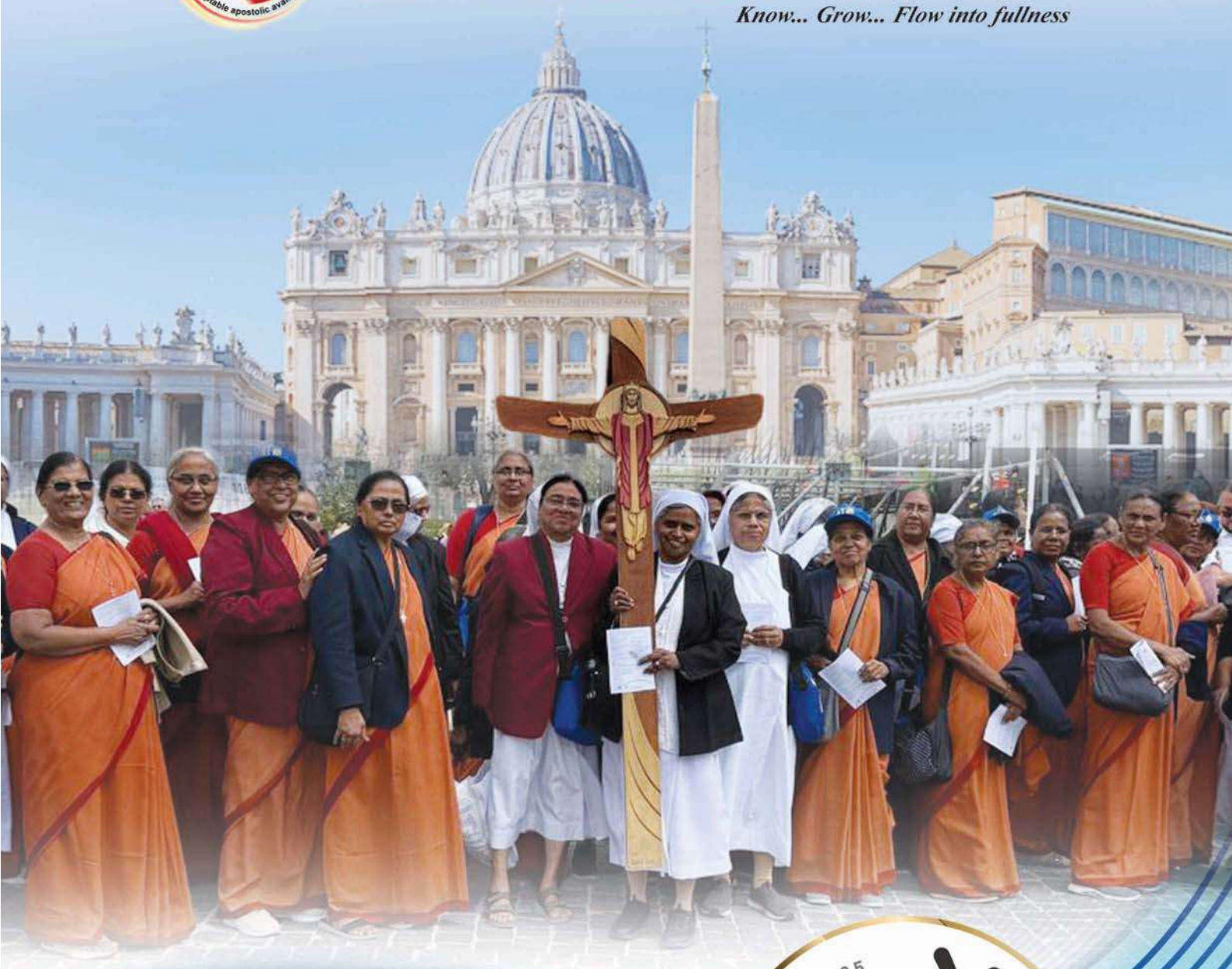




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THE ENCOUNTER

Know... Grow... Flow into fullness



Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey JMJ

A legacy of Compassion and Healing

The Servant of God Mary Glowrey had a special devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus especially in the month of June, as it was cultivated in her family. Before leaving for India at the end of 1919 she shared her inner feelings with the family:

“There is so much work to be done in India and while I stay here it remains undone since none of them are doctors they cannot really supply the needs of those women who may not be attended by a male doctor, and so many souls are lost to the Church. Leaving home will more than ever be a wrench but the whole family is consecrated to the Sacred Heart. We shall always be united in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I know you will not grudge me to Him. Pray for me.”

