



# THE ENCOUNTER

*Know... Grow... Flow into fullness*

ROMA

June 2019 | Issue 1



CONGREGATIO  
PRO INSTITUTIS VITAE CONSECRATAE  
ET SOCIETATIBUS VITAE APOSTOLICAE

Prot. n. R. 165-1/2018

## DECREE

Following careful deliberation, with a decree dated 10 September 2016, this Congregation, with the approval of the Holy See, has authorized the division of the Society of Jesus, founded in 1822 by Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, SJ, into two distinct Religious Institutes of Pontifical Right, the first composed of the Provinces of Holland and Indonesia and the second composed of the Provinces of India and the Region of Ghana. In order to ensure the fulfillment of the aforementioned provision, the same Dicastery appointed Sr. Brigid Lawler, Assistant in order to oversee all the necessary requisites.

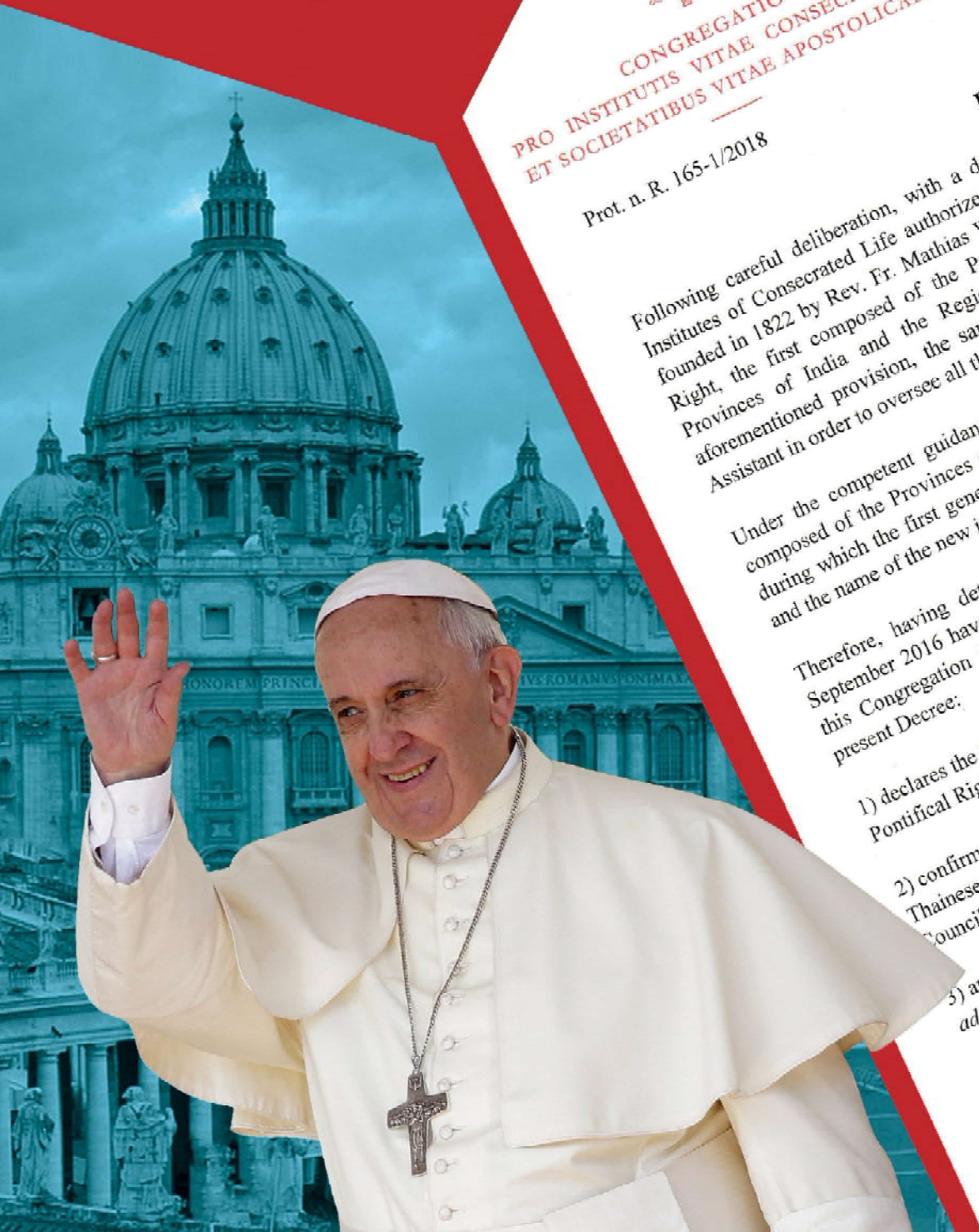
Under the competent guidance of the Assistant, on May 5-21, 2017, the Congregation, composed of the Provinces of India and the Region of Ghana celebrated its first general government during which the first general government was elected, the text of the Statutes and the name of the new institute was decided.

Therefore, having determined that the provisions given in the Statutes of the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph, approved on September 2016 have been fulfilled and having carefully considered the text of the present Decree:

- 1) declares the CONGREGATION OF JESUS MARY JOSEPH, of Pontifical Right, with its main office in the Diocese of Fátima, Portugal;
- 2) confirms the election of Sr. Innamma Yeruva, as Superior General of the Congregation, and Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, Sr. Valsa Koren as Assistant General, both of Pontifical Right;
- 3) approves the text of the Constitutions written by Sr. Brigid Lawler, Assistant in order to oversee all the necessary requisites, *ad experimentum* for five years.

Given at the Vatican, 2 February 2018.

José Rodríguez Garballo, C.S.B.  
Archbishop Secretary



## OUR LADY'S ROSARY

*Dear Mother, I bring Thee roses  
Because they are so sweet,  
But lilies, my favorite flowers  
I am placing at Thy feet.*

*Accept with each Hail Mary  
A rose for Thy crown so bright;  
Please don't forget the lilies,  
The lilies so pure and white.*

*Let them be a bond of love  
And understanding rare,  
And send a blessing from above  
In answer to my prayer.*

*Loneliness would be unknown  
If more people come to Thee,  
With their trials and sorrows  
And said their Rosary.*

*With each Hail Mary, they would find  
Their load much lighter grow,  
And in humility, kiss the cross  
In peace, would onward go.*

*— Alice W. Sparks*



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# The EDITORIAL



*Sr. Vijaya Mary Udumala*

**'The Encounter'** brings out our new identity as the Congregation of JMJ. The word 'Encounter' is central to the way we think of our relationships with God and one another. It invites to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others. This 'stepping out' of ourselves is important to be ready for 'Encounter'. For our Congregation this word 'Encounter' is very important. It recaps our first Congregational chapter theme: ***Encountering together an emerging future, as vessels of hope.***

Pope Francis on a regular basis has spoken of a Culture of Encounter as a goal for human society. A society that espouses a Culture of Encounter facilitates right relationship among humans and involves a spirituality that emphasizes a personal friendship with God who first encounters us in love.

The mystery of an encounter occurs between persons. Certainly to encounter another person is to experience the grace of the living God. To put it another way: to encounter a friend, to embrace a child, or to share a meal with a hungry person is to have an experience which is in essence the way we encounter the intangible and invisible God.

The Culture of Encounter moves us to walk the journey of our lives tenderly holding each other's hands knowing all the way that it is Christ who is our invisible and shining companion.

As members of our new congregation we are called to 'A renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ or at least an openness to letting Him encounter us among the people we serve in our ministries'. The poor hold a privileged place in our Encounters. They are images of God, and they are children of God'. Indeed to encounter the poor person is to encounter Christ.

In the first issue of **'The Encounter'** our sisters shared their stirring encounters of love and mercy, while others pondered over their call to serve humanity in need. Sr. Innamma relates the vision of the General Council for our Congregation. A write up on Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey is inspiring. A reflection on Mary Magdalene is a beautiful reflection in Easter season! Article on Sustainable Developmental Goals enlightens us on our role for peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

I acclaim the Provinces and Region for the overwhelming responses and contributions. A note of thanks to Guntur Province for availing the expertise of Sr. Jaya Ratna Bala and Mr. Gopi for designing and printing the first issue of **'The Encounter'**.

Next issue of 'The Encounter' comes out in December 2019. Insightful and thought-provoking articles that express JMJ spirituality and charisma in our varied ministries are invited. Kindly share your articles and views / suggestions explicitly to the email: [cjmjencounter@gmail.com](mailto:cjmjencounter@gmail.com) before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

*Enjoy reading...*

**DARE TO BE REAL & BRAVE TO BE DOER**  
**Be doers of the word, and not hearers only (James 1:22)**

The dawn of a new era momentarily ushered in our new Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph in May 2018 made a big change, marking a historic milestone and calling forth to plunge into action. It is a call to ***'Dare to be Real & Brave to be Doer'***.

Our new identity is confirmed with the declaration of the Vatican with a new name - Congregation of JMJ, a Religious Institute of Pontifical Right on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2019, together with the approval of the new Constitutions on *'ad experimentum'* basis.

Well. As it is said, a thousand miles journey begins with a single step. One year ago we began this journey of faith as a *Congregation 'Encountering Together an Emerging Future as Vessels of Hope'*

At our Generalate in Rome, the General Council team, enkindled with a blazing spirit, has travelled together with one mind and heart unravelling the interventions of God's Spirit at every step. You have seen it really happening. With your admiring support we could move on this journey. We thank God for the abiding accompaniment of His Grace that transformed our interior space to focus our gaze on the realization of the Commitments of the First Congregational Chapter, the fruit of our collective discernment, with definite goals and objectives.

Incredibly May 2019 marks the end of the first year of our new exodus as CJMJ. During the course of the year gone by, we ventured to actualize our commitments with your cooperation and collaboration marching forward –

- Encountering together - as loyal descendants of our Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, in the daily realities of life with an experience of God's living Word and His providential care.
- Responding to the signs of the times and in tune to the call of the Church to embrace the peripheries in the light of faith and hope.
- Encompassing our vessels of hope with new JMJ dynamic Spirit, giving a new expression to our Charism.

Here we are now. Still a long way to go! How do we go further?

With *small steps* and *simple efforts* from dawn to dusk seeking God's Holy Will.

Being in the Eternal City obviously we perceive the call of Pope Francis and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), SEDOS (Service of Documentation & Study on Global Mission), JPIC (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation): A Joint Commission of the USG & the UISG and many more inviting to us to respond to the cry of the poor, the migrants, human trafficked, refugees, women, children and youth.



**Sr. Innamma Yeruva**  
**Superior General**



## UISG Calls us to be ‘Sowers of Prophetic Hope’:

This is what we the women religious are called to be today: **Sowers of hope**. As consecrated women we need to ask ourselves how we nurture this hope.



- What are the signs of hope that we are gathering in our Congregation?
- Are our intercultural communities perhaps signs of hope in a world of division and war?
- How are we signs of hope for the many poor people, women and children who are suffering?

