



The

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ENCOUNTER

Know... Grow... Flow into fullness



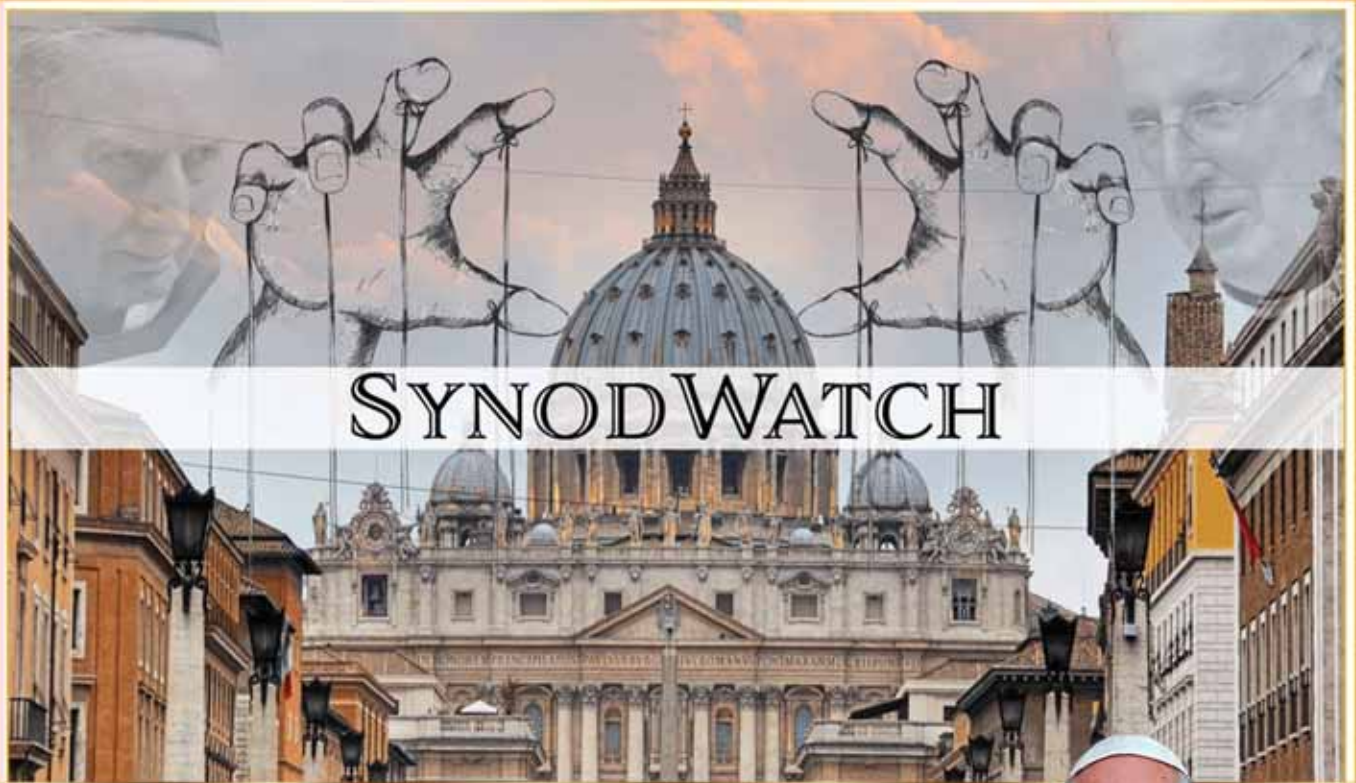
For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Space for 
SYNODALITY
within 200 years of JMJ legacy

200 *jmj*

Merry
Christmas





SYNOD WATCH

SYNODALITY is not a chapter in an ecclesiology text book, much less a fad or a slogan to be bandied about in our meetings.

SYNODALITY is an expression of the Church's nature, her form, style and mission

- Pope Francis



"SYNOD ON SYNODALITY" isn't just a self-referential bureaucratic exercise. Cardinal Martini Lives on. This is a story about the origins of the "synod on Synodality." All his life, Carlo Maria Martini (pictured above left) was a dreamer. In the Italian documentary Vedete, Sono Uno di Voi, we hear Martini's conviction that only dreams make reality bearable.

Read more:- <https://onepeterfive.com/the-weapon-of-the-st-gallen-mafia-is-synodality/>

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EDITORIAL

- Sr. Mary Karickakunnel JMJ



Encountering Together an Emerging Future as Vessels of Hope: the theme aptly chosen for our first Congregational Chapter invites us to be vessels of hope in all our encounters. Hope is the virtue “by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1817).

We are in the Christmas season – celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Saviour: His birth is a source of hope. In his Christmas message during the covid-19 pandemic in December 2020, Pope Francis affirmed that despite the great difficulties we are facing, the birth of the Child Jesus tells us that “pain and evil are not the final word”. He invited all his brothers and sisters “to work to bring hope, comfort and help to those who suffer and those who are alone”.

According to His Holiness, we must celebrate Christmas meaningfully and joyfully because it is *par excellence* the feast of compassion, of tenderness. Its beauty is humble, and full of human warmth. The beauty of Christmas shines through in the sharing of small gestures of concrete love.

One of the most important topic often discussed these days is, “*Synod on Synodality*”, where the

Church focuses on Communion, Participation and Mission. As the word ‘*SYNOD*’ signifies, “**walking/ journeying together**”, Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission. By journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through her experience.

As we celebrate the Bicentennial year of the existence of our Congregation, we have chosen the theme: “*Journeying with Mathias Wolff, Rekindling JMJ Legacy*”. We have a legacy of hope. In the midst of many uncertainties, the Lord allowed our Congregation to march forward with great faith in His Divine Providence and hope in His promises.

Journeying together on the path of our Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff, we rekindle the JMJ legacy, going hand in hand with the three-fold objectives of the Synod – Communion, Participation and Mission, where each of us has a unique role to play in living upto the charism and spirituality of our Congregation.

As we celebrate the Christmas, let us open our hearts, welcome everyone and offer the love, peace and joy, which we ourselves have received from the Lord at His birth.

M E R R Y
Christmas
 to all and a grace-filled
NEW YEAR
2022



BICENTENARY YEAR OF THE SOCIETY OF JMJ

A celebration and a challenge



The celebration of the 200 years Jubilee of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph founded in 1822 by Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, in the Netherlands is going on in the three congregations: the Congregation of JMJ, Congregation of Sisters of JMJ and Congregation of Our Lady of Amersfoort. Blissfully we have already joined the global JMJ family to celebrate God's faithfulness and providence of two centuries on the occasion of the inauguration of the Bicentenary year on 29th July 2021.

This great event invited the entire family of JMJ, to pay our homage to the Saintly Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, and hundreds of JMJ Sisters who have lived his Legacy. We are thankful to God that we are part of this extraordinary Bicentenary year which makes sense of our past, fills us with delight for today, and a vision of hope for tomorrow. Keeping our faith alive and valuing our vocation, we are challenged in this confusing modern society to move forward on our journey walking in Founder's footsteps, transforming our life as consecrated religious, inwardly renewed by the Lord Himself.

Unveiling the Bicentenary Logo on the occasion, Sr. Innamma Yeruva, the Superior General exhorted the global JMJ family, JMJ Associates and Collaborators, for revitalization of Fr. Mathias Wolff's spirituality, charism and mission in responding to the challenging needs of the people in our suffering world.

A heart-warming colourful and creative prayer service on virtual platform was the high light of the event. Speaking highly of the contribution of JMJ sisters in the fields of healthcare and education with a special emphasis on Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey's sacrificial life, Rev. Bernard Mores, the archbishop emeritus of Bangalore imparted His Apostolic blessings. The voice of every JMJ sister unitedly resonated as the prayer service ended with JMJ anthem – *we belong for ever to this Holy Family of Jesus Mary Joseph.*

The yearlong celebration of the Bicentenary of JMJ was thus begun with spiritual renewal programs and it will culminate on 29th July 2022. All of us are exceptionally blessed to actively participate in the monthly webinars, reading and reflecting on the writings of the Founder as a means to inwardly transform our lives at personal as well as community level. One of the most awaited events is the celebration of the Bicentenary with a Papal audience on the 29th June followed by a Holy Mass in the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican on 30th June 2022. About 100 JMJ sisters from Indonesia, India and The Netherlands shall be participating in this event.

JMJ Bicentenary Theme - *“Journeying with Mathias Wolff, Rekindling JMJ Legacy, invites every JMJ sister and JMJ collaborator, to fan to flame, the love and mercy of God in our broken world.”*

-Vijaya M. Udumala, General Councillor
Bicentenary Core Committee Coordinator



What so ever you do to the least of my brothers ...