In the autobiography, she recalled her experience of the first day in St. Joseph’s Convent, Guntur where she saw a statue of the Sacred Heart and the words on the altar, *Magister Adest et Vocat Te* which made a deep impression to her. Her name in religion was a constant reminder to her that she must always mirror the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and that she must cling close to the Blessed Virgin Mary after whom she was doubly named, at baptism and as a nun.

One of her greatest desires was that the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere. The ejaculations such as “All for Thee Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus”, “Sacred Heart of Jesus I place my trust in Thee” and “May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere” were her favourite ones.

As kindness was the special characteristic of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, so it was with her. She manifested it at all times, and in all circumstances; her great charity was rendered attractive by it. Her kindness was the outcome and example of the divine precept, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Mt 22:40).



Pilgrimage at the footsteps of *our beloved founder* **THE NETHERLANDS**



Assisi



Lourdes



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Editorial

Time is relentless and fleeting. In just a few short months, the Church has witnessed historic moments that have deeply impacted our lives. An era has indeed concluded with the passing of Pope Francis on April 21, 2025. He was called the “People’s Pope” and was loved by all. His papacy was marked by efforts to modernize the Catholic Church, emphasizing social justice, environmental advocacy, and inclusivity. It was a transformative period for the Catholic Church, leaving a legacy of compassion, reform, and global outreach. Following the death of Pope Francis, a papal conclave was convened on May 7 - 8, 2025, resulting in the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV, which marked a new chapter for the Church.

The **Jubilee Year 2025** is yet another major event in the Catholic Church, offering us a time of spiritual renewal, pilgrimage, and reconciliation. A time of grace, forgiveness, and conversion. As “Pilgrims of Hope,” we have journeyed together across distances, through challenges, with hearts open to the call of mercy, peace, and hope in fraternity. May our pilgrimage inspire healing for ourselves, our neighbours, and our wounded world. May our footsteps be marks of compassion, courage, and renewal.

The Jubilee year 2025 is also coinciding with the **10th Anniversary of *Laudato Si’***, strengthening the Church’s message of: Hope amid climate crisis, Global solidarity and Integral ecology, which invites us to care for our common home and care for the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most. It reminds us that the climate crisis is not just an environmental issue, but a spiritual and moral challenge too. Let us renew our promise to build a future rooted in justice, peace, and care for all creation.

ENCOUNTER is more than just a magazine. It is a mirror that reflects the Spirit of our congregation, and a map that guides us through the journey of our mission and renewal. Each article carries the pulse of the lived experience of our sisters in our shared mission.

As we stand at the threshold of the Jubilee Year 2025, inspired and stirred by its Spirit, we have chosen the theme for Issue 11, “**Mission of Hope: Synodality – A Path to Renewal.**” Insights on Synodal Leadership reflects the interprovince superior’s perspective about the synodal leadership training conducted by GC. The vibrant energy of younger sisters and their vision is shared in Youth Echoes, Myriads of Missions brings to light the updates on newly launched mission and diverse ways our sisters are living the mission of hope across contexts and cultures, Sisters have shared their faith experiences and conviction in Wisdom’s Whispers, offering insight and inspiration. Safeguarding, Mission and JPIC reflect the active commitment of our sisters in this transformative action.

We gratefully acknowledge our sisters whose contributions bring richness and depth to this issue. May this issue inspire each one of us and move forward united in hope.

-Sr. Sushila Kerketta



VOICE FROM SUPERIOR GENERAL

Rooted in Hope, open to the Future

I am glad that the 11th issue of *The Encounter* focuses on “**Mission of Hope: The Synodal Path to Renewal**,” which goes very much in line with the theme of the 23rd Plenary Assembly of the UISG, “*Consecrated Life – a Hope that Transforms*”. It’s a call for us to transform ourselves and help others in transformation through our consecrated life and mission, in hope.

The above-said Assembly was opened on 05 May 2025 in Rome at the Ergife Palace Hotel, with the participation of over 900 superiors general from around the world from among more than 1,900 member congregations. The event took place at a crucial moment for the Church, marked by the passing of Pope Francis and the anticipation of a new Pontiff, which makes the chosen theme even more significant. Sr. Mariola López Villanueva, RSCJ, offered a meditation on hope, understood as a “**cords stretched out by God**” to which we can cling. Not an abstract feeling, but a living bond that invited consecrated women to build networks of care, welcome, and beauty. It was a call to walk together, as humble pilgrims, in fidelity to the Gospel and in service to wounded humanity.

