraced multiple tasks as doctor, teacher, midwife, pharmacist and a reformer of Catholic Healthcare in India, above all as a perfect JMJ NUN! The secret of my multitasking spirit is from the ever-burning zeal to learn continually like doctor Mary Glowrey and to work hard inflaming God's love and mercy in my little ways. Finally, I thank God Almighty for being with me and leading me forward. I am ever grateful to the Congregation and all the Sisters who moulded me from '*an ill shaped wood to a master piece*' - a Lilly Flower in the garden of JMJ!



Skilling Youth at HOLY FAMILY SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SATHENAPALLI

Sr. Lucy Mary Rayapu
Holy Family Convent

In today's digital world, signs of global change are rapid and constant. They seem to travel at the *speed of light*. On the other hand, the pace at which we help our students craft their own unique skills travel at the *speed of life* — one successful batch at a time!

How can our JMJ ministry find on-going relevance in this ever-changing, fast paced world? We have a best example from Sattenapalli. Our Province Leaders being open to changing needs, adapted our ministry to the changing times. Established in 1952, Holy Family Convent and Hospital was the fifth one among JMJ institutes in India. When the hospital became non-functional, JMJ Guntur Province has opened scope to convert the Hospital into Holy Family School in 1986. The famous Holy Family TB Sanatorium of yesteryears, which gave life to thousands of TB patients, was changed into Community Care Centre serving HIV/AIDS affected people from 2009 to 2017. From 2018 it is shaped into Holy Family Skill Development Centre (HFSDC) under the umbrella of JMJ Social Service Society, Nallapadu and has become part of Skilling India.



The far-sighted vision of the pioneers, their progressive and purposeful engagement in different ministries through compassionate and empathic action continues to enliven the lives of today's youth. Ultimately, this successful skills development ministry, emulated by our Sisters, expresses the nature and purpose of our Charism in the service of youth providing them a promising future. We collaborate with the schemes from the Government: Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and Non-Government: Life Circle Senior Services, Telangana. The skill development program offers skill training to school dropouts, young at risk, unemployed youth, to develop their skills and help them stand by themselves in the society. HFSDC stands like light house in Andhra Pradesh, offering practical training to 30 students in General Duty Assistant (GDA) and Home Nursing courses at St. Joseph's Hospital Guntur, Govt. PHC at Muppalla. Certification is accorded by Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC). During the last two years we have trained a total of 200 students, placed them all in good Jobs.

I am grateful to God and the Congregation of JMJ for consenting me to be a tutor for skill development course at Holy Family. I feel blessed and privileged to skilling the youth particularly in-Home Nursing, which has a great demand in geriatric care and care of terminally ill clients. Glory to God and thanks to all who helped me serve the underprivileged youth.

JMJ MORNING STAR HOSPITAL

Sr. Veronica Thattil
JMJ Morning Star Convent, Raigarh



Kudos! to JMJ Morning Star Hospital, Raigarh for shining like a bright MORNING STAR for more than 50 years, rendering excellent health services to the people of Raigarh and surrounding districts in Chhattisgarh State. Laurels to Sr. Dr. Tresa Bellamkonda whose resolute commitment for past many years along with all our JMJ sisters without whose cooperation this credit to our hospital was not possible. We esteem the dedicated and round the clock availability of our Sr. Dr. Rosemary Thumma who continues to serve the hospital with a good team of sisters and staff.

In recognition of the efforts of JMJ Morning Star Hospital and its missionary spirit towards creating a healthy society and with a special care for the poor people from distant villages of Raigarh district, on 18 February 2020, State Bank of India in an organized program donated an Ambulance to the Hospital.



A large number of people of our town were present to solemnise the occasion along with Mr. SV Rao DGM from SBI, Mr. Jagannath Sahu Regional Manager, Mr. Amit Chaube Branch Manager, in the presence of Sr. Dr. Teresa, Sr. Dr. Rosemary, Sr. Pratibha, Doctors and Staff of Morning Star hospital. CGM Bhopal Circle Shri Rajesh Kumar handed over the ambulance to the hospital under SBI- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Speaking on the event, he said that SBI is carrying out functions of social interest under its Corporate Social Responsibility and providing an ambulance to JMJ Morning Star Hospital in Raigarh. Further, he said that for SBI, serving its customers and trusting them is its biggest capital. He expressed lots of appreciation for the hospital for its selfless and dedicated services and stated that institutions like Morning Star Hospital are signs of commitment and hope to the present Society.

Appreciation gives us purpose! Appreciation changes perceptions! Appreciation emits positivity! We all want and need to feel valued for who we are and recognized for our contributions and accomplishments. It's important for us to know that we truly make a difference. This is precisely what happened to JMJ Morning Star – which left all of us accomplished for providing the best possible and quality health care services to our people here at an affordable cost. As the director of the Hospital, I deem a privilege to be of service to many. We applaud our thanks to the Manager and SBI team for their generous contribution. Ambulance facility in the hospital helps to extend health care to many and to reach out to the needy in the remote villages. Thank God for His constant accompaniment on our journey of faith and providential care.

Simple and Cheerful JMJ

Sr. Rosilda Kuzhivelil

“Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.” - Henry W Beecher

As I scan through my life's journey, I am grateful for God's fidelity all through my life and for the marvels of satisfying 60 years in JMJ. Born on 23 May, 1938, my parents nurtured me in simple piety and faith. Participating in Holy Mass accompanied by my parents every morning is ever fresh in my mind. My parents' hard work, their love for nature impressed me very much as child.

The seed of my vocation to religious life was planted by the sisters during my school years at St. Mary's High School in Palai. Fr. Thomas Kattakayan, my uncle priest was instrumental to walk in the silent footsteps of Jesus Christ as a JMJ candidate on 27 July 1960.

Sr. Josepha Rachamalla, my novice mistress instilled in me a desire to love Christ, the anchor of my life. With this spirit, I made my first commitment to God in JMJ on 28 January, 1963 and eventually my final profession on 29 January, 1968. In our days, we do everything that is charged with in the community with greatest possible love. My companions would remark that superiors often say to other young sisters “look at Rosilda and learn what is obedience.”



In Fr. Wolff's Pious maxims— *‘Jesus says that those who seek the kingdom of God will get everything else as bonus! How then could those who desire nothing in this world than the kingdom of God be lacking in anything? Now then, that is what we as sisters of JMJ have to do’* (PM 32). This message has greatly impressed me to live authentic life as a sister and I hope this will surely impress you too. I am truly grateful to God that my cousin Sr. Ligori and her niece Sr. Jomsy too joined our Congregation after me.

All through my life in JMJ, I always tried to be obedient to go where I was sent without a second word. I have worked in Guntur as a librarian and at St. Stanislaus Convent, Bangalore as kitchen in-charge. Although not a nurse, I was able to serve Sr. Sebastian nearly two years as she was confined to bed. I worked also for few years in Leprosy Sanatorium at Summana Halli. I have passion for nature, and enjoy conversing with every plant, being in charge of garden at JMJ Provincialate for many years. I love observing the tiny seedlings growing, flowering and every grass dancing at rain falls.

As a cheer gift of life, I wish to be always busy with some work or the other. I used to spend my leisure time painting altar boarders and table cloths, and taking contemplative walks around the garden. For when I stand before God at the end of my life, I must be able to answer him, that no single talent of mine left without using, everything for God's glory.

“Pray without ceasing” (I Th 5:17) is my watch word. ‘You are silent and contemplative; You speak less and smile always’ - sisters in my community remark often. When they make queries about my praying the Way of the Cross daily, I reply “I am doing PhD” (preparing for happy death). Community life is a boost for my religious life; I respect and enjoy with everyone young and old. Being thankful for every little favour I receive from others; I repeat the common phrase of two words – *Thank You!* As I am advancing in age and retired from active life my only prayer and aspiration is “to reach heaven - my home forever” with purity of body, mind and soul.

My Life a Burning Zeal for GOD

Sr. Josepha Rachamalla
JMJ Prashathnilayam, Guntur



The word 'zeal' means 'great passion, energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause'. We learn from our Founder – an intense apostolic zeal he demonstrated all through his life. "It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always." ([Gal. 4:18](#)).

Yes, apostolic zeal for the Lord is the hall mark of my life in our Congregation for over 75 years. *I can't believe - so many years!!* With deep gratitude to God for this gifted life in the service of the Lord, my memory flashes through my vocation and life as JMJ sister. As a young girl, while studying at Madras, I encountered many sisters, but on one occasion, I was wonderstruck – what courage these sisters needed to leave everything to follow Christ? At that tender age, I was impressed by their life and works of charity; felt for the first time – God's gentle voice in my heart.

After completing 10th class, I expressed desire to my mother. I was only daughter to my parents and I had a brother who was not so well. None of my family members appreciated my decision, including my religious aunt. My parents wanted me to get married in which I was least interested. I asked my mother, "mother, in whose hands is my future? In God's hands or your hands?" My mother was astonished at my words! Ever since she encouraged me, but my father kept silence and went through deep sorrow at my decision.

My deepest desire fulfilled: Sometimes God guides to us through others. While I was discerning my vocation, late Bishop Mummadi Ignatius and Fr. Singareddy Thomas guided me to join the Society of JMJ. During my religious formation I gained insight into the unique aspects of community life and mission filled with apostolic zeal.

Peace like no other: Our Founder a follower of Saint Ignatius, taught us what is there in *Spiritual Exercises* that "when your own will is aligned with God's will, you shall experience great consolation. My surrender to God's will enabled me to know God more and love him intimately. As a young woman called to live consecrated life, I felt profound peace with in me, a peace like no other or, as Jesus says, "a peace the world cannot give" (John 14:27).

Life well lived in JMJ: Being true to self, I tried to live by word and deed, the charism and spirit of the Society. I was fortunate to work as a teacher, formator, community animator, social worker and evangeliser. God in all His mercy, chose me an unworthy person to lead the first Indian Province. Accepting this weighty task as first native JMJ sister, as first provincial superior was a privilege to serve my sisters at the same time a challenging one. I left this choice to Christ - "*it was not you who chose me, but I who chose you*" (John 15:16). It was God's will and choice and I accepted it in faith. I tried my very best using all my strength and talent along with a team of councillors towards expansion of the congregation and relevance of our ministries in social service and evangelization.

My love and option to serve the poor: Always I remember my mother telling me about the poor, and to stand by the poor. As a sister called to serve the poor, I sought God's will saying my own "fiat" like our

Blessed Mother “let it be done” and I could feel very time a palpable joy that emanated within my heart! As provincial of first Indian province I tried to keep align with the general chapter and provincial chapter decisions – perusing all our efforts to be in solidarity and with preferential option for the poor. After my term in leadership role, I continued to be at the serve of the poor in Kondramulta and Durgi. Working for and among the people affected by leprosy was most satisfying years of my life in JMJ. I loved being an evangelizer proclaiming the kingdom of God among the poor.

To my beloved Congregation: All the sisters must be good; an example to others. Live a sacrificial life. I had many temptations, but I tell myself every time loudly that there is no greater love than to do the Will of God and Serve Him alone! The prophetic mission of Christ who was “sent to preach good news to the poor” (Lk 4:18), should find a strong resonance in today’s JMJ Sisters and in the Congregation. To accomplish this mission, our Congregation must search out the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel, thus responding to the persistent human suffering in different forms and care for God’s creation.

My humble appeal to young generation:

God told Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart . . . (Jeremiah 1:5). So also, you are called by God because He loved you before you were born. Be blessed and fortunate to be a sister of JMJ and to serve the Lord faithfully.

Do you have a great energy and enthusiasm for the life in Christ being made manifest in serving others? Or has your zeal been dimmed... by time, or trials, or the busy pace of life? Do you have a fire of the Holy Spirit in your soul!

I appeal to you dear sisters to stand firmly in God, practicing these *Four Pillars* of JMJ life...

☼ **Be Prayerful:** Love being in God’s presence every day. Never compromise your prayer time for anything. It feeds your soul! Remember, in the hands of a sculptor a rough, ill-shaped wood becomes a masterful image.

☼ **Be grateful for your vocation:** Love your vocation for it’s a treasured gift of God, so thank Him. Remember what the Founder said: Your vocation in JMJ requires you to be willing to do anything and go wherever you are sent.