## Our Congregational Commitments:

**Fostering a deep spirituality** in our Congregation is our priority. The Congregational Spirituality Centre at Sirumalai is the pivotal point and heart of spiritual animation for the Congregation, expected to be at the service of each sister in our Congregation. We hope that our Spirituality Centre plays a vital role in promoting a vibrant spirituality through reflective living, following through on the initiatives of the Congregational Spirituality Committee to uphold our spiritual legacy and heritage. The Spirituality centre is taking shape in few months from now and shall be officially opened on the 10 September 2019.

**Strengthening Formation.** Holistic and mission oriented formation is our Congregation’s next priority. Pope Francis said. “Consecrated life is beautiful. It is one of the most precious treasures of the Church, rooted in the vocation of baptism. We realise well-formed vocations are more important than numerous vocations. We need to prepare more sisters for ministry of formation as much as we do everything possible to promote quality vocations for our Congregation. We entreat that our Formators possess ‘a great heart for the young, to form in them great hearts, able to receive everyone, hearts rich in mercy, full of tenderness’. From July 2019 we initiate common formation programmes at Goa, Bhopal and Mangalagiri. This is a good news!

**Diversity and richness of our cultures:** “Interculturality” is a sign of prophetic hope for humanity. In our communities we are called to build an atmosphere of love, joy and mutual trust in one another for the sake of our mission. By our own experience of living together, valuing and mutually transforming all our ‘differences,’ with the doors opening inwards, puts us on the path to go out to meet those who are different, marginalized, and exploited today.

## Sowers of Prophetic Hope by Caring for Creation:

“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord.” These are the words that open Pope Francis’ encyclical on ecology and care for God’s creation. These words, quoting St. Francis of Assisi’s beautiful canticle, reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. Prophetic hope exists on the margins and is rooted in solidarity



with the sufferings of those in the margins. Caring for our planet is becoming an imperative in expressing our love of neighbour. Loving our neighbours must include doing what we can to enable our planet to sustain the flourishing of our fellow human beings.

**Religious are essential to the Church's mission:** Pope Francis highlights the importance of the work of consecrated religious in the daily life of the Church. "Religious, with their prayer, poverty, and patience, are essential to the Church's mission", the Pope remarks. Our Founder had envisioned almost two centuries ago that we work passionately with women, youth and children especially those who are trafficked, forced to migrate and oppressed by abject poverty is now our priority.

**Collaboration and networking with other Congregations:** We are never alone for wherever we are we form part of one big family with the same objective, that of weaving a better life for all ...that they may have life and have it to the full (John10:10). Networking is the new approach to mission. This has been true for our Congregation in Rome. As membership of religious congregations decrease - in inverse proportion to the growing demands of mission - no community can effectively carry out its mission by itself. We experience effectiveness of our collaboration in our working with the Hospitaller sisters of mercy in the area of geriatric care.

**Lay partners in our mission:** 'Laypeople are on the front line of the life of the Church,' the Pope said, urging the Church to be thankful for the laity 'who take risks, who are not afraid and who offer reasons for hope to the poorest, to the excluded, to the marginalized.' Let us hope to create and strengthen co-responsibility for our mission with lay partners and encourage collaboration and networking with other Congregations and agencies at all levels to respond to the anguish of the world by taking courageous steps to go to the frontiers where God is calling us.

As a final point in our endeavour, Sr. Mary Karickakunnel is closely following up of the beatification process of Sr. Dr. Mary of the Sacred Heart (Dr. Mary Glowrey), the Servant of God. The diocesan phase is completed and the Roman phase has been initiated. Two of our sisters Kochumary Challakudam and Swarna Yeruva have successfully completed the Course on Causes of Saints organised by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints (Latin: Congregatio de Causis Sanctorum), Vatican.

Our call to be Vessels of hope sets us on fire. So we march ahead on the journey of hope working passionately to actualize the goals set before us, walking humbly with God, with trust in His promise, blooming in the mission entrusted to us, giving more and more, better and better , greater and greater for the glory of God.

May the Holy Spirit enable us to light a flame of prophetic hope in present realities and embrace the future possibilities with faith and surrender.

*Let us pledge to*

***BE PROPHETS OF HOPE...SOWERS OF HOPE...BEARERS OF HOPE.***

***Blessed are you if you put it into practice (Jn 13: 17)***

## A LUMINARY OF INNER BEAUTY - MARY GLOWREY

- Sr. Mary Karickakunnel JMJ



Sr. Mary was a 'special creation of God' as Bishop Ignatius Mummadi presented her in his homily at the Requiem Mass offered for her on 06 May 1957. From childhood, Mary had obtained many special privileges including the favour of her teachers and being much more loved by her parents and siblings. She was a gifted girl and woman. As she grew she continued to shine as the **FIRST** in many instances of her life. She was one among **the first three women to study medicine from Melbourne University**. Though successfully passed her M.B.B.S Examination, being a woman she was not eligible for the post of resident doctor at the Melbourne Hospital. She got her first appointment at Christ Church Hospital, New Zealand thus she became the **first woman resident doctor in New Zealand**.

She was **the first president of the Catholic Women's Social Guild** established by Fr. Lockington in 1916 in order to uplift the women and children. In 1920, the Society of JMJ in India had to get special permission from Rome to begin a novitiate, as the new candidate arrived and she was **the first JMJ Novice in India**. Thus in God's plan she became **the first JMJ Religious professed in India** on November 29, 1921. After her temporary profession, Dr. Mary Glowrey known as Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart became **the first nun-doctor-missionary** and participated in the healing ministry of the Eternal Healer, again after having received special permission from the Holy See. She became **the first President of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)** which she founded in 1943 with great vision in order to contribute more through the healthcare ministry.

More than these achievements, her inner beauty is being recognized by everyone who came in contact with her. The spontaneous responses of people in Guntur, Australia and around the world after her death are expressions of this: The Resolution passed by the Indian Red Cross Society on the occasion of celebration of the International Red Cross Day on 08 May 1957 states, "Sr. Mary was always smiling, cheerful and hard working. She worked as a Doctor for



thirty six full years in Guntur with the zeal of a missionary and brought happiness and life to so many people".<sup>1</sup> For Capt. V. Anantaram, a Hindu ophthalmic surgeon from Guntur, her life has been as great as that of the Holy Virgin and she had been the kindest Doctor ever lived.<sup>2</sup>

Her life was most inspiring to many and even immediately after her death there were people who were not at all surprised to hear of her canonization.<sup>3</sup> People recognized her as holy and saintly

<sup>1</sup> Letter of P. Mrutyunjaya Row, Hon. Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, Guntur District Branch to Mother Superior, 09.05.1957.

<sup>2</sup> Letter of V. Anantaram, Guntur to Mother Superior, 10.05.1957.

<sup>3</sup> Letter of Fr. William Mc Collins from Sacred Heart Presbytery, Kew to Miss Flynn, 08.07.1957.

<sup>4</sup> Letter of Miss L. Philipz, Ex-principal of Lady Willingdon Training College, Madras to Sr. Stanislas JMJ, 22.05.1957.

<sup>5</sup> Letter of Rev. Anscar OSB, New Norcia, W. Australia to Mrs. Connellan, 24.10.1967.





whose healing touch brought relief and comfort to the thousands of suffering men and women, who lived a dedicated life – dedicated to the love and service of God and of His poor suffering children.<sup>4</sup> A Benedictine monk, who was a distant relation of Sr. Mary Glowrey, declared decades ago, that one day she will be elevated to the Altars where the virtues of her life will radiate all around the world particularly for the benefit of the

doctors who laboured under so many temptations and false approaches<sup>5</sup>

Others considered her as a perfect religious who never let her outside activities run away with her. Her wonderful humility and spirit of zeal was appreciated and people felt her presence and her holiness as an example for everyone.<sup>6</sup> She was a model religious and a model doctor whose loss was not only for the JMJ Society or for Guntur alone but for the whole Catholic Church in India.<sup>7</sup> Her life was a living testimony to the charity of Christ, charity which made her to leave her native Australia and labour and die in India for its people.<sup>8</sup>

She was a wonderful example, a good religious whose heart and soul devoted to the advancement of the medical mission apostolate in India.<sup>9</sup> Miss. Mary Naidu, one of the Members of the Parliament in those days, had written a beautiful and very inspiring letter about Sr. Mary: “Sr. Mary is a saint, a person of great brilliance, a person vital and vivid, a person with so many gifts but above all a gift of understanding which made her unique. To me she was a mother, a teacher and a goddess. ... . While living she guided me and now after death I still go to her and cry out my heart to her. To me she is not dead she is ever by my side”.<sup>10</sup>

Sr. Mary Glowrey could live her life to the full as she directed her life always according to the holy will of God and guided by the Holy Spirit. It is said that she never began or ended anything without praying to the Holy Spirit. We, as JMJs are proud to have such a saintly person lived among us. Let us imitate her life of charity, generosity, humility and service giving ourselves completely in the mission entrusted to us with total dedication and commitment being open to the inspirations of the Spirit. It is for each one of us to reflect today: Is my life an inspiration and example for others? By looking at my life will people be able to say, my life is a witness, an example and I live a holy and saintly life? If yes, let us praise and thank the Lord for the graces! If not, let us plead the Lord for His grace and be transformed.

The influence of the Servant of God did not end with her bodily death. It continues in the lives of the people who seek her intercession and experience freedom from sickness and receive other favours. Let us pray that she be soon raised to the altar of God and pray to her for our personal, community, family, congregational and world needs especially for the sick and suffering.

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<sup>6</sup> Letter of Sr. Mary Attracta, Presentation Convent, Madras to Rev. Mother, 14.05.1957.

<sup>7</sup> Letter of Sister Veronica, St. Francis Hospital, Ajmer to Rev. Mother, 18.05.1957.

<sup>8</sup> Letter of Fr. T. A. Mathias S.J, the Principal of Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada to Rev. Mother, 19.05.1957.

<sup>9</sup> Letter of Mother Anna Dengel, S.C.M.M, Medical Mission Sisters, Philadelphia Rev. Mother, 22.05.1957.

<sup>10</sup> Letter of Miss. Mary Naidu, New Delhi to Mrs. Connellan, 09.11.1965.

## An Encounter story of Sr. Suze Lases with centenarian (Indian Missionary who lived for a century by 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019)

'Since 27 April 2018, we have a new identity with a new name...'

How did Sr. Regula, with her 23 years in India, experience this first sentence in our new information bulletin: 'ICON SJMJ'?

I decided to ask her, to interview her:

Would it suit you if I came to see you on Thursday?

**'Let me see if I'm free'.**

'Shall I come to see you at 2.30pm'?

**'Come at 2.00pm'.**

And there she is, this amiable, dignified, 100-year-old woman.

**'I think this is the first time you've come to visit me in my room?  
Would you like something to drink?'**

'I'm fine thank you. I had a coffee downstairs'.

**'Oh yes, in the Plaza'.**

'So, this is why I'm here'. I pull out ICON and ask my question.