Sr. Philomena John Mundackal
JMJ Nilayam, Bangalore

Charity Promotion Movement (CPM) in Stanislaus campus, Bangalore is not a new mission; it is continuation of the charitable works of committed persons like Sr. Aldegondis, Sr. Hedwiga, Sr. Egberto, Sr. Perpetua etc. After the demise of our beloved Sr. Aldegondis, when Sr. Sundari Singareddy, my then Provincial Superior asked me to continue her mission, I said 'Yes' to her in obedience and I have experienced the power of God, inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the healing touch of the Divine Healer Jesus.

I began this journey in 2008 and when I look back to the past 12 years, I see that it was and is a journey with God all the days. I realize my nothingness and the blessing of the Lord because He was leading me completely to an unknown world, with great support of good people with finance and encouragement to help the poor and the needy. In the beginning, people knocking at our parlor door were innumerable and from far and wide. God inspired me to start a new venture to visit their homes with the help of our sisters and lay associates and started to concentrate on one slum and seven years we empowered them with various activities.



Now the Self Help Groups (SHG) is self sufficient by the seminars on empowerment and they manage themselves. We are helping more than 60 students for their fees and books every year and admitting them in one of the prestigious schools in Bangalore.

For these students we get financial help from the Provincialate. With the intention of helping more students, the students above 10th Class are requested to pay back the amount when they take up a career. At present we are training the girls for private study and to attempt 10th Class exam, giving free tuition for the SHG members' children with the help of our lay associate and many others and started a library for students and women with the help of the Lions Club of Bangalore and Peenya.

WE PRAY Group: During the Covid Pandemic the SHG were empowered to conduct meetings on their own, the group members were called at different intervals to understand their situation and strengthened them with words and kind. By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we started a new program called "WE PRAY" (Women Empowerment Program and Reformation of Adolescents and Youth) group. We inaugurated this new venture officially with the Holy Eucharist at the Sacred Heart Parish on 27th November 2020. The specialty of the group is that all members are widows. At present there are 35 young widows and 40 widows above 65 years, whose young and adolescent children we care for. We have a holistic approach towards their growth. Empowerment classes are arranged every alternative month on different topics by efficient persons including our own sisters and help them with counseling and guidance.

Pandemic: During the time of lockdown we helped 1500 families and 20 transgender with provision and 300 people received hot packed food in the morning and evening every day for a month. This was possible with the help of many benefactors. Food and snacks were distributed to migrant workers in railway station for their travel.



Rosary Mission: Fr. Bobin Thomas, the previous Chaplain of St. Philomena's hospital taught us how to make rosary. We, the CPM members got an inspiration to make rosaries. In the beginning we made the rosaries, sold them and continued the mission. Later I remembered the words of my father to us his children that religious articles should not be sold rather give them freely. So now I ask our benefactors to send money to the bank for rosary mission and we distribute the rosaries free of cost. We pay Rs. 10 per rosary for those who make them. It is a great help for the families for their daily bread. This year we gave more than 900 rosaries to different persons, parishes, and institutions.



Summer Camp: From 2014 onwards we are hosting programmes for youth, ladies and children like sports, singing competition etc. Past 4 years we were conducting Bible quiz for the SHG members and children.

Clothes Distribution: From the beginning people used to give us good clothes for the poor and we distribute them. During the pandemic we got new clothes for the youth especially from Don Bosco priests and it is a great help for the poor and the needy. The clothes reached more than 150 youth and children.

Medical Help: From the time of Sr. Aldegondis, people were receiving medical help. Now we take them to our hospital with free card, give medicines and do the follow-up. We do accompany the psychiatric patients with much attention.

Organic Garden: The Governing Body of St. Stanislaus Convent, decided to give some area of the campus to start an organic vegetable garden and our ladies were entrusted to cultivate and use the vegetables. We were giving vegetables and edible leaves to our benefactors and well wishers freely because 'we plant and God gives the growth'.



Surf, Shampoo and Soap Making: Some of our sisters and SHG members had training in Kerala, Kannur for making surf, shampoo, etc. During the time of lockdown we were making surf and giving freely to the ladies.

Prayer is the key for the success of our work. We do not have any projects from outside. Our resources are many God fearing, generous benefactors. Daily we, the members, children and ladies who are present in the office pray the Mercy Rosary at 3.00 pm. Miracles take place by this prayer. I thank everyone for the prayerful support and encouragement and I gratefully acknowledge that each sister – young and old – is part of the CPM as it is a campus activity.



My Mission Experience through JMJ Charism Leading to God



Sr. Mary Edakulathur
JMJ Convent Giridih

“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16)

I am ever grateful to Almighty God for the precious gift of my vocation to the Congregation of J.M.J. From my young age I had great desire to be a missionary and to serve the poor and the sick. The charism of our Congregation enabled me to serve in various ministries. Being qualified in nursing profession, I worked in the cancer unit of St. Joseph's Hospital, Guntur. Inspired by the compassion of Jesus, I cared for the cancer patients with much compassion, gentleness and love helping them to find their strength and trust in the Lord. I offered them to the Lord and witnessed the healing power of Jesus. This in turn deepened my faith.

In all my apostolic activities prayer was the key to success and I enjoyed the inner peace.

Following our Founder and imbibing his spirit, “One who calls herself a true sister of J.M.J. should be ready for anything”, I said ‘yes’ to be a missionary in Rome. I served the Universal Church through my service to the Dutch College for 12 years. We, the first batch of Indian missionaries to Rome, were very enthusiastic, united and shared all domestic work in sisterly love, with much joy remembering the words of our founder, “Work like a giant and do everything for greater honour and glory of God.” Being a nurse I rendered my service to the senior citizens of the parish. They appreciated our culture, love and concern for them. Thus I enjoyed my mission in the Eternal City of Rome and fulfilled my duties to my heart's contentment.

Fr. Mathias Wolff urged the sisters, “When you are where God wants you to be stay there but when He wants you somewhere else depart.” I said good bye to Rome and came back to India, Hyderabad

and had the opportunity to care for the children in TLC home for adoption. Till date I cherish the memory and my service in TLC as the smiles of the unwanted abandoned, girl babies found life and new homes. TLC home also filled the vacuum in the lives of childless couples. I experienced the need to love and to be loved in a human existence. My service bore fruit when a childless couple was united with an abandoned child and a family was created.

Yet another call to serve the sick awaited, when I moved to work in collaboration with Jamshedpur diocese hospital to care for the HIV/AIDS, T.B and Malaria patients. The

patients being very poor, we provided free treatment. I had ample opportunity to listen to those poor patients who had no hope and struggling to survive. My primary mission was to strengthen their hope and share the love of Jesus. I worked with much joy to live the charism of an *Ever Adaptable Apostolic Availability*. I experienced God's love and mercy in my entire given mission which helped me come closer to God with faith and trust. It strengthened my vocation to live for the greater glory and honour of God. In all my apostolic activities prayer was the key to success and I enjoyed the inner peace.



In the Footsteps of the Stalwarts of JMJ

Sr. Mangala Mary Lourdusamy
Guntur Province



In the tradition of JMJ we have been praying the highlighted prayer of our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff every day. These few lines reveal to us who our Founder was and how he found happiness in fulfilling God's holy will. Existence of our Congregation of JMJ is the will of God. The seed of JMJ Society planted by Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff continues to bear fruit to this day. In this bicentenary year I fondly remember our Founder, and the JMJ sisters, who found their happiness in God alone and fulfilled God's will in the field of Evangelization and Pastoral ministries. I am happy to recall Fr. Mathias Wolff who was the pioneer of Catholicism in protestant Holland of the postwar Napoleonic time. The Church in Holland is indebted to our Founder for the strength she acquired to rise from the catacombs to

*Change me into Thyself dear Lord,
That I may live in Thee
and for Thee alone
May my happiness on earth
Consist in fulfilling Thy Holy will*

freedom. He restored the Stations of the Cross in the Churches. As confessor he was in great demand not only during the daytime, but also in the evenings. He was considered to be a prophet and miracle worker by the people of Nijmegen and Culemborg. The mandate of Jesus accepted and lived literally by our beloved Founder was passed on to our early sisters.

Our Dutch pioneers who landed in India in 1904, regularly visited and instructed the Christian and Non-Christian communities in the far of villages, and also in urban areas. They usually stayed overnight with the poor in the villages, adjusted themselves wonderfully with very many inconveniences like travel, culture, food, shelter, language, climate and weather. There have been innumerable personalities who spent themselves for the cause of direct Evangelization. For them no obstacle was too great, no trouble too much, no distance too long, and no sacrifice too painful as they were gripped by the Spirit of Christ to bring the Good News of Salvation to the poor and the abandoned.