☼ **Be attuned to the Will of God:** God manifests His mission through His will. Become a discerning person. God has his eyes on you as though you alone existed. Let your love flow toward him because he is personally inviting you to become a happy person.

☼ **Be ready for anything:** Be ready to live in word and deed the charism of JMJ – Ever adaptable apostolic availability for the sake of God’s mission. Do everything you are charged with in the community with the greatest possible love. Give yourself to God and for His glory. Live every day **MAGIS!**



My Vocation - a call within a call

Sr. Marianne Adayadil

JMJ Shanthinilayam, Hyderabad

We, the consecrated women being blessed a hundred-fold, by no merits of ours, but merely due to the benevolence of our God, should be able to attract the youth to our way of life. A bird's eye view of the present-day situation in the world reveals the fact that "the harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few; let us pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers" (Mt 9:37-38).

The Lord in His goodness has sowed the seed of vocation to religious life in my heart at a very tender age. My mother, a regular church goer, whom I accompanied always, was my inspiration, and her prayerful life was a model set before me. My schooling with Carmelite Sisters also helped me to nourish my vocation. Besides, I had the habit of reading some missionary magazines like 'preshitha keralam' in which I read stories about missionary works of priests and nuns.

My first Call to JMJ: My maternal uncle who was a missionary priest in Andhra Pradesh inspired us about his missionary works in interior villages. Desiring to be a missionary, I decided to join the Society of JMJ in 1957. My initial formation under the gifted and affectionate guidance of Sr. Algondis of fond memories helped to deepen my spiritual life and practice virtues of humility and simplicity.

In 1960, I made my first profession – being convinced of my call to become "*alter Christe*" the other Christ. Then as a junior sister I was transferred to St. Joseph's Convent, Guntur to pursue my collegiate education in government Women's College, Guntur. Here, I observed JMJ sisters and other staff nurses always busy caring for patients. These sights slowly developed in me a great desire to commit myself helping the poor and suffering patients.

My second Call to Nursing: This was the time of starting a catholic medical college in India, the brainchild of Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey was taking shape. Thus, St. Johns Medical College, Bangalore was started in 1960 and applications were invited for recruiting medical students and from JMJ Society five of us were sent to appear for this entrance examination. But only Sr. Lillian got selected and all others were rejected. Sr. Jerome and self were asked to pursue B.Sc. (Hons) nursing course at R.A.K College of Nursing, New Delhi as this was the first and best nursing colleges in the country at that time. Thus, my second call to become a professional nurse was realised.

When I returned from Delhi after my graduation and post graduation in nursing, as principal of St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Guntur I had great opportunities of being the president of Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) A.P branch and associated with Catholic Nurses guild of India. God, in His mercy has selected




me to initiate Nursing courses - GNM, B.Sc., and M.Sc., at St. Theresa's, Hyderabad. In this second call as a professional nurse and nurse educator for 37 years, I am happy that I could offer yeoman service of training hundreds of young bands of nurses to serve humanity across the globe. My only wish is that the JMJ brand of nurses should be recognised by the patients and general public for their committed services.


My great ambition as a Nurse Educator was to raise the standards of nursing in India. All the nursing leaders in the country unitedly represented this matter to the Indian Nursing Council to stop the existing diploma nursing programme in a phased manner and regularization of B.Sc. Nursing in the country as per the international standards. This indeed was considered as a great achievement for the nursing profession in the country from 2021. I thank God for making our efforts yield fruit for the benefit of nursing profession.


My third Call a graceful retired life: With immense gratitude to the Almighty, I now acknowledge my third call to live a graceful retired life in our home JMJ Shanthinilayam. Out of the twenty-two sisters living here, eight sisters are involved in active apostolate, while fourteen of us are called to live witnessing our religious values - life of prayer, life of love and concern for others and sharing our life experiences in the community. Thus, we try to make the remaining part of our life joyful and expressive for each other, as we are waiting for the final call to reach our eternal home.

May I now request the prayerful support of all our dear sisters who are reading this article, so that we can respond to this final call joyfully and reach our final destination in total surrender.



Tribute





Fr. FALCO THUIS, O.CARM



(Prior General 1971-1983)

GUIDE TO GC (2005-2011), SOC.OF JMJ

General Chapter Guide 2011 and

Religious Assistant to Society of JMJ (2016-2018)

Fr. Falco Thuis, O.Carm. the former Prior General, passed away on the 4th of January in Boxmeer, The Netherlands. We remember him with great affection and gratitude and pray for his eternal repose. May his soul rest in peace.

JESUS The Rainbow of my life



Sr. Jyothi Kota
JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you.” - Jeramiah 1:5

I love Rainbow. As soon as I see a hint of sunlight during a rain, I am outside in an instant, looking for those brilliant colours in the sky. As I stood admiring this phenomenon, I was struck by how often God’s love had shown itself to me in this way – through inspiration bringing me a sense of healing, forgiveness and protection.

Sometimes the “storms” I encounter in my personal life would weigh me down with grief, frustration or fear. But what I’ve come to realize is that they do not ultimately have the power to crush my desire and determination to follow the ONE I decided to follow. Looking at the Rainbow in my imagination, fills me with an inspiration and sense of purpose. When I patiently trust the warm “sunshine” of God’s ever-loving care, His tender mercies and His abiding presence through my sisters, friends and family, I had the courage to rise up again – see renewed vision, enthusiasm, and healing joy breaking forth in my life.

Resilience amid life’s storms, that springs forth from my deep faith and trust in JESUS, enabled me to go through the difficult times with confidence, courage and conviction of His divine Love - my God Father and Mother. I have found that my spiritual strength bounces into my life from the God-given resilience with the assurance of God in JESUS my Rainbow and Redeemer!

Rainbow as a metaphor inspires me to continue and endure through dark times, filling me with the hope of resurrection. It reminds me of God’s abiding presence in my life and merciful self-emptying love of JESUS the RAINBOW of my life... who blesses me to see the colors of life and to bounce back to life from the midst of stormy weather. May this Rainbow image remind us of God’s love and encourage us to set our lives on fire of service to God and humanity as the first priority in our lives.

At the U-turn in my life, I am determined to follow this JESUS. At this conviction my soul rejoices and magnifies the Lord! My favorite pious maxim of our founder, **“God has His eyes on you as though you alone exist”** encourages me to surrender my will to God. Like Blessed Mother Mary and our Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff my only prayer is *“Let Thy will be done”*.



The saga of an Easter Silver Bride

Sr. Santhosh Mary Michael
JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore



As I begin to share with you the Saga of my Encounter with the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday in 2018, I remember the quote of our holy founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff: “*He has His eye on you as though you alone existed.*” – need to mention the quote

My life in fast two years has been truly a Saga of an Easter Silver Bride. *Alleluia* has become my prayer, my song and salutation. Here I go narrating my

alleluia

unfathomable story of Divine intervention. The limelight of the saga is not that I who follow Jesus in my spiritual life, but it’s Jesus who follows me. This is my experience and I wish to give witness and exult the Lord day and night.

It was March 26th Holy Week Monday 2018. I was heading toward Bharathiar University in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu to submit my PhD thesis. All of a sudden, while still travelling by train, I experienced severe headache and vomiting. On reaching Coimbatore, I managed to see a doctor in a clinic, who offered me symptomatic relief. In three days, I was able to get back to near normalcy. Then I proceeded to the university to complete the obligations of the presentation of my thesis. I was in a fix and swamped, barely had time to breathe. Using sandwich technique, I submitted my thesis.

On my return journey I was very sluggish and somehow, I reached Bangalore to St. Philomena’s Hospital almost dragging my feet. On examining me in emergency department, Doctors exclaimed that reaching the hospital in that critical condition itself was a great miracle! Immediately the treatment followed. I was admitted on Holy Saturday in MICU - the road less travelled. The scan reports revealed that I was suffering from brain aneurysm. It was Easter vigil; mid-night, in an obscure place, I could hear the

Church bells and melodies of *Alleluia*. With severe headache I was combating with Risen Lord to heal me. As I surrendered to the Lord. I found some relief and relaxation.

The following day was the silver jubilee celebration of my batch sisters at JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore. With profound gratitude, I celebrated my silver jubilee in MICU, exchanged my silver ring with the *Risen Lord*, experiencing rebirth as an *Easter Silver Bride!* It was an impeccable moment in my life, witnessed by my JMJ family and my siblings. I received showers of blessings of the Divine in plenty. Prayers flowed from every nook and corner of JMJ. Heaven was shaken with intercessions!

Amidst this on 20 September, 2019 I defended successfully my thesis in Coimbatore. A patient to Doctor! Isn’t it true? Every season has a reason. I got plenty of chances, big and small to make acts of practical faith that Jesus follows me and every such instance remained with me as a source of spiritual power and fulfillment. *Alleluia and Thank you Lord!* has become my *Namajapa*.

I exactly completed two years of my rebirth on Easter Sunday 2020. As I glance at the incident, I realize it is not I who follow Jesus; but Jesus follows me. He keeps me as an apple of His eye. When I stand before Lord at the day’s end, and ask for grace and healing touch in receptive silence, I experience from the sacred stillness of the Divine, flowing healing grace of the Risen Lord!

UISG FORMATION PROGRAMME:

Sr. Leema Paulraj
Rome



In response to the need to prepare sisters for formation ministry, the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) offers a programme in English for sisters taking up the responsibility of accompanying those in the initial stages of formation to religious life. This programme is offered in the context of the religious congregations of the participants and the needs of the church and the world in the 21st century.

I am grateful to General Council and Provincial Council of Guntur Province for providing me the opportunity to participate in the Formation course, at Rome for five months (February – June 2020). From 29th January 2020, the formation course began with orientation and Inaugural mass. We were 44 participants belonging to 33 Congregations and from 26 countries. We were happy to introduce ourselves to each other and tried to mingle with everyone each day. The orientation classes at the beginning of the course helped me to get know my classmates and to locate myself as to where I am and where I must be heading towards. We went to UISG institute for the sessions for one month and continued through course online due to corona pandemic.

Topics covered include: • Processes of human and spiritual growth • Intercultural living • Vocation and the consecrated life • Spirituality • Prayer, community, ministry as dimensions of consecrated life • The vows • Discernment • Mission in the context of the world today • Stages of formation and their processes. During the programme, the participants form a learning and supportive community, take on leadership responsibilities and share the uniqueness of their charisms and cultures.

All the participants had on-going accompaniment and an eight day Directed Retreat. In a very special way, sessions on prayer, human sexuality and my autobiography helped me to go deeper into myself. Group members' sharing and resource persons guidance challenged, inspired and motivated me to go deeper into myself; discovering myself; knowing my weaknesses and vulnerabilities. This helped me to have a greater integration of my strengths and weaknesses, and to understand, respect and accept others as they are and to be compassionate with myself and others.





From my integration of the course I am inspired by the following:

- = Let go and Let the new come in; I am not leader but collaborator.
- = Observe - Reflect - Act - don't jump into conclusions (nonjudgmental attitude towards self and others).
- = Qualitative presence to each formee/community member – quality of my presence is remembered for ever than the quantity of my presence.
- = Teaching in initial formation on non-negotiable aspects, policy and ministry of the congregation can help the formees to discern their vocation.
- = My response to others from a tiny mustard seed – a kind word, a listening heart, a healing glance and a compassionate presence.
- = Formee needs to “make progress” with the help of her formator. Formation is gradual including the formation of Jesus (30 years) – be patient.
- = Each day is new day as well as the person. Don't bring the past. Live in present. Don't ask “why”. It obstructs the person to speak and doesn't help growth.
- = Prayer doesn't change the reality but it changes me. Mystical moments are to be enjoyed and not explored.
- = The four signs of prayerful person are gratitude/praise, sense of wonder, sense of family and playfulness.
- = To know the feelings of Jesus, Pray Psalms meaningfully because Jesus prayed those psalms.
- = Mother Mary treasured all these things in her heart, pondered, meditated and cherished. These things include joy, hope, trust, beautiful things, sadness, anguish, anxiety, sickness, crisis, misfortune, desire for revenge, apprehension and so on... Teach novices to pray everything as mother Mary prayed specifically and concretely.
- = Conversation with founder and requesting his wisdom to guide me as the formator of his congregation was a heart touching experience and the realization of founder's will as a novice director. It was an affirming and strengthening experience.
- = To be aware that as a formator my self-esteem fluctuates/spiral and not straight line.
- = The process of formation is not a straight-line arrow but it has different spirals of growth as human persons formed by us are unique and the level of growth differs. It is gradual and slow process.