*Sr. Suze Lases*



*Sr. Regula Van Kesteren*

I've not seen it before; I'm no longer able to read and there is no one around who can read it to me. Our contact person, a lovely woman, works hard, two days per week. She would read to me, but time's short and she has lots to do. When I arrived here 8 years ago then I could still do everything. But now, I find it very difficult to walk and to see. But I would really like someone to read it to me, but people would need more time to do this.

When you ask me what I felt when we became two congregations, then my answer is, a great deal of pain! You felt very much as one with the Indian sisters, very familiar with each other, so fine! They

were such lovely people! The others out of Indonesia are also very lovely, but I don't know them in the same way. However, it is good. It had to happen.

Previously, Riet (de Jager) would read to me and we would chat together about everything that was going on in the Society of JMJ. Now Bep (Koopmeiners) is here and has to lie flat on her bed and can't even turn her head. So, in the afternoon, Riet goes to her, and I say: "If you feel that you need to be with Bep, then that's fine with me". This is not a problem for me, you understand! I pray a lot, listen to radio Maria, pray the rosary and listen to Holy Mass if there is not one here, and I have talking books. Over there is my chapel (opposite to her are two small covered tables, on which stand various images, including those of beloved saints.) I pray until 10.00 am and then, well and truly 'charged up', I go to coffee!

### ***Did you want to go to India?***

I was asked to go there! I was with the elderly in Roelofarendsveen. My sister Lien, Sr. Lidwina, also wanted to go. She was five years older than me. (Except for my younger brother, I was the youngest of eleven children. Here, in the Bongerd, I cared for my sister for three years. It was not easy being together in the same house, she bossed me over).

When I arrived in India, the Dutch sisters no longer kept themselves separate from the Indian sisters. People mixed together, and that was fine! We were all one together, we really learned to get to know each other; we could really rely on each other! Such lovely people! Every day, I pray the rosary in full for the general council in India, and for the general council in Indonesia. Those younger sisters need it, they are people of this time.

### ***What was it like to come back to the Netherlands?***

In 1961, I came back to the Netherlands on holiday for the first time after 11 years. Everything was strange and I wanted to go back to India as fast as possible. Of course, in those days you expected to spend the rest of your life in the place where you had been sent out to, yes?

In 1973 I came back again, this time with Mother Ferdinando and Landelino. It was difficult! This time, I was not allowed to go back but Landelino could return! Mother Marie said: "It is over for you there!" It was terrible! Everything was different! And people were wearing different clothes in the congregation in the Netherlands! But I kept wearing my habit. And the church...everything was so strange here.

### ***You felt out of place?***

Yes, out of place!!! My sisters asked too much of me. It was terrible! I became sick. I had an operation in Boxmeer, where the doctor was very good, and the nurses were lovely. My brother came every Friday from Schiedam to see me and brought me flowers! I was very ill, and it took me a year to get better.

Yes, you were very ill! When Hedwig visited you, I went with her and waited somewhere, I also came to say hello to you.

Back in St. Agatha, I found that there was no longer a place for me! So, then I went to Weesp, (two fellow sisters from India) and from there I found myself in Hoogerheide. But what could they do with someone who was still half sick? They were certainly not going to hang around for me.

After this I went to Mariënbosch, where I came across many fine people and thought: "You might wear different clothes, but you can also be fine sisters. I don't need to exalt myself". So, I adapted to things. My priestly brother found it difficult and wanted to show off with me.

And now you are here.

It's good to be here, and people are all the same. That's really lovely! We're here with Anacleta (Mrs. Clement) and Gerion (Mrs. De Jong).

Now we're together celebrating, for three days, the one-hundredth birthday of Thea Kuijpers (she has serious dementia). We are enjoying the fact that Thea has reached this age! There are

flowers everywhere and the lady Mayoress is visiting, such a lovely woman! Look, here she is at my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. And yes, three of them on this photo have passed away.

Trees Schiloo was there and also Cor (Dominicus) and Margret (van Winden). We really miss them; yes, it really affects me inside! These days there are three of us here. Other people can certainly come to see us but we (Jacobi Engelen, Corrie de Vette en Regula) live together here.

And then with visible excitement, Sr. Regula says: On the 26 April she, the Mayoress, is coming back! (The photo from 3 years ago, with the lady Mayoress, is there on the table).



You were one of the first sisters to use the internet.

Yes, but for the past year I'm no longer able to use it. I can't differentiate things anymore. But I really enjoyed

using it in the past. I was able to look everything up, also many psalms and pictures! At that time in 's-Hertogenbosch, when I was 87 years old, Emmanuel (v. Greunsven) also found someone to help me: the wife of the Mayor! Oh, those Tuesday afternoons were wonderful. She taught me things and we chatted together about everything! She still comes to see me (from Limburg). When I go to eat my dinner, she stays in my room and eats her sandwich. Then, I say to her: 'this is now your house, please help yourself to some broth or something.'

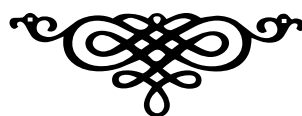
My eyesight is not good enough to use the mobility scooter, but when the weather is nice outside then I can go out for a walk with my walking frame. And when it comes to my work, well, I pray. I don't just pray for the sisters but for all people! Perhaps I shall reach my hundredth birthday so that I can keep on praying.

It's time to leave, but first here is a cup of tea.

"Would you like a posh cup or a mug?"

Outside, I find myself joyfully thinking: What a woman! A person who, according to Sr. Valsa, is full of grace.

She is so involved, and she wants to be involved in the changes which touch her life, and the lives of us all!



# WOLFF'S VISION RADIATES

## Encounter of Love and Mercy at DORNAHALLI

- Sr. Sleeva Rani Komareddy

***“You're not disabled by the disabilities you have,  
you are able by the abilities you have”***

Children with special needs are the “handy work” of God, created in His likeness and image. They have the right to live a dignified life and enjoy a good status in our society. We consider it as a privilege to serve the children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities of the age groups from 8 to 25 years.

These children are often left behind and frequently victims of neglect, abuse and violence. This is contrary to their rights: they should be able to participate equally and fully, at home and in their communities - and live a life to the highest possible standard.

As per our study the overall situation of the target Children with disabilities -

- Struggle for their daily life existence having been isolated from the mainstream of the community.
- 90% children with disabilities do not have access to special schools meant for these children.
- Their parents, teachers and the government officials are totally indifferent with negative attitude toward these children's education.

At present we have 55 children at our JMJ Residential School for differently abled children. Our sisters and staff are agents of love and mercy caring for these most deserving children.

**Our vision for our Children:** Our dream for the future is that children with disabilities are equal and participate as fully as possible in their homes and their communities. Their lives have the highest possible quality.

**Our mission for our Children:** Our mission is in line with UN Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is empowering children enabling the environment for better living. Child Empowerment means increasing the child's personal, social, educational and economic strengths. The strategy consists of two elements: the development of children (Child Development) and the accessibility of their environment (Enabling Environment). All our efforts are aimed at the development of the child to the extent possible to live quality life in the community.

**Health check-ups:** Regular health check is done with the help of Government doctors. Every child is provided suitable aids and appliances based on their degree of disability by the Government hospital.

### **Family counseling in the villages**

One of the main fears in the beginning of our mission was the non-cooperation of the parents in the disability rehabilitation of the children. They are of the belief that nothing can be done for

mentally challenged persons and there is no use for any training. They think that these people are destined to be so. To overcome this problem we organise regular parents' awareness programmes and family counselling. Now the parents and people in the society understand that through training programme these children could be integrated into the mainstream of the society.

### **“We Ring the Bell” Campaign: An initiation of CHAI- Liliane Foundation**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 **“We Ring the Bell”** campaign was held at Government school to strengthen the inclusive education of these children. The objective of this event was to encourage the children to **“ring the bell”** and make noise in the school yards, using drums, horns and all kinds of instruments to draw the attention of policy makers and the public to know the struggles of these children.

All the well children from the schools around made loud noise for one minute through beating drums, ringing bells, clapping hands etc. as a mark of their acceptance and support to their differently-able friends. With this campaign we brought the awareness among the people on the importance of inclusive education of differently-able children.



Our united efforts of encounter of love and mercy among these innocent children fills us with abundance of God's Mercy and never ending inner joy! We are ever grateful to the JMJ Bangalore Province and the CHAI – Liliane Foundation for the financial aid in support of this project. We are blessed with so many good people who share in our mission of mercy through their generous contribution of food, books, school bags etc. Our children with disabilities certainly make a lasting impression to live our lives with gratitude!



## JMJ UJJAWALA HOME - A BEACON OF LIGHT

- Sr. Rosalina Gade

Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is an organized crime that violates basic human rights. The problem of trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is especially challenging due to its myriad complexities and variation. Poverty, low status of women, lack of a protective environment etc. are some of the causes for trafficking.

Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a Central “Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking for Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation – named as Ujjawala”.

JMJ Social Service Society, Guntur Province has accepted to become an implementing agency of this Scheme at **JMJ UJJAWALA HOME, Nambur ever since 2010**. The aim of this component is to control and change the traffickers mind for future sustainability provision.

**Rehabilitation:** The major component we focus upon here is rehabilitation of the victims.

- \* **Setting up of Protective and Rehabilitative (P&R) Home** – we have set up our JMJ Ujjawala home with all facilities to protect and rehabilitate the inmates.
- \* **Basic amenities** - we provide basic amenities such as food, clothing and other items of personal use.
- \* **Medical Care** - This Scheme provides Doctor’s fee, cost of medicines, hospitalization, appropriate linkages to de-addiction centres. Since the victims of trafficking undergo immense psychological trauma, professional counselling services are provided through a qualified clinical psychologist and psychiatrist.
- \* **Legal Aid** - As victims are the main witnesses against the trafficker/ perpetrator, or to claim their right to property, marital rights, divorce, maintenance and custody of children, they need to be provided with legal aid which would include court work and documentation relating to the victims court cases.
- \* **Education** - As a large proportion of the rescued victims are children, they need to be inducted in to the formal or open school system, for which some expenditure on text-books, notebooks, stationary, school uniform and other incidental expenses are incurred and met by our home.



### Activities for the inmates in our Home:

- \* Every morning all the inmates practice yoga & meditation for 30 minutes.
- \* Personality development programs are arranged by the experts to strengthen their confidence and re-build themselves.
- \* Self awareness and spiritual help is offered to them to overcome their anguish and promote relaxation and prepare them to change their life for better.
- \* Based on the individual need, psychotherapy and counseling are given.
- \* Indoor and outdoor games are organized on a regular basis.
- \* Occasionally recreational tours and cultural programs are arranged
- \* Skill training is provided i.e. tailoring garments, dyeing and printing, computer embroidery, bag making, jute work, block & batik printing, bangle and ear rings making, and sari rolling.
- \* Exhibitions are arranged at nearby college hostels, women groups, and in Government organized forums.