In the footsteps of these stalwarts of JMJ I am happy to share my journey of evangelization apostolate – the joy of being part of this universal mission. I have the satisfaction in helping people to experience God, in fact they do help me to have the experience of God through their lives. Sometimes I am wonderstruck to see the change in the people; sometimes felt unworthy when people attribute to us as god or Mother Mary while talking to them and visiting them in their life situations. The assurance of God, His guidance and the intercession of Mother Mary in my life keeps me proceeding further till the end of my life to dedicate completely for this cause of Jesus, spreading His Good News, no matter whatever be the obstacle from within and without. There is joy in living for the Lord alone and of course our happiness consists in doing the will of God like our Founder. Gratitude overwhelms my heart for the gift of our Congregation, for training me in all the ways possible, and providing everything that is necessary for the fruitfulness of the mission and not expecting any benefits for the Congregation through this ministry. May our Holy patrons Jesus Mary and Joseph continue to guide us in our Pastoral and Evangelization ministries.

My Healing Ministry in the Midst of Covid 19



Sr. Theresa Terence (Dr)
Bangalore

The Unfolding of Events

All was well until January 2020. But the sudden appearance of Corona virus on the horizon threw life out of gear. The abruptness of the pandemic caught everyone unawares, not knowing what to do. I was no exception. The initial spread of the pandemic in India coincided with the preparatory year for my post-graduation studies at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. Although we were given leave for preparing for the final examinations scheduled to take place in May, we, the post-graduate students were called back to the hospital and pressed into service from March onwards. I was to work in labor room dedicated to Covid affected pregnant women. That was the need of the hour. Everything else was uncertain. No one knew when and whether the examinations will take place. With several postponements and much confusion and uncertainty prevailing till the last moment, our examinations finally took place in July.

Unlike in the past, this time the results were declared 10 days after the exams. Soon after, we were assigned duty in Covid ICU. Like all my companions, I was totally ill-prepared to deal with Covid patients. Our training and preparation was completely in a different area. But there was no bargaining or excuses. It was real emergency all over. When Covid declined, we went back to our own respective departments. When it looked like everything was swinging back to normal, the

second wave swept through the country. The magnitude of the pandemic was unimaginable. At its peak, St. Johns had to stretch its services to ten thousand Covid patients! My service in Covid ICU lasted nearly three months.

Personal Struggles

In the beginning I thought Covid was a remote reality; it's in Wuhan or in one or the other places in India, but never did I imagine that it would intrude into places thought to be secure like St. John's. The spread was so rapid that all of a sudden I was awakened to reality. With the imposition of lockdown and Covid appropriate behavior, we were almost catapulted into another world, having to adapt ourselves to the prerequisites of a new kind of life. Anxiety, lack of preparedness to manage Covid patients and fear concerning my own safety in the context of many of my co-workers themselves contracting Covid and going into quarantine, and reports pouring in from all over about the death of many doctors and health workers, were indeed depressing.

The agony of the new attire, that is, health workers having to wear the suffocating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) goggles, face shield, N95 mask and gloves was even a greater challenge. Performing surgeries became ever so difficult with the fogging of the goggles with my own breath. Every alternate night and day duties in PPE for 10-12 hours, without interval, food or drink or even the use of washroom was experienced to be too cruel. To add to that I myself had experienced Covid symptoms four times. Fortunately I was tested negative all four times.

Unforgettable Experience of a Life Time

Ministering to the Covid patients in ICU was an unforgettable experience of a life time. Though in St. John's medical college I have seen patients with



all kinds of illnesses, never before have I seen such widespread suffering and untold agony. Everywhere I saw death and decay. The atmosphere was filled with pain and fear, with patients apparently looking healthy, suddenly deteriorating and falling dead one after the other in a short span of time, right before my eyes. The generally silent atmosphere of the ICU was continuously disturbed by the groan and agony of patients struggling for breath. It was an unbearable sight to behold; still difficult was the experience of I having to break the news of the demise of patients under my care to their dear ones. Such news was inevitably received by the dear ones of the dead with weeping and wailing. It was heart rending to see them weeping inconsolably. On many occasions I too broke down and wept with them. The thought that every dead person is father/mother, brother/sister, son/daughter, husband/wife of someone pained me intensely. Another deeply painful experience was hearing the desperate plea of helpless family members, "madam, somehow, please save my"

Experience of God and Prayer

Like all other religious, I too was used to fixed hours of prayer and spiritual exercises. But Covid upset all sorts of schedules. There was no possibility of finding any fixed time for prayer. Worse still was the abrupt cutting off, of the daily spiritual nutrient, the Holy Eucharist due to the imposition of lockdown. Confronted by the magnitude of suffering and frustration, my own faith began to ask questions. It looked that the spiritual and physical energy supplied by faith which sustained me in religious life and which gave me motivation to face the negativities and odds of life with courage and confidence in the past, all of a sudden was no more available. For a period I experienced some kind of emptiness within; I felt that my spiritual foundations were being washed away from under my feet! In the midst of the helplessness and frustration, it appeared that God had secluded himself into quarantine!

But such confused feelings were momentary. In the depth of my heart I was convinced that "faith

is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen" (Heb 11:1). There will be certainly light at the other end of the tunnel. Soon I threw caution to the wind and renewed my resolve to render every possible support to the patients. Almost spontaneously I began some simple spiritual practices. I would entrust myself daily to Mother Mary's care. Secondly, I would leave my room for duty every day with a powerful "psalm pill" which would henceforth become my daily nutrient and immunity booster. Even in the midst of my busy schedule, my thoughts would occasionally move to the example of the daring and dedicated healing ministry of Servant of God **Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey**. Her memory was a source of sustenance and it enabled me to persevere in the ministry with renewed vigour and determination. The words of **Fr. Mathias Wolff** too offered me comfort and consolation. Remembering and silently reciting some of the biblical verses occasionally also was a source of strength for me. One such verse which energized me was Proverbs 3: 5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him, and He will make your paths straight."

At some stage I realized that the lockdown and the temporary suspension of sacramental life in the Church was an invitation for believers to look for God's grace outside the sacraments. I remembered the saying of our founder, "In everything we must seek God". I started seeking him in the cries, in the tears, in the sufferings, in the fear and anxiety, in the helplessness of people, in my own doubts and limitations, in the wavering and questioning faith and above all in the emptiness and hopelessness that surrounded me. Soon I realized that these are the components that constitute the fabric of a genuine prayer.

More than ever in the past I realized that work is worship. Dedicated and committed work in the service of the poor and suffering motivated by love is the most beautiful prayer acceptable to God. I experienced that such prayer is eminently fulfilling.



Wisdom refers to God



Sr. Aloysine Attapuram
Hyderabad Province

Wisdom 6:14 says that one who wakes up early in the morning and reaches for her will early find her, for she is at the door waiting. Looking at these words and reflecting over it, I feel the same of our senior sisters who are growing grey gracefully.

The word wisdom refers to God and His wisdom is imparted to mankind through the Holy Spirit in our Baptism, Confirmation and other Sacraments. The whispering of wisdom is heard from our dear parents as they have been waking up early morning and directing or leading us to the Lord to be grateful to Him for the new life that is given each day. Whether it is understood or not we have been following their guidance in obedience. The seed of Wisdom in the form of faith started to grow in us from childhood, leading to an age of realizing in oneself the call of our vocation to a particular way of life – the religious life.

When we look into the life of our senior sisters, having accepted the call they follow the rules and regulations, made their vows, started to live a life of commitment, accepted the apostolate entrusted to them whether great or small, high or low, smooth

or rough, and they whole-heartedly carry them out in faith with cheerfulness. Whether it is success or failure, they do everything for the greater honour and glory of God, placing their trust and confidence in the Lord, following the model of our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff S.J and by listening to the whispers of wisdom from one another in the community.

While growing grey gracefully, their dedication and attachment to the Lord and mission keep them young. They stay ever busy by enquiring of the various apostolates, guiding and inspiring the younger ones from time to time, praying for the good of the Congregation and sharing their life experiences.

They remain through their life example, a lighthouse to the youngsters showing the way in a deep and vast ocean to reach the shore. Their lives are a beacon of model for all of us. They are most interested to know the signs of the times, spend time in prayer, mortification and making sacrifices and thus growing grey gracefully.