I am extremely happy that “Formation Course” has helped me to live my life better and help others. It is a great, long lasting and unforgettable experience for me.

Grateful
to God For His steadfast love!

Silver Jubilarians – 2020

Being grateful to God for His steadfast love, we began our spiritual journey to Sirumalai for a mountain experience. Into the midst of enthralling silver oaks, the silver brides were given a floral welcome to the portals of Divyodaya JMJ Spirituality Centre. Sr. Marykutty Antony Pottananiyil, the Provincial Superior of Raipur Province, Sr. Maria Shymala Erry, the Director, Sr. Prameela Rani Puchakayala, the Superior and the Community Sisters, received us ceremonially with a flame of arathi, floral badges and ignited candles for a solemn thanksgiving prayer service.

“The Lord blessed the later days of Job more than the beginning” - with this Sr. Marykutty began the ice-breaking session and conducted a game to induce us with sundry dynamics to evoke the past memories of 25 years as Consecrated Religious in the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph. We had a moment of silence for the departed soul of our beloved companion Sr. Rosalia Tirkey.

Psycho Spiritual Integration kindled us to live a holistic life as religious and to go back to the past, live in the present and be fruitful in the future. It called us personally to be intellectually sound, spiritually deep, emotionally balanced and socially relational. We appreciate the uniqueness of each person and celebrate the difference by interconnectedness.




Emotional Intelligence healed us to re-live our life to the full. The techniques and therapeutic activities liberated us from our past wounds. *Canon law* helped us to realise that it is our primary duty and responsibility to know about the articles on religious life, the latest documents like Encyclicals, Constitutions, important rules and regulations, duties and tasks of the major superiors in religious institutions.


Ignatian Spirituality inspired us to practice the Spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius who actualized his dreams with the weapon of self-denial and also to focus on the Discernment of the spirits and practicing the Examen.


JMJ Spirituality insisted us to acquire **“An ever-renewed search in doing God’s will”**. The testimonies of JMJ Sisters motivated us to travel miles to the original sources of our Congregation in Spirit and light. The integration of interior spirit and exterior spirit urged us to preserve the JMJ Charism, to imbibe apostolic zeal of the Founder in Obedience, to be innovative in Consecrated Chastity and to spread JMJ Spirit to the Universal Church in Evangelical Poverty.

Retreat theme was **“Vigilant to the Word of God, Alert to the Grace of God and Docile to the Voice of the Spirit”**. The Word of God infused in us a taste for God’s love, to follow him very closely, to love him very ardently and to follow him very humbly in inner silence and solitude.




“Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness”. At this juncture, our hearts resonate with gratitude to God for his faithfulness and steadfast love. “Gratitude helps us to grow, expand and to contribute our might”. We express our attitude of gratitude to our Superior General Rev. Sr. Innamma Yeruva & the General Council, Provincials & Councils with a special mention to Sr. Marykutty for planning the renewal program. A sincere note of thanks to Sr. Shymala, Sr. Prameela & Community, our Superiors & Communities and formators for forming and transforming our silver lives shining brightly for greater glory of God.







Sr. VIRGO GALI JMJ
(19.02.1920- 08.02.2020)

*A solitary tear rolls down our spirit,
Your gentle smile as we recollect,
Your soul shinning like the sun,
Longing in peace to enter heaven*

*Thank your lifeline for 101 graceful years
Gentle movements, friendly encounters
Accept gratitude for example so great
Symbol of sacrifice and surrender best*

*While your work on earth done,
Looked up to heavens alone
Your soul silently ascended heaven
Peaceful now in Father's home*

*Smiling from God's glorious skies ever
JMJ Family intercessor forever
To live for God and neighbour
Till we reach heavenly Father dear*

God's Eternal Plan in *My Life*

As I sat reflecting on the eternal plan of God in my life, I realized God's mighty hand and generosity in blessing me richly with the vocation to the Congregation of JMJ. It is incomprehensible to put into words my experience of God. At this moment my heart overwhelms with joy and gratitude for His amazing works in my life. Here goes my vocation story

Not too long ago, we had conversations, back and forth, with my colleagues about our own life back home. It used to be a reflection, a sharing, thought over experience and a self examination of how we have come to this present status anyway.

When I think of today, it's more than three years gone by in my sisterhood after professing my vows for the first time in JMJ, a Congregation that is of great influence in my life. Like many of us, I am also from an ordinary family, well founded in faith, siblings of four, with two boys and two girls. My parents are simple in life style but very prayerful and firm in their Catholic devotions. They always had a soft corner for me, their youngest child with slightly poor physical health. As a year-old child, I had to be seriously attended to, because I was paralyzed and was not able to move at all. It was so detrimental and serious that everyone started praying for my survival. My mother persistently took me to a Charismatic Centre many a time confiding in God's healing power and offered me to His Providence.

Every time she applied and massaged my paralyzed limbs with the Blessed Oil that she received from that shrine, she cried with running tears for a miraculous healing. Indeed, the great cure happened in my limbs with a gradual improvement in the movements of my legs and hands, and I was able to get up, stand and walk all by myself leading to a complete recovery.

At this juncture as a token of gratitude there raised a spontaneous response from my parents to offer this miraculously cured child to God Himself, but I was too young for this at that stage.

In such a back ground of poor economic conditions and the long distance to walk to my school I had to cope up with my studies and also the demands of family. Somehow, I was able to continue my studies till Intermediate. In all these there was a feeling that something of divine power was over me leading me at all the turning points of my life. I was not that concerned or matured enough to think of my next stage of life after my schooling. Then God sent me an agent, to inspire, in the person of a dedicated priest Fr. Nirmal SVD, an extraordinarily inspired priest who guided me to discern my vocation.

As it happens in every one's encounter of life, my mother had a twist of proposal to venture for a job and settle in life like all my school friends. My heart was throbbing and mind puzzled, I felt that I am at the cross roads, but my prayers and reflections in the presence of God enlightened me to interrogate with my mother, "While God has given you many children why can't you spare one for His service when the child is really yearning for it". My mother became speechless and offered me to God, respecting my decision.

There you are, with my real story as I am so very happy enjoying my daily routines as a nun in JMJ. Involvement and enthusiasm in what I do and live are my gifts. The spirituality that I learnt and experience are the ones I relish in my community, for that matter, basically, my Congregation is breath and life for me. All that I have, my being, what I do and serve, what I profess are from my community, the Congregation and people at large. I do enjoy and cherish living JMJ charism **'Ever Adaptable Apostolic Availability.'**



Sr. Asha Kujur

JMJ Convent, Sirumalai

TWO DECADES OF ILLUSTRIOUS JMJ PRESENCE AT KBK, GHANA



Sr. Regina Zangeti
JMJ Convent, KBK

Motto: An Educated Woman - the Seed of a New Generation

Our Lady of Providence Girls Senior High School, a Government assisted institute was established in 1989 by the late Bishop James Kwadwo Owusu, with the assistance of American sisters of Divine Providence. The School was handover to JMJ management in 2000.

Under the guidance of Congregation of JMJ, and excellent management of the sisters for the past two decades, OLP has been committed to holistic education of young girls in all domains, as emphasized by the Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff on Education of Girls.

Government policy has been adhered to in admissions. Students are able to do well with good grades at the end of their various courses. OLP is synonymous with discipline, which is a hallmark of our academic excellence.

Initially, in spite of the enviable achievements, it is worthy to note that the school was in a deplorable state and was not attractive enough to retain teachers and students. However, under the committed hard work of JMJ sisters and the faculty, the Local and Central Governments have begun to take interest in the infrastructural development of the school. We have enormous contribution from Parents' Teachers Association (PTA). They built ICT Laboratory, Library, Science Laboratory with hall; sick bay and multi-purpose hall which are under construction.

Looking back at the inception of the school with a handful of students, staff and resources, the school can now boast of 1000 students, adequate number of staff, many structures and billions Cedis worth of equipment's for science laboratories. In order to make the school more conducive for academic work, the iconic structures such as 12-unit story classroom building, Science Laboratory, modern Administration block, 1000 capacity three story dormitory block, Kitchen and Dining Hall Complex have beautified the shape of the school in all angles. These are the requisite ingredients for holistic education including sound moral and conscience formation.



Often time, when we look at the past, we remember it with mixed feelings but the achievements in these last two decades have given us hope to believe that the future is bright. We are proud to say that our sisters beginning from Sr. Rosy Kolattukudy, Sr. Regina Zangiti, Sr. Anthonamma Polavarapu, Sr. Showrilu Allam and many other sisters together with their staff and students have contributed immensely to the middle-class manpower development of Ghana over the period under review. The School has recorded a number of achievements: Notable among these are the following:



Increase in students and staff population from 40 to 1000 and 8 to 93 respectively. We always have 100% results in final examinations. Best four students were sent to India for free Degree education through our Indian Ambassador to Ghana. We won the best disciplined grade "A" school in the country.

We profusely thank GOD for His countless blessings on our OLP School which stood the test of times through its daring vision, deep commitment and sacrificial life of leadership of JMJ sisters to achieve its supreme purpose of empowering the Girl Children through education ministry.

A loving tribute to our last DUTCH Missionary

Tribute



Sr. REGULA VAN KESTEREN
26.04.1919- 19.04.2020



*Sister Regula sweet memory so dear
JMJ India bids tearful farewell near
Oh, treasured JMJ luminous star ever
Oh, noble missionary of India fair*

*Humble handmaid of simplicity and surrender
Excellent illustration of service and sacrifice
Image of radiant love and joy giver
Adorned with graceful smile ever*

*God touched you gently one silent night
To celebrate new life in heavenly light
Amid celestial JMJ family bright
Whistling angelic chorus new life sight*

*Inspiring dearly loved Indians ever
Sending strength through angel near
Looking down with smiles and cheer
Your incredible JMJ grow further*

Nature Nurtures our Future

At the Invitation of Pope Francis, we have observed and honoured the fifth anniversary of “Laudato Si” encyclical with the theme: “everything is connected.” This has unfolded to me the wonders of mother earth! Amidst of the Pandemic, we are aware of the importance of caring for our common home as much as we care for one another. I am conscious now that it’s “a shared commitment to help build and strengthen our constructive attitudes aimed at caring for Creation.”

In the lap of Nature, our life is formed and transformed...calling us to greater involvement for promoting integral human development, as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting and hoping together for a better tomorrow.

“We are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what He desired, when He created it and correspond with His plan for peace, beauty and fullness” (LS 53). This dream begins within oneself in the family, and community: When we are present in every moment, with a heart that is open and eager to stand for justice, a heart filled with peace and overflowing love for nature.



Sr. Arogya Mary Mallavarapu
JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore

**I am delighted to share my tiny poem -
NATURE ... NURTURES ... OUR FUTURE**

Nature’s amazing appearance
Allures astounding atmosphere
Tremendous enchanting ambience
Unending vitality in creatures
Refreshing melodies of birds
Enchanting flowery aromas

Nurture love for nature
Using nature teacher
Rallying passion for Creator
Transforming human behaviour
Unendingly loving planet mother
Revitalizing inner stimulator
Encouraging every sister
Seasons praising nature Designer

Omnipotent God above
Unfathomable love Divine
Resonate Thy creation care

Fall in love with Mother Earths
Unconditional union engulfs
Thank God Creator bliss
Ultimate U-turn in lives
Recapture nature’s gifts
Enveloped by Eco-friendliness

God exists, the proof is in His Creation (Rom 1:20)

O Creator God; O Breath of Creation; *We care for You*

The call of the JPIC to transform the Universe in the Spirit of the Gospel through our lives of justice, peace for integral human development and care for the integrity of creation provoked me to think how I need to translate this important concept into action. The invitation of JMJ General Council with resource materials of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" opened my heart to listen to the "Cry of the poor and Cry of the Earth (LS 48). Holy Father also rightly said '*If we destroy creation, creation will destroy us*'. Yes, we are experiencing that turmoil right now in the form of COVID -19.