**Mode of rehabilitation:** Reunion with the family / Formal training / Skill trainings / Self-employment/Job Placement and settling for family life.

### My experience

Indeed I am glad to render my service for the women trafficked and help them live with dignity and respect. Often is a big challenge working with the trafficked

victims, the situation is disturbing, and the responses by the victims concerned are saddening. But being with them and understanding their responses, I have realized that it is the trafficked victim who gets further victimized, violated and more often re-trafficked and forced to continue to support the family.

JMJ UJJAWALA Home receives positive support from Police departments, First-class mobile courts from all districts of Andhra Pradesh and Department of Women Development and Child care. Giving our inmates life back into their hands gives me an immense joy and fulfillment. I have many success stories to share. By the support of my JMJ community at Nambur, we could settle seven of our inmates through successful marriages. All the inmates undergone vocational training, master special skills and get self-employed eventually. Every year we celebrate Shalom Session on 25<sup>th</sup> December and all the married couples with their families participate and share their joys of life.

*I dream to hear the Master whispering softly “whatsoever you do to the least of my people that you did unto me; come enter into the home of my Father”.* - Mt. 25:40



## **TO BUILD AND TO PLANT - GYAN JYOTHI FORMATION HOUSE, BHOPAL**

*- Sr. Philomena Sankuri*

*“To pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” Jer 1:10*

JMJ Convent at Bhopal located in the green belt area, a prime location for VIPs and Government officials is surrounded by a huge natural lake with fine-looking panoramic view had a small MJM presence for almost 25 years. It is now transformed into a favourable formation house for our young women desiring to become religious in the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph.



The first batch of the formees landed here on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and it was recorded as a remarkable day in Hyderabad Province. Eventually Novitiate and Pre-novitiate programmes are organised here.

Gyan Jyothi offers a conducive atmosphere for all round development of the young formees. Initiating, motivating, guiding, teaching and accompanying them to take a striking ‘U’ turn to the consecrated life chosen by them is a challenging and exciting task of the Formators here. The young members’ response, cooperation, openness and receptivity to learn and form themselves is indeed very marvellous! They are imbued with the Spirit and Charism of the Congregation and comprehend the essence of the gospel values taught by Jesus Christ.

Preparing the formees to become persons of God, persons with conviction to follow the way of Christ in his mission of mercy and compassion is the most important area of formation.

Constant guidance, counselling and the processes of discernment helps the formees to experience God’s working ways and respond to them profoundly. In different ways and means all of us form ourselves to incarnate in our own life the presence of Christ.

The personalized formation is offered to each individual person to advance at her own speed of time and attain the gradual growth of maturity to respond to one’s own vocation. Equal attention is given to the integral formation of a person having physical, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions of life.

Accepting responsibility to be a Formator involves taking risk and being accountable for the formation of young members of our congregation. Consequently, our task as Formators requires of us inner serenity, availability, patience, understanding, and a true affection for those who have been confided to the formation responsibility. We also keep to the cohesion and continued collaboration among the Formators responsible for the different stages of formation.

I wish to quote the message of the Pope Francis to the Religious Formators: 'Consecrated life is beautiful, it is one of the most precious treasures of the Church, rooted in the baptismal vocation. And, therefore it's good to be Formators, because it is a privilege to participate in the work of the Father who forms the heart of the Son in those whom the Spirit has called.'

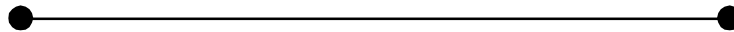
Pope further said, one of the qualities of a Formator is that of having a great heart for young people, to form big hearts in them, capable of receiving all, hearts rich in mercy, full of tenderness.

You are not only friends and companions of the consecrated life of those who are entrusted to you, but true fathers, true mothers, capable of asking and of giving them the most: to generate a life, to give birth to a religious life. And this is possible only through love, the love of fathers and mothers. And it's not true that young people of today are mediocre and not generous; however, they are in need of experiencing that "it is more blessed to give than to receive!" (Acts 20:35), that there is great freedom in an obedient life, great fruitfulness in a virgin heart, great richness in not possessing anything.



We at Gyan Jyothi formation house are happy to inform you that the first batch of novices under common formation initiated by our congregation begins their novitiate program at Gyan Jyothi, Bhopal from July 2019. We hope that all our sisters accompany us in prayer for our formees and Formators— to grow in Christ following the spirit and charism of JMJ.

*May Jesus Mary Joseph guide us!*



***COME, O Creator Spirit blest,  
And in our souls take up Thy rest,  
Come with Thy grace and Heavenly aid,  
And fill the hearts which Thou hast made.***

***Great Paraclete! To Thee we cry,  
O highest gift of God most high!  
O fount of life! O fire of love!  
And sweet anointing from above.***

## “CARE & SHARE CHARITABLE TRUST”, GANNAVARAM

- Sr. Rosy Kolattukudy

Living and working in **Care and Share Charitable Trust** has given me a new experience in life. As a collaborative ministry in the education apostolate our province came forward to revive the orphanage home and the schools of Care and Share Charitable Trust. I was moved with mercy and compassion to care for the children who were in a very deplorable conditions. Most of the children are orphans, few semi orphans, while others are from very poor families. It is heart breaking to see the infants, left orphaned by their parents or thrown in the dust bins after their birth. Many of these kids do not know who their parents are. Whoever goes to their homes children call them as Mum and Dad.



Care and Share Trust lavishes on them love and these babies are really lucky to be in this charitable trust home because they are cared and served with tender love and affection.

For me it was the first experience in life and I really appreciate and value the opportunity given to me to be with them. They taught me to become a loving, patient, sympathetic and compassionate person.

Working with an NGO like this has given me greater opportunity for the evangelization. Our commitment and our values in mission are a public revelation and witness of the life beyond. As the proverb goes “**values are caught not taught**”. I hope that my presence here has direct bearing on these children who are unloved, uncared and unwanted.

The amazing experience I had is living with HIV positive children in the campus. Normal children in our campus as well as in the school love them, treat them equally and make friendship with them. They are very cheerful in spite of their HIV positive status. This taught me to be contented and value my life and my vocation as God’s gifts and I unceasingly praise God for his tremendous love for me and enabling me to love these little ones with same love.

Living in Care and Share Charitable Trust for the past two years gave me a new insight to life and great opportunity of working for the poorest of the poor and needy. Now I say with Prophet Isaiah, “**The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.**”

I accord my appreciation to our Provincial Council for having given me an opportunity to experience life with the orphans and poor children.

## VINEELA INSPIRED ME TO 'WALK AN EXTRA MILE'

- Sr. Vijaya Prabhavathi U

In 2007, I got a post card from a girl of class 7 inviting me for the annual day function at Shameerpet, Telangana State, India. That reminded me about Vineela who was studying in Government school an inmate of an orphanage run by a Non-government Organization (NGO). In 2003, I was a sister-teacher at St. Joseph's High school, Gajwel. I noticed two girls about the ages 7 and 10 years begging for their livelihood. They looked shabby, dirty and unclean. On the next day I traced their home. They belonged to a tribe called 'Vagabonds'.



They live in tents in the open places. They lost their father at an early age. Their mother was a beads' seller going from house to house to the villages with a basket. She used to start her work early in morning and return home at late evening. There were altogether four children two girls and two boys. Both girls were elders. They have to look after their younger brothers. I instructed the mother not to send the girls for begging and educate them freely. Having consented the mother, I provided clothes from well to do families and bought lunch boxes to collect mid-day meals. Both girls joined school in the month of January into class 1<sup>st</sup>. They enthusiastically started to learn alphabets. After a week the first girl did not turn up to school.

Again I visited the mother and enquired about the girl. The reason was her younger sons were left alone as the elder girls come to school. In her absence at least the eldest girl need to be at home and look after them. Moreover the girl herself felt out of place as she was of 10 years age and big in the class. I took promise from the mother not to stop the younger girl. Special attention was given to her to learn things easily. I persuaded the younger girl to be regular to school till the end of academic year.

During summer vacation on one Sunday morning at the parish church I met sisters of Holy Cross who run an orphanage funded by a NGO at Shameerpet. I requested to admit Vineela into their Orphanage. The sisters agreed and took her immediately at that hour on the same day along with them. With the consent of her mother I entrusted the girl without any baggage and not even a pair of shoes into the loving care of sisters.

During holidays sisters taught basics in reading, writing and arithmetic (3Rs). At the beginning of the new academic year they joined her in government school at Shameerpet in class 4<sup>th</sup>. She was the best in curricular, co-curricular and cultural activities. She was awarded first rank in class 7. Since they were nomads I could not trace her whereabouts after that. But I believe that she must have been a teacher by now at least with TTC qualification as she promised to me that she will be a teacher educating all her near and dear ones. Likewise I educated a poor employee with third class upgraded as Computer teacher, a class five dropout to study General Nursing and a class ten dropout to become a teacher with PG qualification.

These little acts of love and kindness flashed my memory as I continue to teach less privileged tribal children at our St. Joseph's School, Nagarjunasagar.

## JOY OF SERVING THE LORD THROUGH EVANGELIZATION MINISTRY

- Sr. Rekha Jakkula

The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. In the Apostolic exhortation 'Evangelii gaudium' meaning 'The Joy of the Gospel' the holy father Pope Francis encourages the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in the years to come.

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope". - Jeremiah 29: 11*



God's call to be joyful evangelizer overwhelms me with joy and I am glad to share with you the mighty deeds the Lord has done in my life through the evangelization ministry.

I am inspired to respond to God's invitation to religious life by JMJ Sisters who often visited my village and the other villages in my neighborhood on health camps and dispensing medicines to the poor. They encouraged and motivated me listen to the divine call that enabled me to say 'yes' to the Lord and I am privileged serving Him through the evangelization ministry.



The Lord has touched, healed and strengthened me, to proclaim His loving message and to experience Him in my life. I learned to depend on the providence of God as I realized that without Him I can do nothing. God in His

goodness has blessed me with joy, happiness and zeal to continue in the evangelization ministry willingly and generously. I have found my treasure in this ministry!

Collaborating with Divine Mercy Center at Bapuji Nagar, Mangalagiri and with programmes like Bible conventions, inner healing retreats, participating in night vigil prayers, singing on all occasions, joining in Friday fasting prayers, etc., have enriched me spiritually with assurance of God's living words from the Bible, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you"* (Mt 6.33). I witnessed several people experiencing healing touch, mercy, compassion, miracles and the faith of people strengthens me to deepen my trust in the Lord.

The village exposure program through this ministry is marvelous. We touch the lives of people and bring them back to the Lord. We give Christ to them through the family prayers, devotions to Mother Mary, St. Joseph, explaining the Word of God and listening/counselling them following the command Jesus "Go throughout the whole world and preach the Gospel to all mankind" (Mk 16:15).

My vocation is strengthened after my involvement in this ministry. I avail myself for the prison ministry as well. I have observed the true longingness of the prisoners to free themselves and to meet their family members. Their utter faith in God is heart touching.