Imbided by the Spirit of Our Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff



Sr. Ann Louise Mallavarapu
Guntur Province

We the members of CJMJ are highly privileged to have a lot of preparation to celebrate the bicentenary of our Congregation, which is indeed a God given opportunity, a time of grace with bountiful blessings. We are inspired and encouraged in many ways to look back to the history of the Society of JMJ with grateful hearts. God in His goodness, chose Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, to be our Founder, who guided our pioneer sisters with utmost care and love, that they may be faithful to their call and live up to his spirituality and charism, which he handed down to them. History reveals to us that the seed which is sown has grown into a mighty tree bearing plenty of fruits for the growth of the Church and the extension of the Kingdom of God.

Here I wish to portray the great personality of our beloved Founder who was a man of vision and mission, a free child of God his loving Father. He trusted in God in such a way that he totally depended on the Providence of God in everything.

A glance at his personality reveals to us that he was:

- ❖ a cheerful and humorous person, rich in imagination.
- ❖ a man of God and a man for the people.
- ❖ a miracle worker and a prophet in the eyes of the people.
- ❖ a brave and courageous man.
- ❖ a hard worker who dared to take risks.
- ❖ a person for whom contemplation and action flow from each other.
- ❖ the one who practiced childlike simplicity and humility towards God.
- ❖ over zealous to save souls.

Since our Founder was endowed with the virtue of humility, he was fully aware of his unworthiness before God. Thus, God's providence was the

spiritual strength by which he could go forward in his life. With this virtue of humility, our Founder could practice the vow of obedience as perfectly as a true son of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Trusting in God and obeying His will in all circumstances, became the core value of his spirituality. Therefore, highly impressed by the noble personality of our Founder, I was inspired to write the following Be-attitudes which might enable all the JMJ sisters to live up to the spirituality of our saintly Founder.

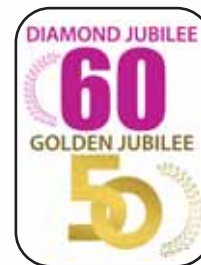
BE-ATTITUDES:-

1. I want to work like a giant.
2. I wish to live with the Lord of the world and work for the world of the Lord.
3. I deeply desire to be drowned in the love of Christ and spread the love of Jesus to many people.
4. I am enthused to help out the needy, the poor and the sick.
5. I wish to experience deep spiritual joy in finding God in everything and everything in God.
6. I wish to live the words of John the Baptist: "Jesus must increase and I must decrease."
7. I am eager to grow into the image of Christ and bring greater glory and honor to God alone.
8. I wish to be ever grateful and faithful to my vocation, through the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph.

We earnestly pray that each JMJ sister imbibes the values of our Founder and grow into his spirituality of '**ascending to God**' and '**going out to the people**' in need. May we realize that the deepest truth of our lives is found only in doing His will in every minute of our life. Therefore, we need deep faith, firm hope, immense love and total surrender of all that we are and have.

The Musings of Jubilarians 2021

**Diamond and Golden
Jubilarians 2021**



*“We will give thanks to you, LORD, with all our heart;
We will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” (Cf. Ps 9:1)*

We, the Diamond and Golden Jubilarians arrived at JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore, on 14 September 2021, where we were extended a fabulous welcome including cake-cutting as an ecstatic expression of meeting one another after a long period. It was a joyous and beautiful moment for all of us.



On 15 September, we went to Prerana, the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, to attend the seminar and retreat. A mixed group of 70, including sisters belonging to different congregations and some priests, preparing for their diamond, golden, and silver jubilees and for the final profession was present.

The seminar on ‘Ageing Gracefully’ by Rev. Fr. Freddie D’Silva S.J, helped us to realize that the afternoon of our life is just as full of meaning as the morning, though its purpose and meaning are



different. As we grow, we are offered the opportunity to find meaning in becoming whole and wise. Instead of ageing, we could call it sage-ing.

He led us to an inward journey to release our pre-occupation with the outer world and to turn inward by consciously choosing the inner way as we separate the wheat from the chaff, to turn away from things that have no ultimate meaning to us, and to welcome the onward journey with a good diet, exercise, cheerful heart, and an optimistic attitude. We resemble and witness a sanctuary light that burns silently in the presence of the Lord.

Mr Stan Lobo’s presentation on ‘Self-transformation’ brought to us the awareness that it is a present-day activity. So we need to be present and open to the moment that is unfolding before us and not miss them by being lost in the past or anticipating the future. He enabled us to turn towards the inner power within us, reminding oneself of the infinite power that can heal us and awaken us to enhance spiritual growth which helps us to be mindful of the ‘NOW’ and live in the present. The realization that we are made in the image and likeness of God, filled with God’s indwelling presence intensify our positive thinking.

We, 46 Golden and Silver Jubilarians belonging to various congregations began our retreat on the eve of 22 September, led by Rev. Fr. Pradeep Sequeira SJ. He led us to experience restful moments with his humour and rhythmic voice which has a therapeutic effect. The inward journey helped us to see how faithful God was. We have experienced that the journey has been fulfilling and demanding, risk taking and exciting which was filled with gains

and losses, stuffed with joys and sorrows and in all these the God who called us and consecrated us was always with us, enabling us to live the spirit of our founder and demands of the congregations.

The fruitful sharing of our experiences and the joy of meeting together in the presence of Sr. Anthony Mary Dasari, the provincial superior, was a rich experience. We were affirmed with the positivity of mind and heart at the evening of our life.

Other memorable event was visiting our beloved departed at St. Patrick's cemetery, paying our respect and homage to them, praying for their eternal reward and seeking their intercession in our lives. The splendid welcome at St. Stanislaus campus, encounter with our sisters in both the communities, orientation to the new O.P.D. Block, the meaningful prayer service followed by greetings, presentation of gifts and sumptuous dinner were remarkable. Our joy had no bounds and we burst in great exuberance and laughter, at the warm reception we had at various communities in Bangalore. It was an experience of JMJ togetherness and oneness.

Jubilee bells rang, and with a meaningful prayer service, the Diamond and Golden Jubilee celebrations began with its pomp and gaiety on the eve of the Jubilee, i.e., on Saturday, 3rd October at 6 pm. Graceful and godly was the whole atmosphere on the next day at 7 am, as we gathered together for the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration by Rev.Fr. Dionysius Vaz SJ, the Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit province.



We were elated at the melodious greeting song and felicitations with Power Point Presentation displaying each Jubilarian's profile. We were

appreciated, applauded, and complimented with garland, shawl and souvenir. A beautiful cultural concert was being staged, the highlight of which was jubilarians' dance of thanksgiving where all the audience danced together, which permeated happiness, excitement, joy, and spark of energy. Delicious agape was followed.

We, the Jubilarians, felt and experienced the enormous love, merriment and blessedness from all the sisters starting with the provincial team of Bangalore. Every beat of our heart extends a thousand cheer and thanks to them. We, the 1971 batch had our silver jubilee celebrations in Bangalore hosted by late Sr. Joanette Mallavarapu, the then provincial superior. We are fortunate to have our Golden Jubilee too in Bangalore.



We are grateful to God for the gift of our vocation to live our lives, a life of joy and life of service through the Congregation of JESUS MARY JOSEPH. We thank Sr. Innamma Yeruva, the superior general and her council, the provincial superiors and the council for your guidance, direction, encouragement and love shown to each one. We express our big thanks to all the sisters in the communities, for you are the charming gardeners who made us blossom. You accompanied us in living our vocation and the spirituality of our Congregation. May God bless you all.

Our lives are a symphony of gratitude to God Almighty and to all our formators and sisters.

Congratulations

Always Ready for Souls



Sr. Rose of Lima
JMJ Nilayam, Bangalore

IT was when we had our annual retreat in May 1955 at St. Francis Church, my parish I heard a gentle inner voice within my heart that left me disturbed – the words from Mk. 16: 15, “Go to the whole world and preach the Gospel”. On the following day, Elizabeth Chakkappan and Annie Lazer, my close relatives and myself wrote our names in a book that was placed on the side altar entitled, “those who want to become missionaries, please write your name”. I wanted to go far away and become a missionary. My uncle Antony was the Head Master of our school and he was an inspiration in my life. My aunt Sr. Vianney FCC encouraged me to embrace the religious life. After SSLC, I completed my Diploma course in Embroidery.