We are very delightful to share with you about the various activities carried on in JMJ Education Institutions at Shiggaon, Karnataka. A local JPIC unit of Hubli and Dharwad was inaugurated and conducted a workshop in our school to create awareness - leading to action among the faculty, students and public at large. On this significant day we have instated **Junior JPIC unit in our School** in which hundreds of our students took an oath in the assembly and promised to be promoters of JPIC activities in the school and around their neighborhood. Under the banner of Junior JPIC unit we have organized good number of events to encourage and motivate the students under the guidance and animation of our faculty.

- * Special assemblies are conducted by the JPIC Unit for students and parents on different occasions.
- * We celebrate International days like – Earth day (22 April), World Environment Day (5 June) clean and green or Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Season of Creation (1-4 Oct) on a regular basis. Our students perform role plays and compose songs on safeguarding the creation. Students and staff plant hundreds of samplings every year.
- * *Girl power* is celebrated through flash mob, stage plays, debates, rallies and drawings. Students learn to care for the environment and lives of the most vulnerable.
- * Seminars and discussions are conducted on Mother Earth, Natural resources and Climate change. Children are counseled to adjust and develop effective study and soft skills.

Sr. Rose Rani Pudota
JMJ Convent, Shiggaon





- * Contents related to Earth/ Ecology/ Creation are followed in our Curriculum with subjects like - Environmental Sciences, Moral Education and study of Constitution of India.
- * Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in our School: It has been our mission, motivating young minds to take part in School initiatives like ensuring school environmental sanitation, safe drinking water and practice of hygiene like hand washing.
- * Picnic to Eco Parks: Children with staff go for picnic to Eco Parks to interact with panoramic view of gardens. Spending time in nature helps them widen their perspective of God’s creation.
- * Eco-friendly projects: We teach little schoolers on how to protect the nature. Through interactive activity, kids learn about energy of conservation, organic farming, plantation etc.
- * Reaching out to the poor in our neighborhood: We organize ‘charity week’ in which all the students and teachers of our school and college participate and distribute food grains and clothes to the less fortunate members of our locality.

We, the management and staff at JMJ Shiggon feel that its our sacred responsibility to give back to the world the best of ourselves given by God. When it is done anonymously, it’s all the more better because we are then sharing just with the intent of sharing, purely for the joy of giving like “**good Samaritan**” cultivating a sense of **solidarity**, expecting nothing in return. When we share our blessings generously, we are making the Creator proud, saying “**thank you, go and do the same again**” (Lk 10,37). When we do that, people find the beauty and power of God in us!

O Creator God, O Breath of Creation; We care for You! We take responsibility for peace and justice to humanity and care for our only *ONE beautiful Creation!*





Sr. Mercy George
JPIC Province Promotor
JMJ Provincialate, Mangalagiri

The JMJ Guntur Province's JPIC Committee invited every community to celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week, praising God for the wonder of Creation. We all know that May 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of the release of Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, '*Laudato Si'*: On the care for our common home'.

Responding to the invitation of Pope Francis to **Laudato Si Week**, from 16 – 24th May 2020, our communities in Guntur Province have celebrated it in an impressive manner, united in harmony for a just and sustainable world.

All our sisters in communities have followed the prayers proposed for Laudato Si Week – The *Examen*, *four mysterious of the Rosary*, *chaplet of Mercy*, *reflection on carbon foot print*, etc., which brought us the awareness of caring for common home and eco-friendly living. Meaningful symbols according to the theme of the day, like lighted candles, Bible, Crucifix, plants, water, mud, seeds etc. were offered during the prayer sessions making the experiences creative and inspiring. All the sisters have taken active part in the innovative activities like writing poems, songs, using multimedia projection to view nature wonders, going green, cleaning and working in the gardens, planting and growing organic vegetables and fruits trees.

In Guntur Province, we have encouraged the sisters to report the Laudato Si' week long celebrations according to three zones that we have in our province. Here, under I share the key points from their reflection and activities.



Guntur Zone: I am impressed and overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and fervor with which our sisters in Guntur Zone Communities of Durgi, Guntur (3), Kondramulta, Mangalagiri, Nagarjuna Nagar, Nallapadu, Peddakakani, Repalle, Sattenapalli, Tenali and Vegendla participated in LAUDATO SI Week. I am confident that all of us being conscious of our responsibility of caring for our Mother Earth, practice small things to protect the nature in our day today life, out of great love for God and humanity.

The SEVEN *Laudato Si'* Challenges invited our sisters to learn, pray and take action for the sake of God's creation.

The seven challenges are:

1. **Become familiar with Laudato Si'** by reading the document or a summary of its contents, and pledge ourselves to live the spirit of Laudato Si'
2. **Learn more about ecological issues** from the Healing Earth, JPIC, Sowing Hope For the Future, Season of Creation, Global Catholic Climate movement and Laudato Si week – websites.
3. **Meet God in creation** through the practice of the Examen, theological reflections, contemplative dialogues, nature meditations / prayers & retreats, spiritual journal and nature contemplative walks.

4. **Taking on the *Laudato Si'* Message** to our Community, Healthcare, Social and Educational units and other workplaces, with small steps we can to open our heart to wider section of students, parents, staff and all people in our mission to become blessings to the natural world. Sharing inspiring quotes from *Laudato Si'* itself is great.
5. **Walk with God's Poor People-** God's creation human being is a very important aspect of Catholic Social teaching. It includes our response to care for the poor and most vulnerable people.
6. **Commit to being an Earth Healer/make changes in our lifestyle:** Share a photo of the wonder and awe of nature on social media, practice to be eco-friendly in many ways and reduce ecological / carbon footprint.
7. **Work with others to become an Earth care community:** Use all available resources to work for, work with other like-minded people to care for our Common Home. Consider how to use our local environment to raise public awareness for protecting the nature and going green in our mission.



North-West Zone: Laudato Si' week honours the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical "Care for our Common Home", with its theme "everything is connected." Responding to the call of the province, we the JMJ Communities of Anakapalli, Eluru, Hanuman Junction, Kanchili, Kantabanji, Palivela, Ramchanrapuram, Sambalpur, Thangellamudi and Vijayawada incited us to ponder over the environment and ecology, as we go through the crisis of COVID 19, by praying, reflecting, and pledging together for a better world.

The impacts of Celebrating Laudato Si week:

- ▶ It was an opportune time to spend additional time in prayer, reflection on creation.
- ▶ Discovered the beauty of creation and inspired to reflect on God's creation from the Bible.
- ▶ It awakened our conscience of inter connectedness of all creatures of God's creation.
- ▶ It brought us to a greater awareness of our responsibility on the protection of our Common Home.
- ▶ It was most encouraging to care for the earth, planting, watering, cleaning our won surroundings, distributing saplings in the villages and encouraging to grow own vegetables.

South Zone: Everything is a GIFT! Everything is interconnected!

Laudato Si - week of prayer became an opportune time for our communities in South Zone - Edayarpalem, Ennore, Kalladaikurichi, Marakkanam, St. Thomas' Mount Chennai, Theckalur, Sirumalai, Trichy and Valady. We stand in amazement and thank God for the wonderful gift of Creation, as well as to seek His pardon for the sins committed against nature and mother earth. All methods of prayer introduced for the week helped us to change our attitude towards the planet earth. This orientation helped us to transform ourselves in a concrete way to protect nature and care for the poor among us.

“We can live without technology but we can’t live without ecology, so save nature” said great scientist Abdul Kalam. As JMJ large family let’s join our hands and hearts together and *Let’s together Care for Our Common Home with zeal and zest.*

From our Zone we recommend the following action plan for our communities and the province.

The Action plan to care for our common Home – Planet Earth:

1. Saving electricity, water, fuel and food and rain water through water harvesting.
2. Carrying the cloth bag for shopping; saying no to plastic bags. Promoting plastic free campus campaign.
3. During weekends and holidays sisters shall care and water our gardens and clean campus. Grow organic vegetables and fruits in our campus wherever possible.
4. Purchasing only what is needed at personal and community levels and sharing with the poor when in need.
5. Conducting Going Green - awareness programs for co-workers, students and people in our ministries on the protection of the environment.
6. Preparing the art and craft items from waste materials / encourage 3 R’s -reduce waste, reuse resources, and recycle materials.
7. Using public transport as much as possible / coming out of comfort zones to be at the service of the needy.
8. Developing a culture of proper waste disposal. Maintaining two dust bins for the segregation of dry and wet waste (from kitchen and household) in common places of the convent and departments.
9. Avoiding throw away culture during gatherings and travels and promoting safe waste
10. disposal practices.

Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude. Pope Francis said: we destroy creation, Creation will destroy us! Never forget this! When we begin to see that everything around us has something of value to offer us, a sense of appreciation and gratitude grows within us and a desire to preserve and protect it for future generations.

Laudato Si’ taught us that “everything is connected.” During this extraordinary moment of COVID 19, everyone in Catholic world and we the JMJ as a Congregation were united in reflection and prayer for a better action together for care of our Common Home.

Let us remember: Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato si’ Signore: Praise to you Lord!” calling us to Care for our Common Home. Let those words – **Listen** ... to the cry of the Poor and cry of the Earth ever echo in our hearing for a change of heart to love the Poor and heal the Mother Earth.



greenliving
for Love of Christ



Sr. Showrilu Gundiga
JPIC Province Promotor

Inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’: Care for our Common Home, sisters of Hyderabad Province have celebrated the Laudato Si week experiencing the wonders of God’s Creation. We bear witness to the reality facing many of our sisters and brothers across the world, who are being pushed deeper into poverty due to the changing climate. Pope Francis invites us to a change of heart; individually, as a community, so we may truly respond to “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (LS 49).

LAUDATO SI WEEK: Each community has taken keen interest to conduct prayer services, discussion and reflection these nine days (16-24 May) in a meaningful way according to the theme of the day. We appreciate each sister for participating in a reflective and prayerful atmosphere. All have taken some personal and common resolutions to practice in their daily lives. We thank the Almighty God for giving us this rare opportunity to bring awareness among us to safe guard our Common Home.

Day 1 : 16th May – Examination of Conscience: The theme for the entire week was “Everything is Connected”. In prayer the image Globe was offered on the altar and thanked God for the beautiful earth and all creation. We realised that each living being is inter connected and inter dependent. The Examen prayer helped us to feel sorry for indifference in our attitude of selfishness and negligence towards the mother earth.



Day 2 : 17th May - Prayer for Creation: Sisters marched to the chapel in procession with green branches symbolic of nature, offering them to God as a sign their love and care for the mother earth. Participating in prayer service and reflecting on beauty of creation was a great experience. As the sign of “going green” sisters cleaned the gardens and planted saplings.



Day 3 : 18th May 2020, Joyful Mysteries - Weapon for Peace: Devotion to our Mother Mary has always been a great source of grace and blessing. Praying Rosary means offering a Rose garland to our blessed Mother. As an honour sister carried the statue of Mother Mary in procession around the campus. Through video clips sisters meditatively prayed the Joyful Mysteries for various intentions.



Day 4 : 19th May 2020: The Sorrowful Mysteries: Sisters prayed Five Sorrowful Mysteries in five languages. The theme was “The Power of the Rosary, The Health and Forgiveness. We prayed Laudato Si week prayer offering the Rosary for the victims of COVID 19 Pandemic.



Day 5 : 20th May 2020: The Glorious Mysteries: Sisters recited the five glorious mysteries meditating with video clips on theme “Global warming” and some prayed the entire rosary in singing form. Reflective way of praying helped the sisters to love nature and pray for the different needs of the world and creation.

motivated all to use everything sparingly like cloths, books and personal items. Some communities expressed that it helped them to lead a simple life after the example of our holy father Pope Francis, who always stands for the poor and people in the periphery



Day 8 : 23 May 2020: Personal Commitment and Pledge was the day’s theme. Our common home is our earth, where we exist and have our being. It’s our great responsibility that we should be true stewards of God’s creation by being channels of love for His people, and care-takers of our Common Home.



Day 6 : 21st May 2020 -The Luminous Mysteries: As the whole week was inter connected with nature and care for the earth, so also all the mysteries of the Rosary are inter-connected like the five elements of nature. The mission of Jesus’ in His public was projected and after each episode, we reflectively prayed the Luminous mysteries.