The prayer life of Sr. Mangala and the Priests is a great inspiration for me to pray and deepen my relationship with God. I am grateful to our Province for the opportunity to joyfully serve God through evangelization ministry.

## GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WITH GOD

- Sr. Gnanamma Thumma

**ద్రువపత్రాల అందజేత**

నీలాకాంప్(రెంజల్), న్యూస్టుడే: ఆంగ్లభాషలో శిక్షణ పొందిన 45 మంది బాలబాలికలకు కేంద్ర విద్యాలయ అధికారిణి అతుఫా నోషిన్ సోమవారం ద్రువపత్రాలను అందజేశారు. కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వ పరిధిలో బ్రిటిష్ కౌన్సిల్ ఆఫ్ స్పృకెన్ ఇంగ్లీష్ సంస్థ ద్వారా ఆంగ్లభాషపై మండలంలోని నీలాకాంప్ మరియు రాజీ పాఠశాలలో 45 రోజులుగా ఆమె శిక్షణ తరగతులు నిర్వహించారు. కార్యక్రమంలో పాఠశాల ప్రధానోపాధ్యాయురాలు సిస్టర్ జ్ఞాన, ఉపాధ్యాయులు రాజు పాల్గొన్నారు.



బాలలకు శిక్షణ పత్రాలు అందిస్తున్న కేంద్రీయ విద్యాలయ అధికారిణి

We are thrilled to share with you the great event that took place in the academic year 2018 - 19 in Maria Rani English Medium School, Neelacamp, Nizamabad. It was the day that brought us blessings, growth and wisdom.

Maria Rani English Medium School, Neelacamp was selected by Central Government for the training of British Council of Spoken English in Nizamabad District. Mrs. Athuffa Noshin is the Central Govt. officer and appointed as (C.E.O) for Telingana state conducted the training in our school.

The British Council of Spoken English training was imparted to the students from class 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a forty five days training program. At the end of the training session 45 students from our school qualified and secured 100% result in the online test. Students received certificates of merits from the Government of India. Through this training the students gained knowledge in English language and communication skills. This is the first of its kind in our locality and we

feel proud of it. With the completion of the course this great event is spread to all the people through different media. This sense of pride is something that we want to keep alive as a ray of hope and light which burns all the time. The light calls us to be always creative in our mission work—which is undertaken for the glory of God. When everything is done for the glory of God, it will always make us happy and enlighten our life.

Here in this village of Neelacamp where most of the population depend on farming. We see our mission of education as a way to empower and develop the talents of the poor village children to attain its full potential. Maria Rani School has always imparted the students a value based education to lead a joyful life with the moral values. Our aim is to provide the best of education in the area that promotes human values.

A strong spirit of JMJ, harmony, mutual co-operation and support characterize the team of staff which make up the Neelacamp campus. Staff work together to understand the needs and aspirations of the children. The education is broad and the academic side is combined with physical, cultural, health, moral, spiritual and environmental education.

We are grateful to God for His abundant blessings upon our school and children. May the Almighty God fulfil His divine purposes through our mission to be a channel of peace, harmony and tranquillity.



**విద్యార్థులకు ప్రశంసా పత్రాలు అందజేత**

ప్రశంసాపత్రాలతో విద్యార్థులు

నవతెలంగాణ-రెంజల్  
మండల కేంద్రంలోని మరియు రాజీ పాఠశాలలో బ్రిటిష్ కౌన్సిల్ ఆఫ్ స్పృకెన్ ఇంగ్లీష్ లో 45 మందికి ప్రశంసాపత్రాలను అందజేసినట్లు సెంట్రల్ ఎడ్యుకేషన్ ఆఫీసర్ తోష నషీమ్ సోమవారం తెలిపారు. పాఠశాలలో 4వ తరగతి నుంచి 7వ తరగతి వరకు 45 మంది విద్యార్థులకు స్పృకెన్ ఇంగ్లీష్ పై శిక్షణను ఇచ్చినట్లు తెలిపారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వం నొకేన్ ఇంగ్లీష్ శిక్షణ పొందిన విద్యార్థులకు ప్రశంసాపత్రాలను అందించినట్లు తెలిపారు. కార్యక్రమంలో ప్రెసిడెంట్ జ్ఞాన, ఉపాధ్యాయుడు ఆర్.గృ రాజు తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.



## JMJ COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY AT BEL-AIR HOSPITAL, PANCHGANI

- Sr. Shobha Rani Polisetty JMJ

Bel-Air was founded by Dr. Rustomji Billimoria in 1912 as a TB Sanatorium, to control the spread of TB in India. The control of the hospital is under the Indian Red Cross. In January, 2003 Fr. Tomy was the key note speaker at the Sister Doctors Forum of India, conducted at Mumbai. Dr. Sr. Rosily and Dr. Sr. Lillian (the then Provincial) attended the meeting. Sr. Rosily was inspired by the ministry of Fr. Tomy for HIV/AIDS at Bel-Air Hospital, Panchgani and volunteered to work at Bel-Air. With her previous experience in HIV/AIDS care in Ghana, she joined Bel-Air June, 2003. During her service there, she did her fellowship in HIV Medicine from Christian Medical College, Vellore and rendered her service for six years.



Fr. Tomy was instrumental that JMJ continues to collaborate working at Bel-Air College of Nursing. Sr. Lillian readily agreed to lend sisters for this ministry. Sr. Martha Thirumalreddy and Sr. Joyamma worked from 2006 to 2011, followed by Sr. Lourdu Mary Nagothu from 2011 to 2018 and Sr. Amala Xavier from 2018. During these years Bel-Air College of Nursing steadily became one of the best colleges of nursing in Maharashtra state and now is rated as one of the top nursing colleges in India. The College is in collaboration with University of Illinois, Chicago and Colombia University, New York.



JMJ sisters deputed to Bel-Air also received training and exposure to international expertise. Sr. Rosily and Sr. Martha were sent to Chicago. Later Sr. Lourdu Mary had ongoing visits and trainings in Chicago. She was part of developing a Masters of Nursing HIV/AIDS curriculum with the help of UIC and received the Excellence in Global HIV award from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care in 2017 at Dallas conference, USA.

JMJ sisters started working in **St. Xavier's School** from 2012 which is adjacent to Bel-Air Hospital. Sr. Catherine James and Sr. Jessy Cheemalapenta worked in the school and Sr. Shobha Rani Polisetty is the headmistress. The school has a founding partnership with school of EUMIND (Europe Meets India). As part of the program Sr. Shobha visited Belgium with a group of students. St. Xavier's gives an opportunity to JMJ Sisters to be better educators.

The mission at Panchgani has also given the opportunity for the JMJs to be partners in various national and international programs. Fr. Tomy facilitated St. Joseph's College of Nursing, Nellore to be a sub-recipient of Global Fund Grant (GFATM) and a partner training institute of Indian Nursing Council. Being inspired by services of JMJ Sisters at Bel-air; Johnson & Johnson has sanctioned annual grants to ANM program at Nellore.

Our sisters living in Bel-Air are able take decisions, to live according to the spirit and charism of the Congregation and stand for Christian values, serving the poor through the healthcare and education ministry in an unknown culture and language. It's our privilege to be witnesses of JMJ Spirit at Bel- air!

# WISDOM'S WHISPERS

## THE JOY OF LIVING AS A JMJ SISTER

- Sr. Josephine Chackery

I am ever grateful to the Lord for inviting me to be with Him and to be sent out in service. Forever I cherish my call to the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph, as it has molded me and taught me both to abide in God and to be available in service. As I decided to be a religious, it is God's eternal plan and providential care that brought me to this Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph.



What motivated me the most from the Founder's life was: *Fr. Mathias Wolff's unconditional trust in God and his untiring zeal for the salvation of the souls*. As I began and continued different stages of my religious life, the life of the Founder had been the source of my inspiration, motivation and encouragement. I love his writings and teachings to our first sisters. I love the faith and traditions that our Congregation follows. What fascinates me about the Spirit and Charism of JMJ is its relevance. It is relevant to all people, to all places and to all times. The emphasis given for 'obedience' is enormous and I have experienced the rewards that *obedience* brings in our personal life. The importance given to the virtue of *humility* and to the aspect of *discernment* is tremendous. These aspects have helped me both at my work as doctor and in my community to make right decisions, be it to save a life or to settle down a conflicting situation.

'*Trust in God, Obedience, Humility, Spirit of Discernment and Zeal for souls*' are the most important virtues that helped me to live my religious commitment faithfully and fruitfully. I was chosen to spread the healing power of God and the congregation educated me to be a qualified gynecologist. During my formation, during my studies abroad (even both of my companions left the congregation after their studies) and at every moment of difficulty it is the zeal for the salvation of souls and the charism of availability that kept my faith to go on without looking back. Trust in God and spirit of humility has helped me to accept my sickness and limitations gracefully.

As I am now retired and taking rest, spending time in prayer and silence, I wish to say one thing and that is – living the Charism faithfully gives me lot of satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment. Being in medical field, I had seen and experienced lot of pain, poverty and suffering, sometimes it was difficult to face them, but the '*Examination of Conscience*' which I have learnt in our Congregation has helped me to grow gratefully, to cultivate positive attitude, to be available and compassionate. I never failed in my daily examination of consciousness and that helped me to live our rich Charism more profoundly and faithfully.

Today I am a happy and most satisfied JMJ sister, and I joyfully spend the evening of my life, may be hours, days, weeks, months or years in singing the praises of God Almighty and praying for the continuation of the mission of God through the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph.

***May God be praised at all times!***



## GROWING GREY GRACEFULLY

*- Sr. Perpetua Bastian*

I was born on 16.02.1925 in Madras Mylapore now renamed as Chennai, where Saint Thomas the Apostle of India lived and martyred. I was baptized in the Cathedral and named **Antony Cecilia**. My parents are **Mr. Simon Joseph Bastian** and Mrs. **Navamani Arokiamary**. I am the only daughter and eldest in the family. I have two younger brothers Joseph and Maria Dass. We are brought up well in God fearing ways.



Later on my family moved to Bangalore and I studied at St. Andrew's Parish School. My School life was pleasant and I used to attend the Holy Mass and Catechism classes where sisters spoke about the qualities and values of religious life. Since I lost my mother at the age of eleven, I was much cared by the sisters of St. Joseph of Tabes. I was inspired by their way of life in the convent, prayer life, observance of silence and recreation after school hours, especially after dinner. So I was determined to become a religious and expressed my desire to my father.

I joined the Society of JMJ in the year 1948 and made my final commitment in 1954. As a sister of JMJ, I was inspired by the life of Mother Jacqueline, Sr. Hedwiga and other sisters, the way they kept up the time table of religious life and their love for the poor. I admired Mother Aldegond who was getting financial help from abroad to educate poor children, to help sick with medicines, giving clothing, visiting the families and helping them to get small jobs and providing them food at the parlor door.