I used to read a lot about mission work in magazines and was possessed with the missionary zeal. My aunt who was an inspiration to serve God and his Kingdom, began to be bothersome and she tried to discourage me for mission work saying that I would have to encounter strange people, strange language, strange climate and live under the Europeans. But the Holy Spirit was inspiring me to go for mission, proclaim the Good News to many, make them believe in God and baptize them. We got three addresses, i.e., Guntur, Vizhakatnam and Wayanad. I told my parish priest that I was writing to those three addresses and I would go to the one who welcomed me first. To my joy Mother Jacqueline JMJ wrote to me the welcome letter with mention of even the timing to be picked up from the station. I informed my father about this



happy news. At that moment my aunty Sr. Vianney told me that it was God’s call to go for mission and added that the Franciscan Clarist Convent doors were opened for me. Finally she blessed me, gave me one Rosary and said, “Mother Mary will be with you always, may Jesus hold your hand and lead you to His people”. I took courage and proceeded with my father by night train to Guntur. I laid my head on my father’s lap whole night and he might have prayed for me throughout the journey. The next day we reached St. Joseph’s

Convent, Guntur and that is how I began my life in the beloved Society of JMJ.

I made my temporary profession on 29.01.1960. My zeal to live as a missionary became stronger and I steadily grew in my personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I started to go to the people under the guidance of Sr. Anthoniya ammagaru. Sister was very good to bring the people to God and I was well-trained by her. I had a good number of transfers: I was in 12 convents under 24 superiors and

this all happened because I have taken the vow of obedience. I often remember the instructions of our Founder, “Bloom where you are planted”. I lived with the people and prepared many to become Christians. Only on Saturdays we come to the convent, rest of the time we were in the village doing the Heavenly Father’s business. I still remember, once when we went to a village during the winter, people offered us one cot with bombastic rope. We prepared the whole village for baptism, they stood family wise in two lines from the entrance door to the altar at Repalle church,

and Rev Fr. Showri Gopu baptized them. By seeing this, my heart rejoiced and I was satisfied. I had the similar experiences in many other places too. I took part in the cyclone relief work at Repalle, and witnessed heart-drenching scenes which made me strong. People called me 'Amma'.

Pastoral Care in St. Philomena's Hospital:

The pastoral team at St. Philomena's hospital has a fixed action plan drawn, allotting one ward each day, to pray over the patients and if any patient asked more about Jesus, we used to explain. As we pray, we experience the power of Jesus and the patients experience the healing of Jesus.

I like to share one such experiences I had on 6 July 2010. In the morning we started to pray in one of the wards. As we were passing by, the daughter of a patient (don't want to reveal the name) requested to pray for her mother who was very sick in the next bed. So we went to pray over her, but we were stunned to see her shouting, beating the bed and biting her teeth as if possessed by an evil spirit. We were frightened to touch her and pray. Her husband was crying, requesting us to pray for her. We could not pray as our mouth was dried and we were shivering. One of the prayer group members, said not to be afraid as she was with us. With her assurance I started to sing, "In the name of Jesus", by holding the crucifix but the

patient was wild. I did not give up but continued singing, "In the power of Jesus" but the patient was so wild and we continued to sing, "In the blood of Jesus". With these words she calmed down, clasped her hands and closed her eyes and appeared in a prayerful mood. The patient was quiet normal and her husband knelt to thank God and the group.

Later she narrated to us, how her family was led to believe in Jesus with that incident and their longing to receive Baptism, but as her uncles were strong believers in Hinduism, they couldn't receive baptism. She brought detailed information about the faith of the family in the Lord Jesus on a printed paper and asked us to read and to let others know that Jesus is the only true God in whom they believe. She wrote, "I'm very thankful to sisters Rose of Lima and the team. It's because of your prayers my mom was freed from all evil powers and was blessed. I am so happy that God answered my prayer and it's almost like a rebirth for my mom and I can never forget all these. I pray to Lord Jesus that he blesses everyone who helped me here, especially the sisters and doctors who cared for my mother. I'm very thankful to Lord Jesus Christ for being there with my family and He healed my mother."

I thank God for the gift of my vocation through which He makes use of me to continue His mission on earth.

BBC names Myanmar nun to list of 100 most influential, inspiring women



Heroic sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng confronts violence in Myanmar

Sister Tawng, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, kneels in front of police and soldiers during an anti-coup protest in Myitkyina, Myanmar, Feb. 28, 2021. Sister Tawng, who became a symbol of Myanmar's nationwide protests, has been named by the BBC as among the 100 most influential and inspiring women of the year.

Among the Nobel laureates, politicians and professors honoured by the BBC as among the 100 most influential and inspiring women of the year is a Catholic nun from rural Myanmar.

The photos and video of the 45-year-old nun on her knees with her arms spread wide, pleading with police, went viral in March. She reportedly told security forces that day: "You'll have to come through me. Shoot me instead of these young people."

Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng has openly spoken of protecting civilians, especially children. She was trained as a midwife and has led a life of service for the past 20 years, recently looking after COVID-19 patients in Myanmar's Kachin state. People in Myanmar praised the nun, including on Facebook."What she did is a deed which can be done by the people who have a big heart.

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/ministry/column/heroic-sister-confronts-violence-myanmar>

“ JMJ Congregation’s Call”... from Heaven



Sr. Suseela Agniparthi
JMJ Convent, Anakapalli

Two hundred years ago God thought of sowing the seed of JMJ with an innovative thought of education to the poor girls particularly in the Netherlands and perhaps for this reason God created Fr. Mathias Wolff to his pious parents at Diekirck. Everything happens with the knowledge of God – whether it is GOOD or BAD. And it’s ok to happen so because He is there all the time as He was there with our founder during the initial stages of our Congregation’s foundation.

We might not be able to imagine the struggles and oppositions our Founder went through, the personal fight within himself, the battle of his consciousness and the war between the internal and external spirit of his soul which he passed on to his beloved daughters. As a Legendary and a Revolutionizer he brought about drastic change in the lives of the poor girls of the Netherlands. The JMJ foundation is the result of his great enthusiasm, unquenched thirst for liberation and above all greater love for God. Thus, the fruitful service of JMJs – the uncountable, unimaginable and unchangeable services experienced by people all around the world during these 200 years is alive not in the minds but in the hearts of the people.

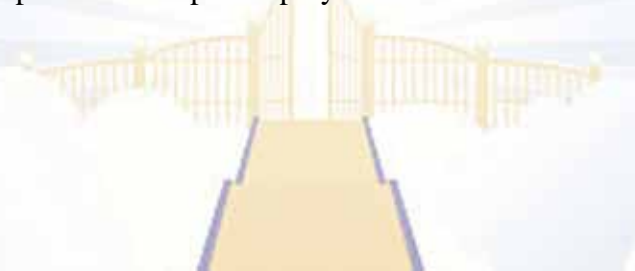
Simple people do things in a very simple manner realizing that they are nothing before God. Our Founder, who, for some of our sisters a grandfather was a simple man with a spark of smile on his face which attracted people to listen to his simple sermons with spell-bound inspirations. Mysteriously three girls came forward by themselves as the stalwarts to start the Congregation. What a miracle and marvel to be pondered! Their willingness and enthusiasm added

much more joy to our founder’s inspiration and things moved very rapidly.

It was God’s plan to have the existence of our Congregation which stands erect and straight in the world today, with 200 years of service. If one minute our founder had thought of giving up his call to start the Congregation, the existence of JMJ in the world might be an impossible and unimaginable thing. But God made it possible through our Founder and pioneer sisters, keeping his spirit of courage and commitment in their hearts.

**HEAVEN’S DOORS ARE
OPENED AND GOD’S
SPIRIT RESTED
UPON OUR FOUNDER
REV. FR. MATHIAS WOLFF**

Today not only days, months and years passed, but two hundred mighty years have passed bringing life to many through various apostolates: by our service of education, shaped the lives of many students, showing the golden path to build up their lives; through health care ministry, healed many people not just by medicines but with the power of God, love and service; through social service, brought coloured spectrum light to the darkened lives of many, and filled them with hope that there is a future with brightness of joy; and through evangelization ministry, spread the values of Jesus, that is, LOVE and lived the life of Jesus where in people could see and find another Christ in our beloved sisters. Our Founder left a great legacy for us to follow and his spirit and charism of “AN EVER ADAPTABLE APOSTOLIC AVAILABILITY”, which speaks mighty volumes. We march forward with the goal to do everything for the greater honor and glory of God as our Founder did using the powerful weapon of prayer.