During the prayer sisters took pledge together to take care of our environment and to use our gifts wisely and carefully. We realized that what we do today, will affect our world, the lives of others far way and future generations.



Day 7 : 22nd May 2020 – “Carbon Footprint & Divine Mercy Reflections”

In most of the communities the Mercy Rosary was prayed devotedly at 3 pm. Mercy rosary reminded us of the poor, the sick, the unborn, the migrant, the forgotten masses, the ingenious people etc., and prayed for God’s mercy and compassion on them.

Sisters participated in a fruitful discussion on carbon foot print. As the discussion unfolded itself many have realized the importance of using things carefully and not to waste electricity, water and food. This sharing

Day 9 : 24 May 2020 - Eco-friendly living: Marking the day’s theme “Eco-friendly living,” sisters beautified the surroundings with green plants, symbols of animals, birds and nature depicting the whole universe. Everyone articulated as though they were in a beautiful nature. The prayer on significance of Light to dispel the darkness was inspiring.

During the prayer many communities meditated on the creation, and pledged protect the Earth Planet keeping our positive relationship with Mother Nature and caring for those less fortunate and marginalized in our neighbourhood.



SAFEGUARDING the INTEGRITY of CREATION

Sr. Pushpy Michael Kuriapilly
JPIC Promotor, Raipur Province



JMJ Education and Health sectors of Raipur Province generally serving in the Northern part India have been actively involved in Laudato Si and JPIC concerns in our institutions. I am pleased to share in brief about how our sisters are promoting the activities concerning caring for Mother Earth and caring for the poor in different forms. I esteem every unit in the province for their contribution towards this noble cause and appreciate every sister involved in this endeavor.



Responding to Save the Mother Earth:

In our Schools, Hospitals and Schools of Nursing organizing workshops, seminars, lectures, innovative projects on Ecology and safeguarding the Earth is a regularly feature. Our Schools also organize variety of programs on significant days like World Earth day, Environment day, Laudato Si' week creating awareness for change of behavior, and positive attitude towards the Earth and compassion for the poor people. Our Students, Teachers, Parents, Doctors, Nurses, Para medical staff, Patients, Friends, Well-wishers, Government officers have all become stake holders in our endeavour.

We collaborate with some of the Govt. and NGOs initiates such as Health Carnival, Hari Kranthi, Paryavan Bachavo, No plastic zone, Waste management skills, Anti-Cracker drive, Anti-tobacco drive, Clean Yamuna crusade, Installation of Vermi compost pits, Swatch Bharat, Swatch Pranagrah and Swatchagrah. These projects have all become watch words where every student and teacher inspire one parent and a friend in their day today living. Number of such events have been introduced into the school calendar through the co-curricular activities where the Teacher as well as the Taught imbibe the spirit of **care for the mother earth – promote integrity of creation** as a way of life.



On the 20th February, the International Social Justice Day a platform was provided to the senior students of the school to highlight and bring about the importance of social justice with the theme ‘Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve *Social Justice*’. International Labor Day was celebrated especially honoring the potters on 01 May. International day of Peace with the theme ‘Climate Action for Peace,’ was observed on 21 September; while International Day of Non-Violence was celebrated on 2 October.

Responding to the cry of the poor and becoming an AGENT of CHANGE

Our sisters and our collaborators in our ministries are involved in social service initiatives

- ✦ Educating the poor children.
- ✦ empowering women and girl children
- ✦ Reaching out to the destitute and poor
- ✦ Adult literacy and skill development to the jobless youth.
- ✦ Teaching and rehabilitation for physically challenged
- ✦ Conducting medical camps in interior rural hamlets.
- ✦ Visiting COVID 19 Lockdown victims in slums and providing their basic needs and counselling.
- ✦ Evangelization through home-based prayer groups



We are looking ahead for more planned activities as the institutions are preparing five year plans and are updating themselves with better knowledge about JPIC and Laudato Si’ concerns in our province.



5th Anniversary of LAUDATO SI



Care for the Earth - Building a better world around

Pope's appeals for care of Creation, motivated us to celebrate the 'Laudato Si' Week, (16-24 May 2020) and Earth day on April 22, giving importance of caring for our Common Home in this time marked by COVID -19 Pandemic. The Generalate Community in Monte Senario, celebrated these events with much enthusiasm, expressing our care for the earth in our small garden of Monte Senario. All joyfully joined hands to prepare the ground to plant seedlings of vegetables and flowers. We experienced the elated response of the earth, as life and energy sprang forth in the campus. We smelt the aroma of the earth in the air around when it is cooled with splish-splash of water.

Experience of - Everything connected

The prayers conducted during Laudato Si week and the 'Earth Day' on April 22 helped us to love and care for our Mother Earth. The enormous challenges but also the vast opportunities of acting for Climate change, represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. Unless every person on earth steps up with urgency and determination, we are consigning present and future generations to a dangerous future. Both these significant events – Laudato Si' week and Earth day created in us awareness to save the earth and rise up to the united call for the creativity, innovation, motivation, and bravery that we need to meet our climate crisis and seize the enormous opportunities to save our common home – Mother Earth.



Sr. Chandra Thainese
JMJ Generalate, Roma

We watched amazing series of videos on Planet Earth which left us in wonder. It's heart breaking to see how human negligence is a threat to the nature and all living species on the earth. This awareness made us to understand how the world economy is growing because of technological change, but sadly this advancement is not producing the kind of society that is good for humanity. Humans have caused dangerous changes in the chemistry of the air, the land and the oceans threatening their survival. For example, global warming melting the ice, releasing of greenhouse gases causing sea water rise up and pollution darkening the sky, endangering human health and wellbeing.

Act together in a strategic way to care for the Earth

When we are connected with God, inspiring and enriching our experiences, enthuses us to go further in making the earth cool and beautiful. Our continual work in the garden for a couple of hours a day brought freshness in the air and brought joy in our hearts. The activities of Laudato Si' found new hope to journey through life, to stay connected with the Mother Earth. Let us experience the year-long journey of transformation for a better world to come tomorrow.

Reflection: Will you play your part to care and protect our Common Home – our Mother Earth?

Let's have a few commitments ...

- ✿ I experience the joy of growing and caring a few plants in our kitchen garden.
- ✿ I buy only what I need and I avoid wastage and accumulation.
- ✿ I avoid using plastic bags, plastic plates, cups etc.
- ✿ I initiate steps to use only energy saving bulbs in our convents and institutions.
- ✿ I take steps to save natural resources like light, water, gas, fuel etc.
- ✿ I use both sides of a paper and only print only what is necessary.

Promise of God Fear NOT

Sr. Innamma Yeruva CJMJ
JMJ Generalate, Roma



Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". (Is. 41:10)

The normal life routine got a hard hit with the abrupt widespread of global Corona Virus with no difference of race, nation, religion etc., throwing us off the track of so called **normed-normalcy**. Once the familiar world ebbed out, we have become like a fish out of water struggling for a fresh pond to endure life. Gradually we have adjusted to a new pattern of life locked totally indoors while CV mercilessly played its havoc across the globe threatening to enter anytime whosoever was inattentive to follow the precautions. Came to terms with an unprecedented life demanding unprecedented effort on our part to live through fear, tension and stress.



Through the media world we are constantly alerted the colossal impact the virus has created and the uncertainty of the future. There seems to be no going back to the normal. We need to think of the post-Covid-19 situation in new terms rather than mere restoration of the past routine life. We thank the Almighty for His protecting love and care while empathizing with the affected victims and families.

After five-months locked in life, peeping back, we realize many things have changed – our personal life, community living and ministries, in particular the pedagogy of teaching and learning through digital mode, totally out of the expected rhythm and routine, the challenging and heroic sacrifices of health care personnel to save and sustain life, to reach out the distressed and dismayed needy neighbours providing basic necessities of life, consoling and comforting dejected through the good news of salvation. Gradually coming out preparing for a continued changed arrangement in the future days until we exit from Corona effect only to experience it as a normal life condition once again. For this generation, everything is going to be irrevocably altered. We are no exception to this worldwide change.

On the whole, life is not going to be the same for certain. Why we may wonder? Pope Francis said - *Corona Virus has stripped away all our supposed things of our lives and left us with things that matter most - to be on the front line ministry and care for the souls of the vulnerable in a tender way and listen to the cry of the poor and cry of the earth, our common home.*

This is our calling and it should be our perspective and priority.

Most of our sisters have engaged in relief works for the affected victims during the COVID shutdown giving an exemplary witness to God's tender love, mercy and compassion. I congratulate all of you for your deep sense of solidarity, love and respect for humanity.

In Italy, we are bit by bit incipient out of the cocoon stage, while the number of COVID-19 cases rapidly increasing in India ranking it as the fifth nation in number of cases. The Government is trying its maximum to fight the crisis with appropriate strategies. We need to follow the guidelines and directives of the Governments and the Church authorities for our safety and others as well. However, we need to outline how best we can come out of this menace adopting a new way of living our commitment and play a prophetic role to be at the service of poor of Yahweh.

Perhaps a five-point code helps us to make a DIFFERENCE in our life aftermath COVID-19.

- A *compassionate heart* to listen to the crying voices of the vulnerable and listen to God's voice to respond courageously to be on frontline ministries.
- Prepared to go *out of the way* and be on the side of *the other in need* anywhere at any time.
- Courage to *verbalize* the injustices meted out to the poor and needy and valiantly face the challenge, come what may, with the power of the indwelling Spirit.
- Grow in *inner strength* to be convinced of the call to live JMJ Spirit and Charism wherever you are placed living witnessing life in a simple and concrete manner.



- *Discern* the movement of the Spirit moving you forward to launch into new pathways of mission with a priority for the most disadvantaged and caring for wounded earth.

After having experienced COVID-19, learnt the hard lessons, it is an emergency that we are prepared for this new change and challenge. As members of the Universal Catholic Church, and collaborating with its activities,

the CJMJ needs to come out of the pandemic, converted and with a **new mindset (Novus habitus mentis)** to drive out various viruses embedded in our socio, political, economic and cultural systems.

It requires as Pope Francis would say, that the Church to come down to the dusty soil, to get sullied and dirty for having been on the street to stand in solidarity with the poor, the powerless, the migrants, the marginalized and the victims.

Are we ready and willing to journey along with, and reform our life and mission?

To quote, Amit Ray, in every crisis, doubt or confusion, take the higher path, the path of compassion, courage, understanding and love and encounter our God while serving His people.

At this juncture, renewing of our life style, revitalizing the pattern of our community living, reviewing and refocusing on the set goals of our ministries is the greatest need of the hour if the voyage of CJMJ has to take strides along with the sea of humanity sowing the seeds of faith, hope and love.

Change is the law of nature. Change my heart O Lord... Make it ever new.



EARTH is Healing



Sr. Anthony Mary Dasari
JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore

With the outbreak of corona virus pandemic, there is uncertainty around the world. Nobody can tell when we are going to get rid of this virus completely. The terrifying black clouds of coronavirus have enveloped almost every part of the world, spreading its vibes of fear among the people. Without any doubt, this pandemic is the most disruptive experience of our lives.

As the global as well the Indian death toll from coronavirus is increasing every day, governments have locked down their citizens to prevent the local transmission of the disease. People around the world are practicing social distancing and staying in their homes. This has not only helped to decrease the spread of this pandemic but it is also helping mother earth to heal. Despite the panic and human loss, earth is healing.

Yes, Earth is healing, Earth is becoming cleaner. This phenomenal change has occurred visibly during the LaudatoSi week celebration from 16-24 May 2020. What a co-incidence! This was a special week and fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si': On the Care for Our Common Home'. In these times of the pandemic, in which we are more aware of the importance of care for our common home, I hope that our common reflection and commitment helps us to create and strengthen constructive attitudes for the care of creation.

Initially, the pandemic shook me desperately. I was in a state of confusion, fear and anxiety. I am grateful to the Catholic Church at local and global level for virtual daily Eucharist, other spiritual devotions live and/or via YouTube kept us going and living our faith during this crisis period. Amidst such uncertainty, I proclaimed: *Be my rock of refuge, my stronghold to give me safety; for you are my rock and fortress (Ps 71:3)*. Although unworthy in the sight of God, we are kept safe under God's protection and providential care all through this situation.