I was qualified as Staff nurse, Midwifery under Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey and Diploma in Nursing Education. I rendered my services at Guntur, Bangalore, Nagavara, Hanuman Junction, Thecklur, Porumamilla, Siruguppa and Srisi. Besides being a Nurse and Tutor, I was always interested to teach catechism to children and share the good news of God to the people. After my retirement I rendered my services in the pastoral care department of St. Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore.

As a sister of JMJ, I was always obedient, being a true daughter of our founder; I lived up to the spirit and charism of Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ. I believe that self-help is the best help and God helps those who help themselves.

My advice to the young generation is: Be constant in prayer, love your vocation, follow the norms without fail, live your vows faithfully, follow the model of the Holy Family and love & live the spirit of the Founder. Living up these essential fundamentals of our life authentically, helps you to be a true and happy religious.

## MY CALL TO JMJ - A DIVINE ENTERPRISE

- Sr. Josephine Miriyala

### Call to be a Christian

I, Sr. Josephine Miriyala hail from a traditional Hindu family. I am the youngest of three children to my parents. After my father's untimely death, I was admitted to a boarding school run by JMJ sisters in Nellore. While I was in the boarding, I used go to church daily along with catholic children. There arose a great desire within me to become a Catholic. When I was in standard 7, I was baptized as 'Mary Josephine' (Venkat Narayanamma) on August 11<sup>th</sup> and received first Holy Communion on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Eventually my mother and brother too received baptism. By seeing the faith of my family, my married sister and brother-in-law received baptism and enabled also all their four sons as born Catholics.



### Call to be a religious in the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ)

When I was in standard 8 in Nellore, I had an admiration for sisters of JMJ, some Dutch missionaries who took care of little children. I heard an inner voice calling me to be a religious like them to serve God and his people. We celebrated my brother's wedding while I was in Teaching training course at JMJ Training School in Kurnool. Later on I got a government teacher post at JMJ sisters School at Porumamilla. It was at this place that God prompted me again of my hidden desire to be a religious, which took root during my standard 8. This time the call was so strong that I left the government post and refused the will of my family members to get me married.

Through the advice of JMJ sisters, I took a strong decision to follow Christ through JMJ Society. On June 1971, I entered into JMJ religious formation as an aspirant at Guntur. I prayed to God to form me as an authentic religious and prayed to Mother Mary and St. Joseph to intercede for me. I decided to follow the will of God and belong to Him alone by professing my first vows as JMJ sister in 1974.

### Call to be a channel of HIS love and mercy

My religious life enabled me to become an inspiration to the young girls in the school and in the college. I encouraged and nurtured the young girls and boys to respond to God's call to religious life by my way of life, very presence, words, deeds and contacts. I became an instrument to pave the way to about 16 girls to be religious in JMJ Society and five boys including my own nephew to become priests in Catholic Church.

### Call to be a missionary

After my retirement I was sent a missionary to Ghana, Africa. I surrendered to God in faith and said yes to be a missionary in overseas. I am most happy having served at JMJ School, Atebubu, for six full years and returned for good due to my ill health. God chased me to promote vocations in Ghana region too.

I am ever grateful to the Congregation of JMJ for providing me great many opportunities to upgrade myself to post graduation and serve as a teacher, headmistress, principal in educational institutions and superior of the communities. I am truly grateful to God for His providential care and I thank all JMJ sisters of past and present who equipped me to live up to my consecrated life fully in JMJ.

## THE TREASURE OF MY VOCATION

- Sr. Alphonse Mary Ukken

**“There is not enough darkness in all the world, to put out the light of one small candle”.**

As I have traversed several decades of my life in my faith journey, sometimes I wonder, what was my life all about? When I was a young religious, I used to look at my life and say to myself, there is plenty of time to reach the goal of my life, to grow in spirituality. But today when I look at myself I have quite different feelings. Oh! How soon everything is over, my childhood days, my school days, my growing up days, my experimental days, my crisis period, my silver and golden years, finally my years of realization that everything in this world passes away sooner and faster than we think or dream off.



Life is like a dream which melts away before we realize that it was only a dream and not a reality. When I reached the cross roads of my teens, suddenly and firmly I said, “Yes” to God’s invitation and took a small step to follow the great Jesus. As I moved further step by step in religious life, I started to question myself, was my **yes** a mistake or a hasty decision or was I running away from the world of reality? Though all these questions crop up in my life, one thing I am sure of – God really called me to religious life as JMJ and it is definitely God’s plan for me and I haven’t faltered in my choice. I feel so sure of this because today I enjoy the inner freedom, peace and happiness which I cannot find anywhere else in this world. How correctly St. Augustine expressed the disposition of his heart when he wrote “our hearts are made for you, O Lord and they can never find their rest until they rest in you.”

The inner urge and thirst for God finds its fulfillment when I encounter the person of Jesus through my prayer and meditation. I was really captivated by all loving, compassionate, intelligent and prayerful person of Jesus. My desire to know more of Him compelled me to read many spiritual books as well as the Bible which propelled me to follow Him fervently. Today, as I look at my life, I feel that this attraction towards Jesus and His firm grasp on me kept me as religious in spite of my downsides. St. Paul says, “have the spiritual treasure in clay pots”, yes it is true that we are frail human beings. The spiritual treasure of my vocation is safely guarded by the mighty hand of Jesus and He never allowed me to free myself from His loving hands even though I tried to escape from Him, time and again.

Today I feel happy and contented to be a consecrated person and consider everyone and every being as my own and to give them all a place in my life. Although I don’t have any remarkable things happening in my life, I find my life full of surprises and miracles – some of them sweet to cherish yet others painful to be healed. St. John of the Cross has rightly said, “God’s greatest gifts fall into empty hearts” so also my call to religious life is the most beautiful gift that I have ever received from God and it becomes more eventful to live the same gift sincerely and whole heartedly as a member of JMJ Family.

# YOUTH ECHOES

## BEAUTY OF JMJ COMMUNITY LIVING

- Sr. Elizebeth Rani Koligela

Alone I can 'say' but together we can 'talk'  
Alone I can 'smile' but together we can 'laugh'  
Alone I can 'enjoy' but together we can 'celebrate'  
That is the beauty of JMJ community life!



The world is our planet; the collection of communities. In Henri Nouwen's words '*community living is a celebration.*' Celebration means to lift up the gifts of the people with whom we live. To lift them up and say, hey sister, I see something beautiful in you and I want to lift it up, I want to celebrate it, I want to recognize your goodness. You have a gift of gentleness; you have a gift of humor. I want you to recognize it'.

Living in a community, every JMJ sister leaves behind what is familiar to her and learns to sow the seeds of goodness and love among her fellow JMJs. It is inevitable that whatever our life touches will have our finger prints left on them, thus, leaving one's identity behind.

If we think of our religious life spent in a community, someone's lifestyle might have made a strong impact on us. You are what you are today mostly because of what you have observed and learnt from others, rather than what you were taught. Therefore, being conscious of what you say and how you behave is imperative, because you do not know when and how you are creating lasting impressions on others.

My memory lingers around my community – JMJ Nilayam, Bangalore as I pen these lines. We have a great opportunity of living in the midst of living saints, who have left indelible mark on our history. It is our senior sisters who selflessly dedicated themselves to a noble cause, so that the future generations would have a better life to live. Every child can be privileged at the maximum to have the caresses of grandparents, but we at our community are blessed with a bunch of them, and one will never realize the taste of it, unless experience it personally. Here when some one's absence is felt, they wait the comeback. The number of queries like 'How are you?' 'How do you do?', 'we are praying for you!' are posed by great a many of them. This sort of an enquiry makes one feel belonged and reassured of their love.

The tiny and big lessons learned every day in our community are noteworthy. We gratefully and fondly remember our sisters who sacrificed their past to make the future more colorful and spending their present time to inspire and entreat blessings on the young ones. Those persons who sacrifice themselves and spend their life selflessly serving others even after their death will continue to live in the memory of people because of their magnanimous deeds.

*'The world is full of angels; if you can't find one, be one'* is a popular saying. Life presents before us golden opportunities to make our community a beautiful place by a kind deed, a warm smile, a genuine gesture of appreciation, mindfulness and selfless love for the unloved. Let us remember the axiom: *'Before you leave, love. Before you expire, inspire'*

Let our life be an inspiration to someone to love more and build up a happy JMJ community.

## RICH EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSECRATED LIFE

- Sr. Sanjukta Ekka

*“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.” - Acts 6:4*

Consecrated Life is a gift of God to the Church through the Holy Spirit. When I think about my religious life it is really a God's Blessing. Even though life is difficult and challenging yet something from within is drawing me to follow the footsteps of Jesus. Daily I experience new possibilities and opportunities. Regarding my vowed life, especially poverty I question myself to be simple and possess nothing. I admire the life of Mother Mary who lived a life of poverty willingly with Jesus in Bethlehem. Her life is one of the greatest example set before me. I am also inspired by our sisters who practice poverty with regard to material goods.



The vow of chastity reminds me to love everyone and to be pure in my heart and mind. To keep myself pure in all aspects of religious life and to embrace self-denial. I am also reminded of the word of God. **Be Holy as your heavenly Father is Holy.** Every day I pray that, help me Lord to transform myself and love everybody.



The vow of obedience for me really it is challenging because to humble myself before others is difficult but through prayer, placing my trust in the Lord, I ask for the grace to practice the vow of obedience. I need to imbibe simplicity, humility, freedom from attachments and inclination towards complete renunciation.

Our founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ always sought and surrendered to the will of God, detaching himself to draw the souls, as many as possible. Being a religious in our congregation to surrender oneself is more demanding. But by knowing more about the exemplary life of our sisters lived in the past and living in the present is more encouraging, inspiring and drawing me to dedicate myself to the Lord.

As we treasure our consecrated life through the beautiful Charism of our Congregation of JMJ **“AN EVER ADAPTABLE APOSTOLIC AVAILABILITY”**. I am able to avail myself to the needs of the church and to be a witness to the world. The fire within me burns with zeal to be a collaborator in the service of the Lord. As a Consecrated person I need to go out of self to reach out to the people, to step out of my comfort zones and maintain a **culture of encounter** wherever I live.

I conclude that **call to live for him alone** in today's context is truly amazing. The mystery of God's intervention in our life is very unique. But I strongly believe that I am called to practice the virtue of hope, the fruit of our faith in the Lord of History, who continues to tell me that **“Be not afraid ... for I am With you”**.

## MY CALLING AND CONVICTION - GIFTS FROM GOD

- Sr. Anitha Showri Rani

When I said “yes I will join the convent and become a nun”, I actually had no idea of what I was saying. I didn't know then it was God calling, and me answering His call. At that time, what was strongly at the back of my mind was to serve the poor, a deep rooted desire in me by the life example and activities carried out by Sr. Jaya Ratna Bala, who was my Headmistress.