Journey with St. Ignatius



Sr. Clara Asha Chacko
JMJ Formation House, Goa

My heart is over whelmed with joy to have a deeper God experience through Ignatian spirituality, a course conducted every alternative year in English at the Gregorian University, Rome. I am privileged to get a chance, along with Sr. Amalorpava Maria Arulsamy, our missionary in Ghana, to attend this 9 months course from 12 October 2020 – 26 June 2021, a course which is very much apt for my mission in formation of the formees. The topics were all about St. Ignatius and Ignatian Spirituality and I prepared a thesis on: **The Prophetic Charism and Spirituality of the Founder on the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph.**

This course which began on 12 October 2020 with an online inaugural Mass helped me to re-discover myself and to understand the life and conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola. I understood that Ignatian spirituality by its nature is spirituality for everyday life. It insists that God is present in our world and active in our lives. It is a pathway to deeper prayer, good decisions guided by keen discernment, and an active life of service to others. The Ignatian spirituality helped me to be open to whatever God is calling me to do in my life. It begins with an effort to cultivate an internal orientation which is fundamentally open to the world and its possibilities.

The learning of Ignatius of Loyola's spiritual development from his conversion to the writing of the Spiritual Exercises and his discernment demonstrates how Ignatius' approach to a disciplined spiritual life helps me fruitfully to balance the needs of my personal development with the demands of my ministry. The conversion of St Ignatius, however, set a new course for his life. It turned his life upside down and forced him into self-examination. Out of this spiritual awakening, Ignatius had a burning desire for holiness and a zeal to do great things for God, which ultimately led him to a lengthy process of self-surrender. This enlightened me to have a transformed look into my life and to make certain non-negotiable decisions in my life, especially to understand what is Christian maturity, a deep sense of understanding me and others as they are, matured relationship and friendships, and a balanced way of religious living.

When I look into his life it creates in me an intense desire to have greater intimacy with God. As I try to renew my relationship with God, I am able to refocus on my spiritual life. His life also helped me to put God at the centre of my life. I could look at the world not with fear, but with hope and the desire to set it on fire with the love of Christ. It was a



great eye opener for me to learn the new methods of meditation and I really found the taste for daily examination of consciousness, which I practice daily and insist the formees to do. The course on spiritual seeing was very much inspiring to have a creative gaze on the artistic creation on all the spiritual paintings, and statues and to have the divine encounter with the Lord, Mother Mary and all the saints. It helped me to rediscover the divine space where I can enter in and encounter the Lord in my life.

Other Exposure Programmes:

It was indeed a great joy and a golden opportunity for Sr. Amalorpava Maria and me to visit some of the countries like the Netherlands and Spain. It was an enriching experience to visit the JMJ sisters and the places where our founder lived and worked, accompanied by Sr. Valsa Koreth, the expert guide. I was very much touched, edified, and moved by the hospitality, love, care and concern, and their very life style. The in-depth sharing of Sr. Laetitia Aarnink, the Regional superior of the Netherlands was soul consoling for me. In her talk she mentioned one statement which I liked the most: "Community is very important and religious life is lived in community always and Fr. Wolff felt we can do it together".

Pilgrimages to various holy places of saints like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, St. Padre Pio, and many other saints, churches and catacombs in Rome, with the community was a joyful spiritual experience. I believe that I have received abundant graces to renew my religious life. Meeting the Holy Father Pope Francis in audience was a dream and through the providence of God I got this golden opportunity to receive blessings from the Pope.

Visit to Spain was another adventurous spiritual trip for us. Even though there were some obstacles we could overcome them. With the help of our sisters and others we could visit some places like Barcelona, Manresa where Ignatius wrote his spiritual exercises, St. Sabastian, Loyola and Our Lady's Shrine at Montserrat where Ignatius had

his God experience. All these enriched my faith in God and I deem it a great privilege to walk on the footprints of St. Ignatius. The most beautiful concluding part of the Ignatian spirituality was the eight days Ignatian retreat directed by our professor and Dean of the spirituality department, Rev Fr. Pavul Raj Michael SJ. These eight days of my spiritual journey was again a spiritual boost for my religious life.

Finally, coming to my community life in Rome was a rich experience. I really felt the homely atmosphere and the love and care I experienced from each member was marvellous. It was also a splendid opportunity that the authorities gave me to spend few months with my twin Sister Usha. It's really an unforgettable reality in my life and I thank God for this golden opportunity.

My sincere gratitude to Sr. Innamma Yeruva, the superior general and council and Sr. Anthony Mary and council of Bangalore province who gave me this opportunity to renew my life. In spite of the many hurdles during this pandemic, though at times we felt it is not going to be a reality, yet God made everything possible. It was a blessing and I thank all those who helped me to make this rich experience a reality. To conclude I can strongly say that I am trying to find God in all things as St. Ignatius lived in his life.



God's Encounter in My Life



Sr. Aruna Jyothi Kuluru
Guntur Province

Vocation is a personal response to a transcendental invitation to adapt one's strengths and frailties to make the world a better place through service, creativity, and leadership. It's a divine summons to "seek His kingdom and His righteousness" (Mt. 6:33), where each individual aligns, prospers and ingrains toward personal fulfilment according to the plan of God (Cf. Jer 29:11). Pope Francis articulated on the World Day for Vocations 2019, "The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a 'cage' or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking."

A memorable moment in life gripped my attention and faith towards my Groom and Master, Christ Jesus. During my early childhood, I accidentally fell into a deep well. The timely rescue hands of my grandpa and mom stamped the image of Christ Jesus and Mamma Mary deep within me. Of course, God has His own queer ways to seize our attention. He implanted a deep-rooted desire to embrace Him through the rescue experience from a deep well. Eventually, the rescue hands of my grandpa and mom cultivated roots and shoots to throw myself in to Divine Providence. Moreover, my parents nurtured me to sharpen and shape my faith in Christ Jesus. Sooner or later, my intimacy with Christ Jesus took turns to realize that He is my only saviour whom I can blindly confide. For, His invitation is "personal" waxed with a demand of "being with Him" (Mk 3:13-14). Meanwhile, I got in touch with Sr Chinnamma Kuluru JMJ, my aunt. Sparkles of her deep passion for religious life captured my interest. It reinforced the purpose of my life and religious vocation as I pursued my UG and PG studies at JMJ College, Tenali.

During this period, the sisters and Catholic friends at JMJ College groomed my thoughts to absorb the true meaning of religious life and in 2008, I embraced JMJ family. I was very much attuned with the spirituality and charism of our founder "**An Ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability**" that inculcated readiness for mission with singleness in vision. On 28 July 2011, I pronounced my first vows. My prayer during that moment was to enable me to live my entire life in JMJ and to die as a JMJ. Through personal, community and apostolic life, both in plenty and nothingness, I manifest His glory.

I feel more accountable to shoulder the responsibilities in the capacity of an educationist and vocation promoter. The portfolio of vocation promoter has helped me to treasure my religious vocation with greater care. It envisages moments to pay heed to the divine musings reverberating in the hearts of similar sort, "As you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'" (Is 30: 21). The grace-filled moment of the Bicentenary Celebration of JMJ Congregation is an occasion for every JMJ to entreat the blissful care of Christ Jesus in all ears -

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

The Joy of Consecrated Life



Sr. Supriya Jadala
Rajpur Province

“My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” is the song that lingers in my heart. Honestly speaking, at the age of 15, I heard a voice through Rev. Sr. Rajamma Gali JMJ to ‘follow Jesus’. Happily I said “Yes” to Him and joined the Congregation of JMJ. God has generously blessed me with so many gifts, talents and abundant graces for the glory of God and for the common good of the society.

As I was growing like a little sapling in the initial stages of religious life, I faced with many challenges and difficulties. I was tossed with the thought whether to continue or discontinue this way of life and will I be able to fulfil the demands of the gospel as a follower of Christ? In the process of discernment the Lord touched me through His words like, **“You did not choose me, but I chose you”** (John 15:16) and **“My grace is sufficient for you”** (2 Corinthians 12:9). These words strengthened me to follow the Lord whole heartedly. Since then, in joy and in pain I find my strength and rest in the Lord.

Our Founder’s words, **“God enters into an unselfish person”** lingers in my mind and heart while in the apostolic work. I, therefore, never get tired of working hard and doing what is right in the sight of God. I am easily drawn to help others cheerfully at any time without counting my time and energy. I am thankful to Rev. Sr. Alphonse Mary JMJ, who played a great role in my life in time of my discernment process. She was like an angel sent by God to guide, support and encourage me to continue my life as a religious in JMJ. Today I am happy to be a member of this active Congregation.

I am nourished spiritually through the daily Holy Mass, adoration, personal and community prayer and other spiritual exercises. The presence of God is experienced in and through my life and work. I am grateful to the Congregation for the opportunities provided for my growth.

All are called to seek God and my way is through the call to religious life. The joy of this life gets me up each morning and I am happy and grateful for it. I am so grateful to discover, share, and celebrate this life with all who have touched and shaped me as their younger sister especially the JMJ family. How blessed are we to be a part of the image of God!