As a result of this pandemic, province came to a standstill. Most of the summer programs had to be cancelled including the annual retreats, jubilee celebrations, home visits of sisters, vocation camps, etc. However, this was a brand-new opportunity to experience the transformation everywhere. We began to listen to the cry of the earth and cry of the poor. Our sisters in the communities have reached out to the poor and homeless providing their basic needs. Also, in most of our communities we have organized prayers around Laudato Si themes and planted saplings.

For me personally it was heart moving to observe and experience 'Circles of Kindness', all over. Many young people in cities and towns set out each morning to distribute food to the hungry. Each time we were on the streets to distribute food/provisions to the homeless, migrants, slum dwellers, construction workers and destitute, providing masks, medical assistance... I was wonder struck to see ordinary

people reaching out to the hungry with food and care. In the midst of all this suffering: of illness, hunger and fear- there are also several positive stories that have emerged: of hope and resilience, of courage and selflessness, of availability and generosity, of sacrifice and kindness and much more.

COVID-19 has definitely changed us – we spent more time in prayer, reflection and some even participated in online retreats and prayers. Other positive change is that we have tried to live together and relate to one another more deeply, although it has been extremely hard for some. In the long run, however, I am confident that we become strong in our spirit of solidarity by holding one another in circles of kindness, across all our differences, by standing with one another and caring for one another.

I recall two unexpected incidents during COVID 19 lock down – Sr. Eliza Nallabai a temporarily professed sister, lost her father during the lockdown. It was a shocking news for her as well as for us. We found it very difficult to comfort and were unable to send her for funeral. I appreciate the community who took personal care for her, comforting and consoling her during this grieving period. The second incident is about Dr. Sr. Tresa Terence working at St. John's medical college hospital, in COVID isolation ward, suffered with high temperature and throat infection. We were very scary and anxious - what would be her diagnosis. Miraculously she was negative for corona virus. We thanked God for answering our prayer.

I conclude with the words of Pope Francis: "It is a difficult time for everyone. Let us try, if we can, make the best use of this time: let us be generous, let us help those in need in our neighbourhood, let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks, let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty..."



My exceptional experiences

Sr. Tresa KVM JMJ

Provincial Superior, Guntur Province

I heard the name Corona virus in January 2020 in the context of China; at that time, it was a mere news for me. Later, hearing about its spread in India, and with series of lockdowns, gradually it became part of my living experience where I realized that everyone is a victim of this pandemic across the globe.

During this inimitable period of human history, said to have occurred once in 100 years, being the leader of the province is a unique experience. An incomparable experience is the untiring efforts of the province with coordinated support, enthusiasm and encouragement for almost every idea of mine from my proactive Council members is commendable. I am deeply grateful to them.

Undoubtedly, it's an exceptional period, provoking varied movements within me. Looking at the happenings across the world and listening to the concerns expressed about India, I felt deeply drawn to those who are directly victimised. Realizing that I can't help the whole world except through prayers, but can make a difference in the lives of those who are in our JMJ territories, provoked in me the feelings of greater responsibility towards those who are under our care directly and social responsibility too. Then I felt:



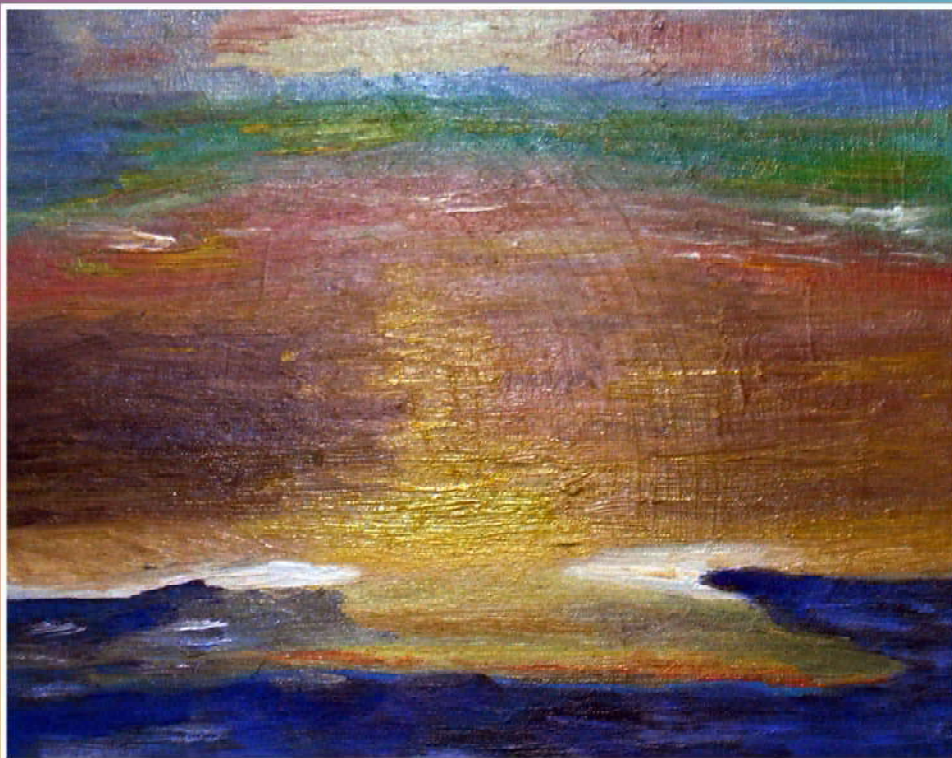
- Concerned and anxious about the wellbeing of our sisters especially the elderly, sick and far away. This impelled me and the council to keep in touch from time to time with the communities in different ways including virtual online meetings.
- Grateful for the opportunities evolved for us as a team to encourage and support our sisters in different communities to reach out to the poor and needy around.
- Proud of the Sisters in the province for their enthusiasm, interest and concern expressed by reaching out to the poor even at the risk of their lives.
- Impressed and appreciative knowing that sisters in the communities are spending extra time with the Lord, following online retreats, deepening knowledge of one another, reading Scripture, documents of the Congregation etc. and in many other constructive ways.
- Responsible for the wellbeing of all our employees and took proactive steps to reach out to them.
- Helpless and pained witnessing the sufferings of the migrants across the country and in neighbourhood for not being able to do significantly anything for them.
- Deep esteem and appreciation towards some sisters who were not able to reach out to their families when one of their parents passed away, and someone at home seriously ill.

Along with all the experiences of feeling pulled out, I am overwhelmed with gratitude towards the Divine for hundredfold blessings received especially during the lockdown days in terms of protection, health, materials which never we lacked in any way and for all the sisters in the province and the Congregation at large. I am enjoying the luxury of undisturbed time at the feet of the Lord and reading books that I love.

Being deeply connected with the Lord and to the present situations around which involves Covid-19 pandemic, Amphan Cyclone, Locusts attack and burning summer heat etc., I realized:

- The power of God and our helplessness
- Bountiful care, protection and providence of the Divine
- The transitory reality of everything that exists
- Though everything looks like under our control, at the end of the day nothing is...
- Name, fame, intellectual capacity nothing matters everything is brought under one umbrella

I feel grateful to the Divine for blessing me with these unique experiences and opportunities being a leader of the province during these times and to you Sr. Vijaya for giving me this opportunity to share these exceptional pandemic experiences. May the Lord continue to accompany our efforts to be His disciples.



Sr. Gre Pronk JMJ,
The Netherlands.

Word in the begining

*In the beginning was the Word, that brings life to mankind,
that can never be heard or disturbed by darkness*

An instance of Solidarity



Sr. Mukta Xess

JMJ Provincialate, Hyderabad

COVID 19 Pandemic affecting almost all countries is disrupting varying spheres of our social, political, economic and spiritual lives. It is a unique experience that never seems to have occurred in the history of human kind. It brought at the first instance fear, anxiety and a feeling of sadness that so many people lost their lives.

But I call COVID 19 a tough challenge with a generous response. It has taught many valuable things and brought the entire world under one umbrella. We have learned to be more generous in sharing with the poor and needy. It brought all of us out from our comfort zone, to meet the needs of the poor who are under a flyover, on the road side, at the railway station and bus stand, waiting to get something to fill their stomach and quench their thirst.

I am impressed by many NGOs, Govt. Teams and Religious in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad at the frontline to distribute the food items to the migrants, daily wage workers, the stone cutters, slum dwellers etc. I feel it is God given opportunity to all of us.

COVID 19 has taught me to:

- Be generous in giving; building positive and authentic relationships in communities; challenged me to stand on the side of the underprivileged. It has increased my resilience to accept God's plan and to live by my faith to be fearless in the troubled world.
- Grow in holiness and spirituality – participating in virtual masses also during Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. It was God given time to nurture spiritual life through personal prayer, solitude and reflection. I enjoyed praying longer than normal, reading spiritual books, cleaning, and gardening, offering special prayers for the affected people.
- Experience a renewal of thinking, and planning; to be compassionate in sharing with the disadvantaged. Helped me to come closer to God and people; I felt that it is my exodus to the Promised Land.

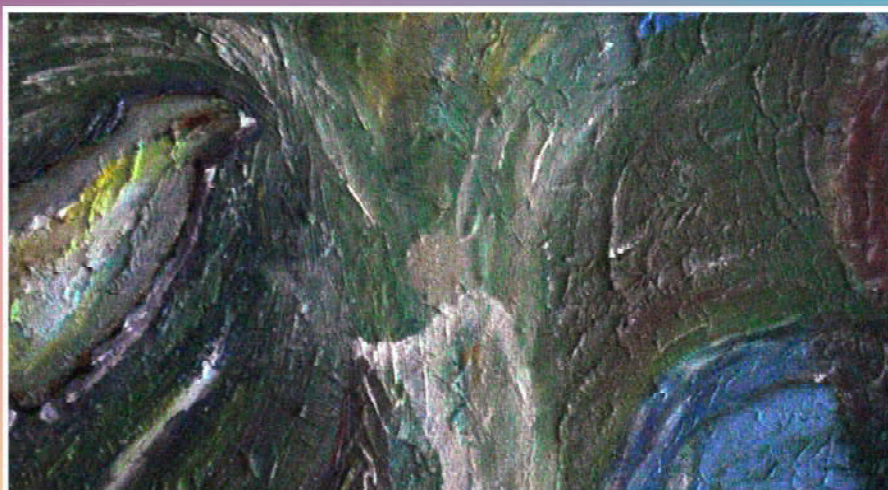
Here, I would like to share one incident which made me realize - how precious the human beings are. On 07 May 2020 around 11 am, I received a call from Fr. Sebastian S.J. Ranchi Province, narrating – “there are 30 to 35 migrants from Bihar and Odisha working in one of the companies at Hyderabad. Due to COVID 19 the company is closed down and owner gone away without paying their salaries. Father gave me a contact number. Immediately, I made a call, a person responded – “*Sister, we have nothing to eat, we are hungry please help us.*” In two hours, we reached the place with food ready to consume also some cash for their journey home. With tears of joy they wished us with folded hands saying – *Jai Yesu Sisters*. The same day they travelled by a truck to reach their places. Yes, this tiny Corona gave us an opportunity to do a little charity that made a big difference to the migrants. I appreciate and thank all our sisters who generously and enthusiastically came forward to serve our needy brethren.

The death of thousands of people all over the world, deprived of a regular funeral in the presence of loved ones, miseries of millions of migrant workers across India, their death on the roads by accident and starvation, other emerging problems and financial implications have shaken all of us. JMJ Hyderabad Province has been at the side of those whose resources have waned and the needs increased because of COVID 19 lockdown. Many of them are slum dwellers, daily wage migrants, vendors, truck drivers, stone cutters, sanitary and municipality workers who have missed their meagre income during the lockdown and daily survival was a crisis for them. All our communities launched into action with much love with distribution of food grains and essentials to help these deprived families during this lockdown period.



All the members in the Province experienced spiritual renewal through personal, and communal prayers, online retreats and devotions. Apart from all these spiritual exercises all the sisters in the Province have contributed generously an amount from their personal budget for the cause of the deprived. I appreciate and thank each member in the Province for this loving gesture.

This is humanity's wakeup call to the truth of our inter-connections with one another on this earth. Despite the trauma all around us, all of us could embrace this moment as an opportunity to move forward, to create a better world for all, in ways unique to each community. May God bless us for the glory of His name!