Initially, I felt very proud of the sacrifice I made, of the comforts and pleasures I gave up, but as I continued to live my religious life and started to relate to God, I began to realize that what I gave up or left behind is nothing, compared to the Joy and Blessedness that I enjoy as one consecrated to the Lord. Today having lived for 19 years as a consecrated woman, I would proudly say that *'My Vocation is a Gift from God, I am chosen not by my merit but by the mercy of God.'* I have no regrets, demands or complaints but I am grateful to God and I love to Glorify



God, always I repeat the words of our Founder “*God has pulled you out of this world because He foresaw all the things that might have happened to you.*”

In my journey as a religious, I haven't gone through much of discomfort, discouragement, disappointment, disturbances, attractions, etc., but what keeps me go on is my conviction that God called me and chose me to be Holy, He consecrated me to be His own, to be with Him and to be sent out. The Lord strengthens me every time I start to drift away in every aspect of my life, be it physical, social, spiritual or emotional.

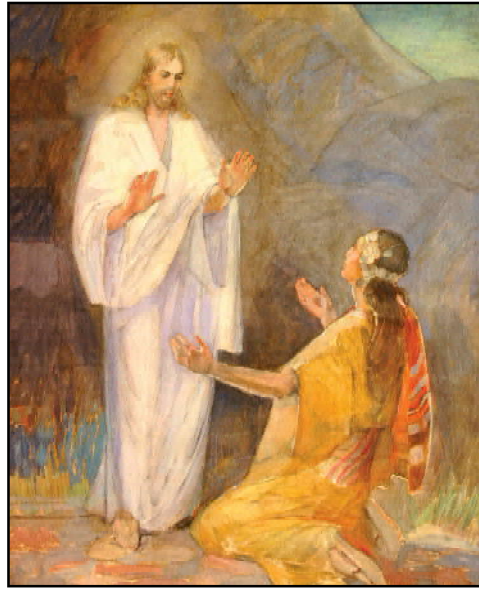
I realized that ‘purity of Heart’ is what God desires from everyone and all the more from His chosen ones, thus I try to live by the beatitude of *'blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.'* The aim of my life is *'to see God.'*

Two things that help me in my daily life are: Practicing to live in the presence of God and meditation on the Word of God.

I am weak, I often fail or fall but setting up the above goal and practicing them help me to get up, to be strengthened and to get back. Today I decisively say that I am a joyful religious, trying to find God in every suffering human face. My ministry as a pharmacist helps me to dispense God's grace to all who come to me, and my involvement in other activities to help people always brought me face to face with Christ and facilitated me to find joy and contentment. I am ever grateful to the Congregation of JMJ that gave me ample opportunities to comprehend that I am chosen by God and I am His own.

## REFLECTION ON ENCOUNTER

### Mary Magdalene: The encounter 'between misery and mercy'



- Sr. Christina Arokiya Mary

The encounter between Mary Magdalene and Jesus has been called the encounter “between misery and mercy.” She initially washed His feet out of contrition, and after His death, out of respect and adoration. She stayed with our Blessed Mother at the Crucifixion. She didn't run off like the apostles.

Mary Magdalene was a beautiful woman. She was well known throughout the area for her transgressions. She was the epitome of human frailty. She had so much beauty and so much potential, but she used it for bad instead of good. Couldn't that easily be said of each one of us? Haven't we each fallen short of the mark?

Like any human being, Mary Magdalene wanted to be loved, but kept looking in all the wrong places. Then she looked into the eyes of the Master and found what had been so elusive. Jesus loved her unconditionally. He loved her for who she was and not for her beauty.

Could God ever forgive her for her sins? Could God ever forgive you for your sins?

Sometimes, we seriously doubt that God could forgive us because we have committed serious sin.

Think about her conversion, about how she wept, and about how her tears helped to cleanse Jesus' feet. Reflect on how she then wiped them with her beautiful, long-flowing hair.

How did Jesus respond to her love? Look at who was given the privilege to announce the Resurrection of our Lord. It wasn't Peter, the first Pope. It wasn't even John, the beloved disciple. No, it was Mary Magdalene, the great sinner! That should give us all great hope.

Don't ever doubt the mercy of God - It is unfathomable and unwavering. It is like an ocean that has no bottom. Let the mercy of God be your life vest as you traverse the ocean of life's struggles and the valley of tears.

When in doubt about God's mercy, remember and trust in the words of Jesus to St. Faustina, “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy”

**May God's peace be with you.**

# MYRIADS OF MISSION

## MISSIONARY ZEAL FROM GHANA RADIATES HOPE

*-Sr. Regina Zangiti.*

I always count myself as one of the blessed missionaries of JMJ Congregation in the world wide. That significant day of the month of July, 1999 still remains fresh in my memory as my flight safely landed at the Kotoka International Airport in Accra.

Not only that I was young but I was also inexperienced of life abroad. Even though I had warm welcome by both the students and sisters of Atebubu JMJ community, I must confess that home suits home. However, since it was a divine call I had no option than to adapt and readapt to that situations of life outside India.



I gradually and carefully studied the situations on the ground as far as both the community and outside the community are concerned. There, it was like day and night for I had to deal with people of different backgrounds in terms of culture and tradition whereby “Akwabaa” and “fufu” were respectively the welcome and the staple food of the people. They are friendly and Godly.

My success in Ghana depends solely on the respect for moral values and the sense of “we feeling”. I got to know this when I was asked to head the primary school at Atebubu. However it was a challenge to me in that the oral English in Ghana was a little bit different from that of my country. Even if the parent is educated, the tone, the pronunciation and the use of everyday vocabulary are purely for the British unlike the India. I took the pain to study these entire things one after the other.



My tour in the country also made me clear that the food basket of Ghana is the Brong Ahafo Region. Thanks be to God, I overcame every obstacle as with God all things are possible and also determination leads to success.

Not sooner than later, I became acquainted with things here of my first station Atebubu. Then I was transferred to the Western part of the same Brong Ahafo Region to teach in Girls Secondary School at Kwasibuokrom (KBK). I had no option than to go but the situation was quite different here; in that the adolescent girls are neither young nor grown up and the school itself was very small in terms infrastructure and the population. For instance as of that time the total population of the school was 40 with only one structure. But now I can brag of over 900 students and four story building. Glory be to God for His abundant grace on me.



And so from day one of the 2001, I had to readjust myself to the new situation at KBK in terms of curriculum, new context and people. I was more confused over the lifestyles of the young girls here unlike in Atebubu where the primary pupils take simple instructions here is different altogether. In addition that was a transition period taking over the management of the School from the American sisters to the JMJ sisters.

As an Assistant head, I had to merge the teaching and the discipline together in order to shape the behaviors of these young girls so that after the school life they will be able to fit into the society. I took the mantle of administration whole heartedly and called a spade a spade. I left no stone unturned. I worked hand in hand with Sr. Rosy the headmistress to elevate the school to a high level.

I again took the opportunity to learn more about the culture of the people. I further understood that in Ghana, much emphasis is laid on the communal values like the extended family, paying homage to the chiefs and respect for the traditional rulers and elders in all spheres.

I also felt that these students need to have the primary moral education which are parental care and love as the formal education deprived them from regular contacts with their biological parents. I am happy that I could transform many young girls from the destructive attitudes to the positive ones. Many are those who won the India High Commissioner's award to pursue the first Degree courses in the various universities in India.

Additionally, many of my products are living well across the length and breadth of the nation, Ghana. The community is always proud of my achievements for the caliber of young women I produce every academic year to the community and to the nation at large.

As the popular saying goes "if you do somebody's thing well, God will also do yours well". With this I am to say that my Lord God has taken me through all the educational ranks easily. I attended only one interview for each of the grades until I am now at the apex. Many are those who try these ranks severally to no avail.

In addition, I studied my Masters in Administration from the University of Cape Coast; the premier university of education in Ghana from 2016 to 2018. I am very grateful unto the Almighty God and the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph granting opportunity to become missionary!



## JMJ PRESENCE AT ZUNI, USA, FOSTERS CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- Sr. Ansi Anthonymsamy

We Srs. Ansi, Rajeshwari and Swarnalatha, working in Zuni under the fraternal guidance of Fr. Pat, wish to share something about JMJ Presence in the diocese of Gallup, the catholic parish and about our ministry of the parish and the school.

### Our Diocese

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Gallup is a multicultural, expansive diocese, comprising 55,000 square miles in Northeastern Arizona and Northwestern New Mexico. There are 53 parishes, 13 schools, and 5 social centers within the diocesan boundaries - all serving approximately 58,000 Catholics among a total population of 490,000. We are a Catholic community working for the salvation of souls, to ease the suffering of the human condition, to witness the truth, to help foster the overall fulfillment of life, and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Our Parish

From its foundation, St. Anthony has been providing quality Catholic teaching to the people of the Zuni Pueblo. A Parish and School were both established with the philosophy that "Catholic Faith and Education is the key for Native American youth to break the cycle of unemployment and poverty".

### Our School

St. Anthony's Indian School, has been serving the Zuni community for ninety six years. The Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration started to run and operate the school on September 3, 1923 with 43 students.

St. Anthony aims successfully to equip its alumni with the academic, moral and cultural ethos necessary for the 21st century. The school is open to students of all religious persuasions and offers high quality education with a strong Catholic ethos.

### JMJ Presence makes a difference

We are delighted that our JMJ presence is highly esteemed by the bishop of Gallup and Fr. Pat who is our spiritual father and the people as well. Yes, since the year.... we are part of this great mission making a difference in the lives of the people in general and children in our school in particular.

St. Anthony Indian School, Zuni is a Mission School and economically the people are poor. Most of the students come from the single parent, broken and drug addicted family. We encounter students who suffer from acute behavior problems, depression and lack motivation for learning. Teaching these students and sharing tender loving care needs missionary heart, true dedication and love.



# GLOBAL NEWS

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT AT THE EPIC EXPEDITION OF ROME

- *Srs. Brigit, Saritha, Sushila, Sobha, Jessy*



Our hearts knew no bounds when we received the news from our respective Provincials that four of us (Sisters Brigit, Saritha, Sushila and Shobha) are speckled out to attend the International Workshop on Project Management and Fundraising at Rome -The Eternal City.

With profound gratitude to God Almighty and to the General council, we express our sincere thanks for bequeathing on us this great privilege and marvellous opportunity.

The constant communication about the training facilitated the way for the active participation in the training program. Our hearts overwhelmed with Easter joy as our Etihad Air Craft took off to Rome with a short halt at Abudabi on the Easter Sunday. As we landed in the eternal city of Rome on 21 April 2019 and the affectionate welcome accorded by GC and Rome community enhanced our joy.

Our first day-out was marked on 22 as we explored the historic city with the visit to the renowned churches of St. John de Lateran, Scala Santa, Santa Prassede, Santa Maria Maggiore and Our Lady of Perpetual Succor which left us spell bound. The magnificent structures adorned with splendid art reveal the holiness and grandeur of the Eternal City.