On the second day, Sister Simona Brambilla, MC, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, shared her thoughts and experience on the theme: “**How does consecrated life represent transforming hope?**” “*Our time is like a night. But it is in the night that the moon shines.*” With these evocative words, she offered a profound reflection on how consecrated life can today be a sign of transforming hope in the Church and the world. The moon does not overpower or blind – Sister Simona continued – it dwells among the stars, inhabits the sky of communion, and precisely for this reason becomes an image of today’s Church: it reflects a light that is not its own, just as women religious shine only when they are oriented toward the Lord. And yet, night is not only darkness. It is also a space for creativity, intuition, and birth. As on the Easter night, it is a time of labour for a new life, small, fragile, but full of hope. In a world that fears the night, consecrated life reminds us that it is precisely there that God speaks, that hope sprouts, that prophecy takes shape.

Based on the theme “**Religious Women: Bearers of Hope in Demanding Situations**”, on the third day the morning’s roundtable brought to light three realities where women religious are a concrete sign of hope. From the Colombian Amazon, Sr. Alba Teresa Cediell Castillo, MML, narrated how her congregation has walked “among rivers and forests” for over 95 years, learning from Indigenous peoples “*the true meaning of hope*” in the face of challenges such as fires, deforestation, and extractives. From the US-Mexico border, Sr. Lisa Buscher, RSCJ, shared the story of the Collaborative for Border Ministries, an initiative uniting nine women’s congregations that served over 29,000 migrants in 2024. “*Hope is not a feeling, it is an action,*” she stated firmly. Sr. Margaret Maung, RNDM, described the situation



in Myanmar, a country rarely free from war and political unrest, highlighting the witness of sisters who have given their lives to serve the most vulnerable, like Sr. Ann Rose Nu Tawng, who knelt before armed police pleading *"to spare the children in exchange for her life."*

"Religious Women, Hope in a Synodal Church" was another important theme featured by three eminent speakers including Sr. Shalini Mulackal PBVM (India), who proposed that religious life can be a *"lighthouse of hope" for a synodal Church, thanks to its long tradition of communal discernment and shared governance.*

I would like to conclude with the commitments of the superiors general at the plenary Assembly, which is a call for each one of us, to be:

- **Women of peace**, resilient, standing at the foot of the cross, daring to weep over the suffering world and to commit ourselves, sometimes to the point of a total offering of our lives.
- **Women who stand at the frontiers**, who refuse exclusion and discrimination and are a consoling presence to those who are rejected.
- **Women who keep watch at night** and, like the moon, reflect the light and let the stars shine around them.
- **Synodal women** who create evangelical and inclusive communities and who weave a harmonious garment for our common home, which allows the beauty of creation to shine forth.
- **Women prophets** who, in old age, bearing illness or wounds, live as signs of hope, waiting and praying.

In short, we commit to nurture hope within ourselves and to pass it on, for *"we place all our hope in the grace that comes to us through the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (1 Pet 1:13).

An Unexpected Sign of Grace

During the final Eucharistic celebration on 8 May, an unexpected and moving moment occurred: the "white smoke" appeared, filling everyone present with joy and emotion. The Assembly began with the Holy See vacant and concluded with the announcement of the election of the new successor of Peter. A sign of grace that gave even deeper meaning to the Assembly, animating it with hope and communion with the universal Church.



The Assembly officially concluded on 9 May, with a Eucharistic celebration at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, a particularly meaningful moment for the participants, who were able to pray for the new Pope Leo XIV and pay tribute at the tomb of Pope Francis, acknowledging his vital contribution to consecrated life and the synodal Church.

Let us walk this synodal path together joyfully, faithfully, and courageously – living our consecration for the life of the world, being **rooted in Hope** and **open to the Future**.

- Sr. Mary Karickakunnel JMJ

Embracing Synodality

A Journey Toward Empowered Leadership and Communion



Sr. Bhagya Polisetti
Bangalore Province

Pope Francis reminds us that leadership is not about power or authority, but about service. He calls those entrusted with leadership to be servants, following Christ's example. Local superiors are invited to animate the spiritual life of their communities through love, wisdom, and humility—always pointing hearts toward Christ. Their role is not only to guide but also to inspire, encourage, and spiritually nourish. True leadership listens, walks with others and fosters environments of mercy, joy and peace.