*In joy and
in pain
I find my
strength
and rest in
the **Lord.***



A million thanks to the Servant of God Mary Glowrey



Sr. Swarna Latha Ramaji
Hyderabad Province

“From the rising of the sun to its setting great is the name of the Lord.”

I, Sr. Swarna Latha Ramaji, 3rd year temporarily professed sister from Hyderabad Province come to share my faith experience and favours received through the intercession of Rev. Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey.

I have read the life of Sr. Mary Glowrey and come to know that she was a great person but became a simple sister in the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph. I am inspired to know how such a beautiful person chose to give up her life for the sake of the poor and sick and how she loved to spend her time with the Lord as well as with the poor. The principle, “Ora et Labora” that prayer and work go hand in hand was true in her life.

Her simple life and commitment to God are tremendous. In admiration to her service to the poor and sick, I grew in special devotion to Sr. Mary Glowrey. I am glad to share about the miraculous intervention of the Servant of God in two events.

The first one is that my elder sister has been blessed with a girl child. It was in 2003 that my sister got a child after that the couple expected one more child but their wish was not fulfilled. After my first profession in 2018, I went for my family visit and while coming back I told my sister that “when I come home next, I shall see you with a girl baby”. Exactly after two years on 16th December 2020 she gave birth to a girl baby.

The second incident is about myself. I was sent to Gyarspur mission in Madhya Pradesh to teach in LKG and UKG class. While I was there, I experienced a terrible pain in my left ear. I was not aware how this pain developed, it was so intensive and the pain was increasing day by day. In a few days, suddenly there was bleeding from my ear. I went to Govt. hospital for check-up and doctor gave medicine. I used the medicine for a month, but did not feel any better. I informed my Superior Sr. Agatha who in turn explained my situation to

the then Provincial Sr. Celine Alapat who asked me to go to Hyderabad for checkup.

On consulting the ENT doctor in Hyderabad, I was informed that I have to get it operated but there is no guarantee that my hearing will be restored. But first I was asked to use the medicine for about a month until the infection is controlled. He told me to come in the month of December for the operation.

The turning point of my faith was when I attended the temporarily professed sisters’ meeting on 16th December 2018 organized by the General Council at Mangalagiri. It was a three days meeting and on the last day we got a chance to go to the Shrine of Sr. Mary Glowrey at Guntur. When I saw the tomb of Sr. Mary Glowrey, the Servant of God, I felt so happy because I was reading her life story and longing to visit her tomb. God my wish and I prayed with faith to Sr. Mary Glowrey for two intentions - for my sister to conceive and for my ear problem and after that I went back to Gyarspur.



After some days I went again to Hyderabad for the seminar. After finishing it, I went to the hospital for the operation. The doctor who checked me earlier was surprised and said that my ear was completely healed and there was no need for surgery. I was the happiest person in the world, because I know that it is only because of Sr. Mary Glowrey, I was fully healed and my hearing was totally restored.

I thank you dear Servant of God, Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey for bestowing these great miracles in my life. May the Lord soon elevate you to become a saint among all saints. Amen.

A desire to be ...



Sr. Sasi Lavanya Sundari Reddimasu
Hyderabad Province

At the moment we are at a decisive turning-point
In the history of the earth, once again.
From every side I am asked, what is going to happen?
Everywhere there is anguish, expectation, fear.
'What is going to happen?' ... there is only one reply:
If only man or woman could consent to be spiritualized.

Yes, pay attention to our spiritual journey and do it every day.
Like the oarsman who rows against the powerful current of a river;
When stop rowing, the boat drifts backward.
Same is of human spiritual journey.

The miracle that happens every time to those who really love:
The more they give, the more they possess.
The life that goes out in love to all is the life that is full, and rich,
And continually expanding in beauty and power.

St. Therese says: on the evening of love, speaking without parable,
Jesus said: If anyone wishes to love Me, all his life,
Let him keep My Word.
My Father and I will come to visit him.
And we will make his heart our dwelling.

Like a silkworm weaving her house with love from her marrow,
And dying in her body's threads winding tight, round and round,
I burn desiring what the heart desires.
Cut through, O Lord, my heart's greed,
And show me Your way out O Lord, white as jasmine.
You have no cause for anything but gratitude and joy.

Uniqueness of JMJ Education in the World



Sr. Fatima Mary Kommareddy
Guntur Province

Down the memory lane education is fundamental to every person to learn and to acquire the knowledge of life. Such education was only affordable to those who were well off. For the poor, marginalized, the downtrodden and especially the girl children education remained only in their dreams. The inspiring life of Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff takes me back to a tsunami experience where due to its power forces the entire ocean and earth is shaken. Similarly our Founder had shaken the ideologies of the hierarchy with his innovative decision of founding education institutions for poor Catholic girls who were deprived of their right to education. I like to portray our Founder as a man of unshakable trust and total dependence on God's Divine Providence who empowered and encouraged girls' education.

He opened a tiny school at Amersfoort with his first aspirants on 24th June 1823, actualizing his vision of educating the girl child as his mission. The single mustard seed sown by our Founder grew into a big tree and took various branches in the four corners of the world. Today it has many primary, middle and high schools and colleges where our JMJ sisters render tireless services without counting the cost.

The aim of JMJ education is the formation of principled, value-oriented persons for others after the example of Jesus Christ.

I deeply admire the supreme efforts of JMJ educators in the past and the present. They make a difference in the world of education and in the lives of many. But for the support and the assistance of their co-workers they would have faced tremendous difficulties in this ministry of education. JMJ educators believed that students deserve the very best learning environment in which they could

construct their own knowledge, learning, understanding and over all formation. Although the work of JMJ today embraces a wide variety of apostolates and ministries, they are well known for their educational works. Since the inception of the Congregation, JMJ sisters have been teachers, facilitators and motivators. Many of our education institutions are named after JMJ, St. Mary and St. Joseph.

The aim of JMJ education is the formation of principled, value-oriented persons for others after the example of Jesus Christ.

Today, the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph is one of the Catholic Religious Orders with the highest number of schools and colleges around the world. JMJ institutions are characterized as “**A Home for All**” for their simplicity, availability, adjustability and quality of educating the children without any discrimination. They are ever accessible to the poor and marginalized in providing value based education with quality that fit them as per the demands of the society. JMJ education continues to adapt innovative ideas and administer them according to the signs of time. Every child is molded in the hands of JMJ educationalists as a pot in the hands of the potter with gentle care and utmost attention.

According to the admonition of our founder to his sisters, “It is my fond hope that people will see something special in you” (*Sent by the Lord*, p.59), the same is inculcated in all our JMJ students. The priority of JMJ educational institutions is to implant in the students the skills and techniques, information and knowledge, understanding and respect of their duties towards society, families and the nation at

large. Therefore, we, the JMJs consider and focus on the magnitude of the importance of education in life as huge as well as manifold. It forms them to be multi-talented to bloom wherever they are planted in this modern era of Science and Technology.

We utilize education as the most important ingredient for the upliftment of economically weaker sections of society and to eradicate the hardships of discrimination, untouchability and injustices prevailing in the society. Education without values is like a flower without fragrance. JMJ educational institutions imbibe the qualities of good conduct, self-confidence and high values that would help students earn a significant place in society along with spiritual knowledge and spiritual consciousness.

As we blow the trumpet of God's love and mercy and the success of our existence during this Bicentenary jubilee year, I would like to authenticate that JMJ education brings transformation in students by emerging as good persons in their personal life, family life, work places and in the society at large. We take pride as the JMJ presence is multiplied in many parts of the world, yielding good name and fame by their efficient and excellent performance as first-rate leaders in their chosen fields.

As one of the JMJ educationists, I relish the sweet fragrance of the selfless services we render through our education sector and look up to His Grace to fall and fill all our JMJ sisters to rekindle the JMJ legacy as vessels of hope.



SYNOD 2021 – 2023 For a Synodal Church



Pope Francis celebrates a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica opening the worldwide synodal path, Oct. 10, 2021.

The Church of God is convoked in Synod.

With this convocation, Pope Francis invites the whole Church to question itself on synodality:

A decisive theme for the life and mission of the Church.

This site will accompany the two-year journey (2021-2023) of reflection and

sharing of the whole Church.

<https://www.synod.va/en.html>

“By walking together, and together reflecting on the journey made, the Church will be

able to learn from what it will experience which processes can help it to live

communion, to achieve participation, to open itself to mission.”