Sr. Gre Pronk JMJ,
The Netherlands.

Bird in nature

Encounter bird-human..Like birds sing their song because it is inborn, there are humans who believe, not hoping for a reward, but because it is in their nature.

My journey of FAITH

Sr. Marykutty Antony
JMJ Provincialate, Raipur



“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” — 1 Peter 5:7

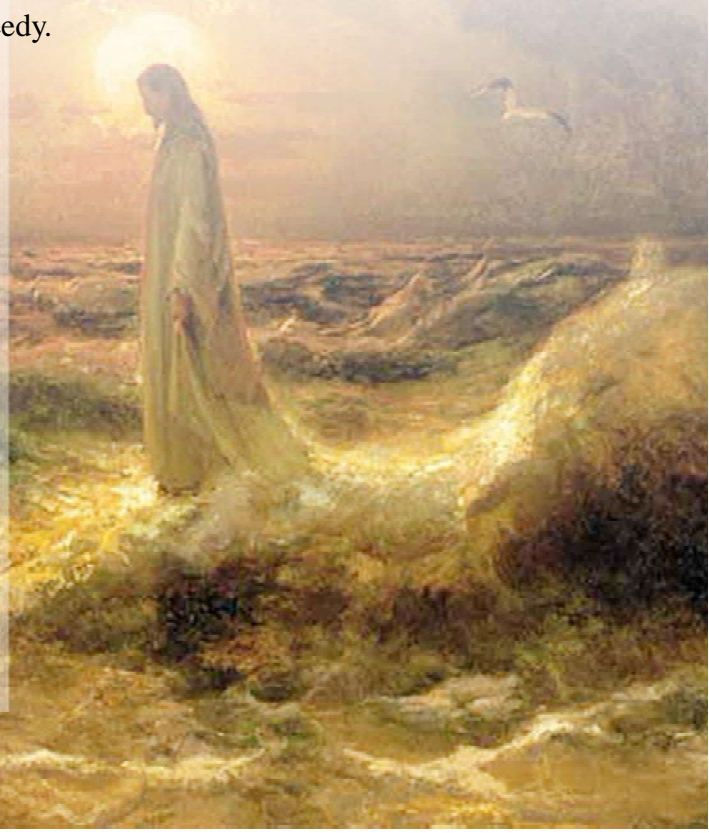
As the Leader of the Province, these trying times are testing times of my faith. My journey united with my sisters in the province is truly a faith journey during the pandemic. I understood - JMJ Raipur Province is not a building, its sisters, formees, lay collaborators, students and people in our mission. At this realization, we the provincial council under the effects of Pandemic COVID 19, together trod the way and stood strong in the test of our faith casting our anxiety on the Lord, being certain of his loving care for us.

Life is so much different, the world is so much different, than it was a few months ago. The first couple of weeks were really difficult and stressful, but we’ve tried to be creative in finding what works best for us. My faith has undeniably played a vital role as I dealt with the pandemic.

First of all, I am grateful to God for His continuous protection of my JMJ fraternity, our families, and associates in various ministries. In the midst of heated social concerns of migrants, daily labourers, domestic workers, people with loss of jobs; there prevailed true spirit of solidarity not only in the church and religious circles but from all the people of good will across the globe. That is indeed amazing and inspiring!

As I moved along during relief work from April 13th 2020 onwards, I found that the heart of every person began to sing the song of gratitude. People in general became very sensitive to one another’s wellbeing and safety. Everyone in their own way have shown the divine qualities of love, compassion and kindness towards their needy neighbours. The invisible divinity embedded in every human heart came to the surface in the form of providing food, water, clothes and shelter to the poor and needy.

Charity began at every JMJ home. As a Province all our sisters in every community moved into action to the poverty-stricken brothers and sisters of our locality and even reaching out to those unreached in interior urban slums and isolated villages. For the Lord says, “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me. When I was hungry you gave me to eat...” (Mt 25:40). The massive segments of daily wage earners, widows, aged poor people and large migrant population became our target group for our daily mission. We are inspired and moved with pity, listening to the most heart touching stories of people and their struggles. The Lord’s providential presence was there present with us. Every day we experienced a deep sense of fulfilment and gratitude to the Lord for all that we were able to share with others and that was our greatest joy.



Concerning the renewal of our spiritual life during this pandemic, a message transmitted from heart to heart is the contagion of “Christ, the Risen Lord is our hope!”. I personally experienced intimacy with Christ, who filled me with hope for a better future. All the sisters in the province have in one way or another spent time in divine presence experiencing the transforming power of the Lord, building positive relationships in the community and being and doing good to everyone, everywhere. This is the unique hallmark of the power of God. I am impressed by the exceptional role played by our Superiors and HODs, of their coordinated efforts of sharing and reaching out, responding to the signs of the times – a true expression of our charism *‘ever adaptable apostolic availability.’*



I am apprehensive of the uncertainty about the post pandemic future. Life after Covid-19 is also going to be important for all of us — how do we revive the mission, economy of the institutions, and our lives, after this major crisis? The Lord is with us! Staying calm and focused and building resilience and confidence among our sisters, employees and our collaborators is crucial. It is important for all of us to show kindness and compassion towards one another and extend help wherever and to whoever required within our resources.



A time like this, defines our congregation’s and its members’ culture of care and demonstrates our faith in God’s providence, and the values we stand for. It expresses the relevance of JMJ Charism and brings to fulfilment the purpose of our mission.

The legacy of our Founder, our Dutch missionaries, Servant of God Mary Glowrey inspire us to stand by the poor and marginalised; to live a life filled with small acts of kindness that will a make difference in someone’s life.



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.

- POPE FRANCIS

Pandemic : Its impact



Sr. Sundari Singareddy

JMJ Regional House, Sunyani, Ghana

On 16th March 2020 lockdown was announced by the President of Ghana, asking to close down the schools and churches and cancel funerals and public gatherings. In the beginning it caused a lot of fear and anxiety when we saw the daily news with increased number of positive cases, critical cases and deaths.

We intensified our prayer; spent extra time before the Lord praying for the whole world. It was a blessing in disguise; during this lockdown we had daily Holy Mass in our convent chapel. The priest offered the Holy Mass for various intentions and for the whole world – praying for God’s intervention to bring to an end to this pandemic.

In the beginning our JMJ Mathias Hospital, Yeji had lot of restrictions to take only emergency cases. No one was allowed to come to inside the hospital without following the formalities - mask wearing, hand washing etc. As the days went by, we began normal life with all safety measures. Sisters in health care ministry were as usual busy in their ministry.

Our General Council Sr. Mary and Sr. Valsa had to stay back in Ghana due to the cancellation of all international flights. Five months is a long period of waiting but never losing faith and hope. One good thing is that we were kept busy in the Region as Sr. Valsa and Sr. Mary helped us to update all our documents, finance management and formation.

Ghana COVID - 19 situation in Schools:

Negative impact of COVID - 19: Schools closure influenced not only students, teachers and families but also the management with economic and societal consequences. Initially for few days we had time for prayer, reflection and relaxation, but as the lock downs extended, we felt sometimes lifeless looking at the campus like a desert, without a movement and life. As we heard the news about the reopening of schools from 22nd of June 2020 from Ghana Education service, it has created in us an anxiety of the pandemic

implications. The care free movement of public here make us to feel nonexistence of COVID-19. But in reality, we are threatened with the increase of COVID-19 cases in Ghana.

Positive impact of COVID -19: On the other point of view community time table is reorganized. We could find more quality time to spend with the Lord. Reading Bible and spiritual books, attended online retreat, faith and vocation sharing, familiarizing our credentials of life with one another. Silence and solitude experience helped us to gain greater spiritual strength. It created more time for community activities, exchanges of more innovative ideas, and interior reflection on focused life for different outlook of our religious life.

Laudato Si: This created an occasion to live the spirit of Laudato Si. All the sisters were engaged in activities such as weeding, plantation of fruit and vegetable saplings, trimming of plants, fencing the garden, cleaning the house and campus and fumigation of whole campus buildings, and beautifying the place with ornamental plants.

The Psalmist says, “be still and know that I am God.” In silence, calming and centering our spirit on the Divine helped us to overcome our fears, allowing us to draw our strength from deeper wisdom flowing through us with each new breath.

Awaken to divine guidance we are liberated from fear and empowered to celebrate our unique and gifted life and to serve God in our relationship with others. Further, it expanded empathy for others and willingness to safely and appropriately support them in this time of pandemic.

Loving God, we bring our fear, uncertainty, panic, and anxiety to you. We place our whole self, fear and courage alike, in your hands. Use our fears and anxiety as instruments of grace and empathy. Transform our fear to action that we might serve you in this challenging time, giving glory to you and beauty to the world. Amen.

Frontier Mission of Indian JMJs

“This storm will pass. Although it has tested our strength, our foundations, our roots, we will arise stronger, wiser, and smarter. The best is yet to come.” - Charles F Glassman

The COVID-19 pandemic is considered as the most crucial global health calamity of the century and the greatest challenge that the humankind faced since the 2nd World War. In December 2019, a new infectious respiratory disease emerged in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and was named by the World Health Organization as COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019). As far as the history of human civilization is concerned there are instances of severe outbreaks of diseases caused by a number of viruses. Globally, as on 7 June 2020, there have been 70 lakhs confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 4 lakh deaths, reported to WHO from more than 200 countries throughout the world. Till now there is no report of any clinically approved antiviral drugs or vaccines that are effective against COVID-19. It has rapidly spread around the world, posing enormous health, economic, environmental and social challenges to the entire human population.

In its fight against COVID-19 the Indian government and the State governments have received an enormous help from many NGOs, civil society groups and volunteers. I am proud to acknowledge that JMJ Sisters in India have partnered with the above mentioned Govt. and Non-Govt. entities and some directly involved in COVID-19 relief work to supply dry provisions, cooked food, disseminating information and health awareness along with supplying of masks & detergents and immunity enhancers to the people at peripheries.



Sr. Saritha Prattipati

St. Joseph's Convent, Nallapadu

It took JMJ Sisters in India no time at all to galvanize into action and help India manage the pandemic and its consequent socio-economic impact. These vital efforts are complementing, supporting, and informing government initiatives.



What we have contributed may be a drop in the ocean but for the people who received our help, it made an ocean of difference. I would like to let you know the impact of our help and support over the lives of the people in their own words:

Chennupalli Padmavathi: *“I am a physically challenged person from my birth. Added to my fate, I am a single parent finding hard to bring up my two children. During this time of uncertainty due to Covid-19 lockdown, I was in an utter despair with no means for living. JMJ Sisters came to my rescue; I am grateful to them for supporting me and my children during these hard times.”*



Sk. Khajaabi: *“I am 13 years old. Due to an accident during my childhood, I lost my right hand and now I am with a prosthetic hand. My mother is a widow having to feed ten children. At a time when we received no support from any government scheme or other, in our struggle for the survival during these lock down days, JMJ Sisters are supporting us with rice and dry provisions which brought a great relief for my mother and the whole family.*”

Venkateswarlu, Leader of a Tribal Hamlet: *“We are pleased to acknowledge that JMJ Sisters have stood by us at this crucial time. We experience God’s providence reaching out to us through them, truly God is helping us; it is God who is sending these angles in human form to help us in our poverty.”*

Pallapu Madhavi: *“I am the bread winner of my family. I work cleaning red chilly stalks in a ‘Mirchi Yard’. I am a single woman left with two children. One child has loco-motor disability. Due to the alarming situation of COVID-19 and its lockdown, we lost our only source of livelihood. In our vulnerability, JMJ Sisters stood by us and not only sustained us physically but emotionally too. We extend our whole hearted thanks to them.”*



JMJ Sisters in India continue responding to the emerging crisis, affecting those living at the peripheries of society. These are tough times for everyone, but more for poor migrant workers, daily wage earners, children and families on streets, in slums, and those who are already living in poverty. We strive to continue with our minuscule efforts to reach out to the peripheries by lending a shoulder to lean on, to fill a hungry stomach, to cover a family with a mantle of love, to wipe away every tear and ultimately to illuminate lives.