### **Project Management and Fundraising Workshop 23-27 April 2019 Rome**

The workshop was a joint venture of Proclade Internazionale Onlus, Mission Project Service (USA) and the Institute of Theology of Consecrated Life, Claretianum. The training offered expert advices on current trends in fundraising and priorities of donors to fifty two religious and priests from 19 countries.

The objective of the training was to empower the participants to raise funds for their apostolate using available scientific methodologies. The ultimate attempt is to set up a common mechanism for Catholic Development Practice where all the Religious Congregations and Diocesan Social Development Institutes can link their apostolate and work as mutual Sustainable Development Agencies.

Fr. Lord Winner, the main trainer, together with other experts coached the participants on Problem Tree and Logical Frame Work Matrix, Risk Analysis, Project Time Line, Finance Plans, beguines Sustainability in Projects, Monitoring and Evaluation. Implementing Projects towards Sustainable Development Goals was the key topic which urged the participants for aiming towards it by integrating their projects with UN sustainable development goals.

The Certificates of participation were awarded to each participant by the chief guest on the last day. Gratitude filled in the hearts of one and all. 'I am going home richer with ideas' was the pleasant remark of every participant.

After the Training programme, we had exciting pilgrimage to St. Antony of Padua and St. Mark Basilica at Venice. We never even thought that a day would come true in our life as we visited the place of the miracle worker, saint Anthony of Padua.

The generous and gratuitous offer of General Council was the visit to Assisi on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Assisi is a beautiful town built on mountains. Our walkathon lead to the uphill churches of St. Damiana, the first convent of St. Clare, St. Clare's Basilica, the childhood home of St. Francis, Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and Basilica of St. Ruffina.

Another golden opportunity awaited us on 1<sup>st</sup> May to participate in the Papal audience at St. Peter's Square, Vatican City. We were very fortunate to have a close glance at our holy father Pope Francis. It was an electrifying moment, we were so overwhelmed with joy by Holy Father's graceful and cheerful countenance so much so we felt like we have achieved a life time blessings. Another ecstatic and propitious offer by General Council is to visit The Netherlands for three days accompanied by Sr. Valsa. The loving and friendly gestures of Sr. Gre Pronk impressed us a lot and challenged us to be cheerfull at the service of others. We are blessed to walk on the land where our Founder walked, lived, preached and spent most of his time. Sr. Gre drove us to Heiswijk. Our visit to the JMJ Sisters cemetery and tomb of our Founder left in us an indescribable experience of inner joy. Our interaction with the aged Sisters at Heiswijk was a wonderful experience of warmth of love with great reciprocity. We had the opportunity to meet our Indian missionaries Sr. Regula who had her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and Sr. Gerard Mazallo as well at Boxel.

Our guide Sr. Valsa who lived in the Netherlands for 21 long years was generous to give us the glimpses of as many places there. She facilitated a trip to Culemborg where our founder worked tirelessly as a parish priest to revive the faith of the Catholics stands as a monument and witness for the saintly life of our Founder. We walked the path he walked, saw the town hall where he was tried by the accusations of the Protestants, St. Barbara Hospital etc.

We were glad to find a street that is named after our Founder as Fr. Mathias Wolff Street which testify the contributions made by our Founder in the lives of the people at Culemborg. Our visit to Culemborg where much of the life of our founder was dedicated brought alive to us the 'Ravenging Wolf'. We could witness the history of JMJ and the monuments left behind speak volumes of the past glorious years of the Society of JMJ. With mixed emotions of gladness and sadness we bowed our heads in gratitude to God.

Next day we went to Amsterdam the capital city of Netherlands. We visited the royal palace, Begijnhof in (beguines) – a house in which a first group of women religious lived in a community.

We visited the monument at Nijmegen where eight JMJ sisters along with forty two school children died during the First World War. It was a happy moment for us to meet Sr. Laetitia, the Provincial Superior of Dutch Province at her apartment as she hosted a tea for us.

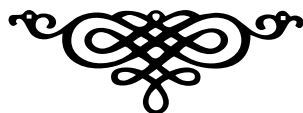
Keukenhof the famous and mind blowing tulips garden was one of the most exciting experience to see the beauty of the God's colourful nature, it was a feast to our eyes.

We are grateful to Sr. Threse Berenson who with great affection hosted a delicious lunch for us in her apartment close to magnificent Marienburg complex. Needless to say that today it stands tall & wide silently witnessing JMJ presence. Sr. Brigit had the opportunity to attend the UISG conference while we were in the Netherlands.

With grateful hearts we followed our itinerary to visit the remaining places of importance in Rome like St. Paul's Basilica, Tre Fontene – the place where St. Paul was beheaded, Prison of St. Peter & Paul, the Basilica's of St. Cecilia & St. Agnes, Colosseum, Catacombs St. Callixtus, Quo Vadis, Vatican Museum - with its awesome treasures of the Sistine Chapel, marvelled at the masterpieces of Michelangelo, one of the greatest art collections in the world. We climbed the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, Castle san Angelo, Trevifontein was exiting. Every visit was a great learning for life and renewal of our faith.

We are privileged to get the seasoned and expert guides Sr. Mary, Sr. Vijaya, Sr. Valsa, and Sr. Celine who accompanied us to different places and walked with us during our expeditions at Rome and The Netherlands.

We are indebted to our Leadership teams – Sr. Innamma & GC and PCCI for granting us this astonishing opportunity and for diligently designing our schedule for this exceptional exposure which has broadened our entire perspective about life, mission and spirit of availability. We are grateful to Rome Community for its extraordinary hospitality. We are deeply touched by the gestures of their great sacrifice and adjustability and caring for our every need very lovingly.





## WHAT ARE THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for *peace* and *prosperity* for *people* and the *planet*, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Read more information from:

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

Today, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues, including water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science and technology, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), partnerships and Small Island Developing States. DSDG plays a key role in the evaluation of UN system wide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on advocacy and outreach activities relating to the SDGs. In order to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, broad ownership of the SDGs must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the global goals. DSDG aims to help facilitate this engagement.

Follow DSDG on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sustdev](http://www.facebook.com/sustdev) and on Twitter at @SustDev.

### Call of the Church: Laudato Si (Praise Be to You) and SDGs

It is already five years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 by 193 States, as the major international consensus on integral human development. Pope Francis made a major contribution to the fundamental principles underpinning the SDGs through his Encyclical **Laudato Si** and adoption of the 2030 Agenda Declaration and the 17 Goals which constitute the SDGs. It should also be recalled that Pope Francis addressed the United Nations General Assembly before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was tabled for adoption. Catholic Development Agencies led by Caritas Internationalis and the Holy See Mission in New York also actively engaged in the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) processes that championed the drafting and negotiating the Declaration and the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

## **Pope Francis urges personal conversion in implementing Sustainable Development Goals**

Pope Francis said, that global development goals need to be supported by ethical objectives stemming from personal conversion and recognition of one's failures. "The economic and political objectives must be supported by ethical objectives, which presuppose a change of attitude, the Bible would say a change of heart" Francis emphasized that "for a correct transition to a sustainable future, it is necessary to recognize 'one's own mistakes, sins, vices or negligence,' 'to repent of heart, to change from within,' to be reconciled with others, with creation and with the Creator" (Pope's 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato si'*)

**Read more information from:** <https://laudatosi.com/watch>

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/laudato-si.html>

## **International Conference on "Religions and the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, together with the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue at the Vatican, convened an International Conference on "Religions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" at the New Synod Hall, Vatican City from 7 – 9 March, 2019. The Conference adopted the pedagogy of **SEE, JUDGE, ACT** to assess status of global implementation, gain deeper understanding of the SDGs in the light of faith and agreed on the unique contributions that Religions can make to promote and to implement the SDGs. The Conference emphasized the interconnections among all 17 distinct goals and 169 associated targets of the 2030 Agenda by what is known as the five "Ps": PEOPLE, PLANET, PROSPERITY, PEACE and PARTNERSHIP.

The Supreme Pontiff re-echoed the need for inclusive approaches that ensures that the poor are not left behind, development that ensures the integrity of creation, recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and the important role of Faith Groups and International cooperation.  
[https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-/SDG\\_Guidelines\\_January\\_2019.pdf](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-/SDG_Guidelines_January_2019.pdf)

## **Union International Superiors General (UISG) and the SDGs**

"Sowers of Prophetic Hope by Caring for Creation" —was the sub-theme for the of the UISG 2019 Plenary Assembly that took place from 7 to 9 May. After a brief period of recollection before the plenary icon, 800 Superiors General prepared themselves to listen so as to ask: "What are we hearing?"

<http://www.internationalunionsuperiorsgeneral.org/design-change-laudato-si>

Sr Judette Gallares said "prophetic hope is rooted in the prophetic experience of mysticism, which aligns the prophet with God's plan and vision.... The prophet's closeness to God enables him to see the entire creation—the universe, the planet and everything in it from God's perspective".

Those who embrace such a vocation today need to tell: "to lament environmental destruction and evoke the memory of God's dream for creation, raising consciousness of the global ecocide that threatens humanity and the entire planet in the here and now".

Women religious, following the intuition of Jeremiah, have always found God's presence among the "broken and dispossessed, the captured and conquered", the "vulnerable and innocent".

“Prophetic hope exists on the margins and is rooted in solidarity with the sufferings of those in the margins.... Caring for our planet is becoming an imperative in expressing our love of neighbour...”

Loving our neighbours must include doing what we can to enable our planet to sustain the flourishing of our fellow human beings”.

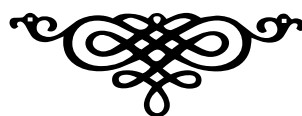
The prophetic vocation of women religious to that of Jesus himself who was “deeply connected with everything that came into being as spoken by his Father”. Living in continuity with the prophets of old, women religious embrace lives that “bring wholeness and healing to our broken and vulnerable planet”. Inspired by St Paul’s words to the Romans, by groaning with all of creation that “we await the redeeming power of God’s love restoring the original goodness and beauty of all there is”.

### **UISG Initiative**

UISG, in response to call of the Universal Church to care for the creation as sowers of hope for the future, a web site was developed ([www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org](http://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org)), a newsletter created, and a video demonstrating how congregations “are engaging in many important works” was realized. Besides networking with UISG member congregations, the campaign is also networked with the Global Catholic Climate Movement and with the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development.

### **UISG invites every member congregation to participate in the campaign:**

“As international congregations we need to look at the ways we have been guilty of environmental destruction and disregard for these consequences to one another and especially to the poor. Sisters are present in countries where the lifestyle negatively impacts the rise in temperature, effecting climate change and where they are most affected by climate change. Our communities are both intimate with the cause and effect. With our personal commitment to one another, we are ideally positioned to respond compassionately in an integrated effort. As a community of Sisters living the Gospel, in solidarity with one another, we know that everything is interconnected, and we wish to live our religious life for the common good in our environment, our common home.”







# JMJ Congregational Priorities



*Spirituality*



*Finance*



*Formation*



*Leadership*



*Community Life*



*Mission*