The Joy of Being a Missionary



Sr. Vimala Jose
Sambuli, Ghana

In February 2014, the call within the call came to me through a phone call... I was attending my annual retreat at Mount St. Joseph, Bangalore. Sr. Sundari Sigareddy, the then provincial superior of Bangalore province called me not knowing that I was in retreat. After the closing of my retreat I called her back and I realized that the provincial team decided to send me as a missionary to Ghana in order to replace a sister from our province, who was coming for good. My immediate response was, "Yes I will go". I felt that it was the result of my retreat. But sister could not believe my sudden response. She asked me whether I was joking or really serious about it. Spontaneously I replied, "I am your novice; obedience is our HALLMARK." In spite of that sister gave me time to reflect, pray and decide. But I did not have any second thought when I said YES. The serenity, peace and the inner joy prevailed in me at that time and that which I experienced, is still alive in me.

I had two dreams in my childhood: 1) To visit the Holy Land and 2) To be a missionary

Due to Ebola endemic in African countries, my going to Ghana prolonged for some time. Many

of our sisters discouraged and advised me to stop going to Ghana. But two of our sisters in the province encouraged me to go. Those two sisters advanced in age, though they had the desire, couldn't go. They said that mission is the need of the hour in our Congregation as well as in the Church. I did not give up my inner desire of going to Ghana.



In March 2014, I got the golden and great opportunity to visit the Holy Land which was my another long awaited dream. As I was getting ready with documents, vaccinations, and stitching of habits in order to travel to Ghana, I received the first international call from Sr. Regina Guvvala, the Regional Superior of Ghana Region expressing her gratitude for my generous response to be

a missionary and welcomed me with affection, accepting, appreciating and encouraging me to come to the mission land

On 17 October 2014, I took leave of my people and my Motherland India and flew to the unknown land and people of my Mission land Ghana. Ghana is known as the land of Gold. When I reached Ghana there were a few culture shocks that welcomed me. After completing all the formalities and requirements in 2015, I was placed in the North, in a small remote village called Sambuli and we, the JMJ sisters named it '*the Paradise of the North*'. I like the name so much; it meant much to me. It is a very calm and quiet place with an estimated population of 2,135. People are very simple; they live happily just for the day. They leave the future in the hands of God. Most of them are farmers depending up on God and rain and they are deprived of many things compared to other regions (states). Adjacent to the village is the river OTI which separates Ghana from the neighbouring TOGO, a French speaking country. People depend on this river for their daily survival – for drinking, washing, bathing, fishing and cooking. Sambuli has a parish and mission house run



by SVD fathers. We, the JMJ sisters manage the health centre, the R. C. Primary School and the Junior High School (Classes 7th-9th).

I find meaning and satisfaction in taking care of the less privileged and the marginalized especially the sick and suffering as I am a trained nurse. We avail ourselves to the God given opportunity and regularly visit families so that we know them individually by name. As the days go by my Mission land become my Motherland.

One Sunday, while I was returning to the convent after the Holy Mass I met a woman on the way coming opposite to me and she said “Sister I am late for the Holy Mass but I am happy that I met a HOLY PERSON” This made me to think, reflect and evaluate my life. I am happy and contented in my life and mission.



For a synodal Church
 communion | participation | mission

Prayer for Synod
 2021-2023

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
 as we gather together in Your name.*

*With You alone to guide us,
 make Yourself at home in our hearts;*

*Teach us the way we must go
 and how we are to pursue it.*

*We are weak and sinful;
 do not let us promote disorder.*

*Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
 nor partiality influence our actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity
 so that we may journey together to eternal life
 and not stray from the way of truth
 and what is right.*

*All this we ask of You,
 who are at work in every place and time,
 in the communion of the Father and the Son,
 forever and ever. Amen.*

A journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology



“Bring the whole human family together . . . for we know that things can change” (Laudato Si’ 13)

In August and September 2021 about 350 Sisters from our four Indian Provinces have participated in Webinars on Laudato Si' action platform with a Theme: **LAUDATO SI' Action Plan – Sowing Hope for the Planet and People**. In November (3-6) 2020 we had JMJ International Conference in which 250 JMJ sisters have participated with a Theme: **Launching LAUDATO SI' in the Congregation of JMJ**.



These conferences have resonated a powerful message of promoting Integral Ecology, to respond to the cry of the poor and cry of the earth. Once again, **Laudato Si'** calls us toward sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology. With profound care for each other, our Creator, and all creation, we are building a better future together.

Caring for our brothers and sisters means caring for the home we share. This responsibility is “essential to a life of virtue” (LS 217).

The Laudato Si' Action Platform of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development's is a space for institutions, communities, and families to learn and grow together as we journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology. You are warmly invited to join this community. Your unique “culture, experience, involvements, and talents” are needed on our journey towards greater love for our Creator, each other, and the home we share (LS 14).

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and “all men and women of good will” (LS 3). Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take “decisive action, here and now” as we journey towards a better future together (LS 161).



Action is urgently needed. Our Creator called the human family to be the steward of creation, but we have neglected that call. Our hotter, dirtier, deader planet is driving up the risk of suffering. The most vulnerable suffer above all.

At this kairos moment, we are responding to the call for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbours, and the Earth itself. Through the Laudato Si' Action Platform, we are walking the “path to renewal” together (LS 202).

Elements of the Laudato Si' Action Platform

We are invited to launch the Laudato Si' Action Platform throughout 2021 and 2022. More information about the timeline is available here.

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/about/>

At its completion, the platform will comprise three elements: Laudato Si' Planning Guides to map your journey, practical guidance on ways to take action, and resources to develop trusted communities of practice.

LAUDATO SI' PLANS

As we delve into this Laudato Si' journey, the effects of our encounter with Jesus become evident in our relationship with the world around us (LS 217). Laudato Si' Plans support your community's journey to integral ecology.

The platform offers:

- Laudato Si' Planning Guides, which your institution, community, or family can use to discern and implement your response to Laudato Si'
- A process-oriented approach that responds to the charism of your institution, community, or family
- Guidance on actions that help build a better future through the Laudato Si' Goals
- Recognition of your progress

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

The Creator of all calls us to practice a new way of living, one that is “good, true and beautiful” (LS 205). We commit to take action together because it is “urgent and necessary” (LS 57).

The platform offers:

- A library of resources to provide practical, concrete guidance on ways to take action
- Webinars on actions and events

COMMUNITY

This road will challenge us, and the ideas and support of our sisters and brothers in Christ will strengthen us along the way. “We were made for love,” and deeper relationships will nourish us wherever the Holy Spirit leads (LS 58).

The platform offers:

- Resources to strengthen your community
- Ways to connect directly with other participants
- Inspiring stories of people who are taking action

SECTORS SERVED

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is offered by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development as a service to the universal Catholic Church and to “all men and women of good will” (LS 3). It is designed for seven sectors.

FAMILIES

All families and individuals

PARISHES AND DIOCESES

Parishes, dioceses, archdioceses, and episcopal conferences

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Primary and secondary schools, universities, and other centers of education

HEALTHCARE AND HEALING

Hospitals, clinics, centers of healing, and other healthcare services

ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

Lay movements, communities, NGOs, foundations, and communication centers

ECONOMIC SECTOR

Workers and businesses, farms, and co-operatives

RELIGIOUS

Religious orders, provinces, and communities
For more information on

THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS and ABOUT THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM visit

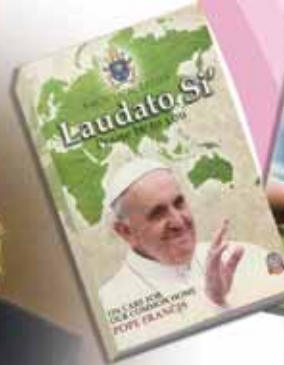
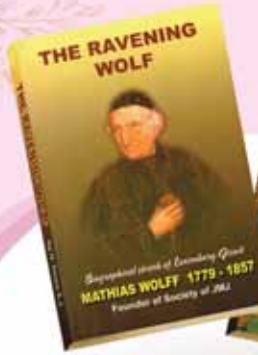
<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/community/>



SPIRITUAL NURISHMENT FOR THE BICENTENARY PREPARATIONS

August to December 2021





“We are all responsible for the protection and care of the environment. This responsibility knows no boundaries.”
- Pope Benedict XVI



This Christmas let us be filled with great joy and happiness that enables like Jesus to incarnate ourselves into the world of the poor and walk with them in their struggle for liberation... Wishing everyone to be the vessels of hope for a brighter tomorrow.

A blessed
Christmas
Happy New Year 2022

Sr. Innamma Yeruva
(Sr. Innamma Yeruva)

Sr. Vijaya M. Udumala
(Sr. Vijaya M. Udumala)

Sr. Valsa Korathi
(Sr. Valsa Korathi)

Sr. Mary Karickakunnel
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