Pope Francis words strengthen our faith. “Don’t forget: Crucifix and Gospel. Let us open our whole heart to Jesus in prayer, letting His gaze rest on us, and we will understand that we are not alone, but loved because the Lord doesn’t abandon us and doesn’t forget us ever”

We remember our holy Founder’s exhortation: Sisters, turn to God who is your Father. Reflect on the journey you have covered so far. Feel inwardly impelled to proceed with renewed zeal. A zeal that impresses everyone!

Long Live JMJ! With renewed strength of our faith, we gaze at our ever loving Father! We live these sacred days with grace and hope for better future for everyone!



Life in lockdown spirit in look up



Sr. Theresa Madanu
JMJ Convent Vidisha, M.P

***“God always has something for us!
A key for every problem, alight for every shadow,
A relief for every sorrow and a plan for every day.
Just keep a loving heart, a wise mind, and a strong faith in God.
He will always stay with us through the journey of life.”***

All of us are undergoing difficult times during this long lockdown in our country due to COVID-19. Like any one of you, I too felt helplessness, anxiety and apprehension. The long marathon of migrant labourers, tears filled hungry stomachs of poor, anxiety in the faces of daily workers and uncertainty of future of students shatters our emotions. I started asking God “why?” In spite of overwhelming questions and chaotic situations a spark of light flashed through my mind: “In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.” (Ps 62:7). I remembered the promise of God in the Old Testament, how God took care of people of Israel in the times of difficulties. This lock down brought out

most powerful resources available within me: Love, Prayer, Hope and Positive attitude. My resonance from my inner self reinvigorated me to use these days as an opportunity to deepen my spiritual and intellectual practices.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3 says- for everything there is a season and a time, for every matter under heaven. A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

Lock down has given me a great time and an opportunity to grow in reflection and introspection into my life. It’s a season for renewal of my life and a blessing to grow closer to the Lord through -

***Fasting from anger; feasting on patience.
Fasting from pessimism; feasting on optimism.
Fasting from worry; feasting on heavenly help
Fasting from complaining; feasting on appreciation.
Fasting from negatives; feasting on affirmatives.
Fasting from unrelenting pressures; feasting on unceasing prayer.***

As I open my heart to God, I realized that God is my life line. He invites me to follow Him, to love my sisters and brothers as He loves them. During this lock down together with my community I was able to reach out to the poor in a small way. I learned to accept reality without shirking my responsibility to do well and to do my best. When I become inwardly free person,

love becomes my life, flowing in and through me to others. I pray to the heavenly saints, because I believe that they will carry the messages of my heart upward.

***Some flowers grow best in the sun
And some grow well in the shade.
Remember, God puts us where we can grow best.
So always be happy in every situation of life.***

JMJ Charism in Spirit of Solidarity

COVID-19 lockdown left India's 1.37 billion people stranded, while millions of domestic and migrant workers scrambled for food and other basics needs amid the ensuing harsh and often violent crackdown by the police.

During this period of global crises, the world could do a lot better with kindness and compassion. People celebrated the moments of joy, feeling loved, doing their best, but most of all, celebrating time with loved others without conditions.

In religious communities around the world something beautiful happened in response to this crisis. Some religious are spending quality time in prayer, while others are participating in online retreat. Some are reading their favourite books while other are listening to music and taking contemplative walks in nature. Some are making masks for health care providers and the poor while some others are reaching out to homeless, hungry and deprived of daily amenities, to shelter, feed and provide essential things.



Sr. Sujatha D

St. Theresa's Convent, Hyderabad

Jesus said to his disciples, "They need not to go away; you give them something to eat." (Mt 14.16). Moved by the words of Jesus and joining thousands of people of good will, in solidarity, we from St. Theresa's Convent and JMJ Shanthinilayam have collaborated with government officials like corporaters, and municipal officers to distribute pre-packed food parcels at market places, railway stations and slums in the city of Hyderabad. We focused mostly on homeless migrant labourers, who are not part of government shelter homes.

Inspired by the charism of our founder Fr. Mathias Wolff: I made my experience very unique. Besides working with the Govt. officials, nearly thirty of us, under the leadership of our animator Sr. Thangam distributed food to the hungry and helpless in our locality. We also shared food items with the front-line civil and municipal workers of this pandemic who risked their life to serve the lives of many. I feel satisfied in serving these poor people specially the weaker sections of the society. In solidarity we have also donated our little mite from personal budget for this noble cause, everything for the greater glory of God.

We continue to pray for those affected by coronavirus that they may be healed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We also pray for scientists so that they may make vaccine for COVID-19 with the help of the Divine.



Keeping faith in Pandamic

Our lives have been affected in so many ways by this coronavirus pandemic. Following public policy due to this dreaded illness has turned our lives upside down. It's time to learn new routines within our social isolation and incorporate changes in the education of our children while schools remain closed. And above all, our stress and anxieties are peaked by the fear of contracting coronavirus as we see each day the numbers of confirmed positive cases and deaths from COVID-19.

Let me say, when I first heard of COVID 19, I felt fearful, anxious and I saw a great panic among the people in the surroundings of Zuni. This could be the situation yours too. The most often I heard the words fear, panic, economic crisis and un-employment in the world everywhere. I see still uncertainty, isolation, death and poverty seems insurmountable as this pandemic continues. Consciously I was troubled and I stopped watching the news. Yet I realize God is above all and with God all things are possible. I was reminded of this reassuring passage from the prophet Isaiah and chanted this verse to gain courage: *Fear not for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God (Isaiah 41:10)* Our living of compassion must be enhanced by the internalization of these feelings that we are experiencing these days

Praying and Caring: Prayer is source of God's blessings and healing. The simplest way to enter into the gifts of prayer is to pray for the needs of the world and the people around. I felt strongly that prayer is a powerful weapon to fight against COVID-19. I chose to pray personally every day and as a community before the Blessed Sacrament to the Holy Trinity to heal the world and protect the lives of the people around. Life is a precious gift to be celebrated, appreciated and lived happily. As the death toll was mounting up in USA, we pleaded desperately before God to protect the people from corona virus as Abraham pleaded before Yahweh to protect the city of Sodom.



Sr. Ansi Anthony Samy
JMJ Convent, ZUNI, USA

The second important thing is to care for people. Caring connects us with people, befriending the needy and suffering. We reached out to few people with food stuff who were in quarantine. Keeping in mind that compassion is not primarily about what we give or what we do. It's all about who we are in Jesus in our mission. I made several calls to elderly people in Zuni and the parishners enquiring how they are and assuring God's protection and prayers.

Sharing and Daring: Sharing the love of Christ and risking one's life for the common good is the heart of a missionary. On line teaching and assisting my students to learn in a new teaching process was stressful, I needed extra effort and time. I saw it as a challenge and ventured myself to teach students through on line distance mode. I experienced sense of satisfaction and happiness by reassuring God's love, protection and care to my students through teaching. Christ is the solution to all our problems; He strengthened and energized me to be proactive during the difficult times.

Every opportunity to serve someone will boost one's happiness and wellbeing- this was true to me I often drew happiness by being with people and serving them. I volunteered on every Monday to send the study packets to students at the pick-up and drop-off session. Though I know I can be exposed to corona virus, yet I saw that was an opportunity to serve the people and to assure them God's protection.

As a people of faith, lets emerge from this pandemic more empathetic than ever to the reality of loneliness and social isolation. What we now feel must serve as the spark needed to light the flame of desire to do more for those among us who suffer due to isolation in so many ways from the world around them. St. Paul says – *'in all things we are victorious... nothing separates us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 38-39).*

To the least of my people...

Sr. Shobha Rani Bandla
JMJ SSS, Palamanner



The Charism of our Founder an “ever adaptable apostolic availability” endowed on the members of our Congregation obliges each one of us to adapt to the changing times and needs of the people and be always available at the service of the poor and needy. It’s a clarion call to follow Christ and encounter His presence among the poor, through JMJ identity - it’s my conviction of life. We can only be at the service of the poor 24X7 only if we are connected to God 24X7. If not, our zeal diminishes, our strength vanishes, and our fervor fades away sooner than we ever realize.



JMJ SSS, Palamanner is dedicated to serve the poor through the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and empowerment of women in particular and families at large. A Self-Help Group is a village based financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10-20 local women. The members make small regular saving contributions for a few months until there is enough capital in the group for lending to those in need of financial aid.

Works of mercy - through JMJ SHGs:

To feed the hungry: “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime is well known Chinese proverb.” This is what we do in and through our SHGs. It’s about socio-economic empowerment of women, usually mothers to take up small business through micro-credit programme, which increases their economic condition, progressively helping them towards economic self-reliance.

To give water to the thirsty: Water is the basic necessity of life. During summer we have a special project especially in our rural hamlets where people walk for long distance to fetch drinking water. We identify these villages and make water tents with pots filled with portable drinking water with the help of SHG leaders. This arrangement provides drinking water to people every day quenching their thirst during summer season.

To clothe the naked: We provide new garments for the elderly, destitute and orphan children twice in a year. We also identify people in public places in need of dresses and provide fresh attires for them.

To visit the sick: Our SHG members to visit the sick in their locality and we ourselves accompany them, if needed take them or refer them to hospitals



for further care. The local SHG leaders take responsibility of feeding the elderly sick in their vicinity.

We have empowered thousands of women both socially and economically. It's so satisfying to listen to the stories of their self-reliance, witness to the dignity of their labour and self-respect they earn from the public. Besides the women are trained in skill development like tailoring, bag and sanitary napkin making, which enabled women's self-employment, self-reliance, and gender equality.



Our Founder aimed at education and empowerment of women as a means to liberate the oppressed Dutch Catholic Church of his time. Today following the example of our founder, we are working towards the empowerment of women whose rights are denied, and whose cry is often unheard.

What so ever you do to the least: The lock down due to COVID 19 has crippled the lives of many especially the poor-daily laborers, migrants and domestic workers. In Palamaner of Chittoor district most of the families are agricultural workers. In response to the cry of the people for their basic need amidst the lock down, we reached out to the families in our neighborhood distributing the essential food items and masks. God's plans cannot be comprehended but we believe what we read in Jer: 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Prayer for the Special Year of the Anniversary of Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Creator of Heaven, of earth and of all that they contain. Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we can be part of Creation, your gift. Be present to the needy in these difficult times, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic. Make us courageous in embracing the changes geared to the search for the common good. Now more than ever, may we be able to feel that we are all inter-connected and interdependent. Make sure that we succeed in listening and responding to the cry of the earth and to the cry of the poor. May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. We pray to You through Christ Our Lord, under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians.

Amen.

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is happy to announce a Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year from 24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021. We hope that the anniversary year and the ensuing decade will indeed be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and "Jubilee" time for the Earth, and for humanity, and for all God's creatures. The anniversary year will open with Laudato Si' Week 2020, and will proceed with several initiatives, realized in partnership and with a clear emphasis on "ecological conversion" in "action". We invite everyone to join us. The urgency of the situation calls for immediate, holistic and unified responses at all levels - local, regional, national and international. We need, above all, "a peoples' movement" from below, an alliance of all people of good will. 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." (LS, 14)

The following is an open-ended list of initiatives for the celebration of the Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year to which we invite you to join us and add your own celebrations within your local communities.

Blessing and inauguration of Regional cum Formation House, Ghana.

23.06.2020



LAUDATO SI'

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR

24 May 2020 - 24 May 2021

*A year of celebrations of
the Encyclical Letter of
Pope Francis
on the care of our Common Home*

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM MULTI-YEAR LAUDATO SI' ROLL-OUT PLAN

To make communities around the world totally sustainable in the spirit of the Integral Ecology of Laudato Si'

During the Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year, there will be the launch of the program and a public commitment from the part of various institutions to begin the 7-year journey to total sustainability in the spirit of Laudato Si'.

1. Laudato Si' Families:

(Families embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology)

2. Laudato Si' Dioceses:

(Dioceses/Parishes embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology)

3. Laudato Si' Schools:

(Schools embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology)

4. Laudato Si' Universities:

(Universities/Colleges embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology)

5. Laudato Si' Hospitals / Health Care Centres:

(Hospitals/Health Care Centres embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology)

6. Laudato Si' Businesses/Agricultural Farms, etc.:

(Businesses/Farms embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology)

7. Laudato Si' Religious Orders:

(Religious Orders / Provinces embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology).



<https://laudatosiyear.org/>