The recently conducted general council meeting with inter-province superiors in India was a deeply transformative experience. Rooted in the theme of Synodality as a way of life, the gathering offered superiors a space to reflect on vital aspects of Church and religious life today: safeguarding, lay collaboration, personal encounter and shared discernment. These sessions were moments of grace and renewal, equipping leaders with insights and spiritual strength to animate the community more efficiently.

Synodality - A Way of Life: At the heart of the meeting was a call to live synodality, not as a single event but as a way of being. It means walking together in faith, dialogue, and mutual discernment. Superiors were encouraged to move away from individual decision-making and adopt a collaborative leadership style. This shift challenges the traditional view of authority and presents leadership as accompaniment nurturing growth, building communion, and acting with compassion.

Safeguarding - A Sacred Trust: The safeguarding sessions reminded leaders of their moral and spiritual duty to protect the dignity and safety of every person. Safeguarding is more than a policy; it is a culture of care, accountability and respect, especially for the vulnerable. For many, these discussions were a moment of conversion - a call

to deeper awareness and proactive leadership rooted in justice and love. The superiors were made aware of the importance of fostering a caring and safe environment within the community.

Lay Collaboration - A Shared Mission: A major insight from the meeting was the vital role of lay collaborators. Superiors shared stories of fruitful partnerships where laity and religious worked together in mission. This collaboration requires humility and openness, recognizing that the Holy Spirit speaks through all members of the Church. True leadership today involves shared responsibility, not control, and relies on mutual trust and collective discernment.

Personal Encounter - Seeds of Transformation: The meeting also emphasized the power of personal encounters. Group discussions and shared stories created sacred spaces where superiors found support, healing, and renewed purpose. In listening to one another's struggles and hopes, they discovered common ground and strength in unity. These moments helped many recognize their own gifts and areas for growth.

A Renewed Vision of Leadership: Throughout the gathering, superiors were invited to reimagine leadership through the lens of synodality. This vision means leading from within the community, fostering prayerful dialogue, and mentoring with compassion. It is a Christ-like leadership—humble, relational, and deeply rooted in communion.

Conclusion:

The GC meeting with the inter province superiors' was not just an event but a call to a new way of being the Church. Superiors returned not only enriched with ideas but transformed by the Spirit. We are now ready to lead not by imposition but by inspiration; not in isolation, but in communion. In Synodality we affirm, not merely a method, it is our mission.

A Transformative Journey



Sr. Augustine Kannamkunathu
Guntur Province

The interprovince superiors' seminar on Synodal Leadership, held on 25th and 26th February 2025 at the JMJ Provincialate Guntur, was a profound moment of spiritual renewal, leadership reflection, and communal growth for me. Organized by the general council, the seminar brought together superiors from the provinces of Bangalore, Guntur, Hyderabad and Raipur, along with Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, the superior general, and members of the general council.

Synodal Leadership: A Sacred Responsibility

Sr. Mary Karickakunnel's keynote address, emphasized that leadership is not merely a role, but a sacred responsibility entrusted by God. Her words encouraged and empowered me for a vision of leadership as service, deeply rooted in compassion and attentive to the needs of the community. I began to grasp the deep, spiritual weight of this responsibility.

Embracing the Path of Synodality

The presentation by Sr. Tresa Kandlakunta on 'Synodality - A Way of Life' and the highlights on the "Conversation in the Spirit" and "Community Discernment," enabled me to cultivate a culture of listening and shared reflection - allowing for deeper insight and co-responsibility in decision-making.

All the superiors were particularly moved by the spiritual depth and practicality of these methods. Many shared that they intended to integrate these practices into their communities to foster more transparent, participatory and spiritually grounded leadership.

Collaboration and Stewardship: A Shared Mission

In her talk, Sr. Sushila Kerketta emphasized the importance of lay collaborators in the mission of

JMJ. She invited the superiors to embrace inclusive leadership that values the gifts and voices of lay partners. This collaborative model, she noted, enriches the charism of the Congregation and extends its reach into the world.

Sr. Valsa Koreth's session on financial stewardship brought clarity and challenge. She urged the leaders to manage community resources with transparency, responsibility, and Gospel-rooted ethics.

Synodal Leadership: A Transformative Journey

Participating in this seminar my understanding of leadership is changed. A strong sense of unity and shared mission marked both the days of the seminar. Rooted in prayer, dialogue, and reflection, the sessions reaffirmed my commitment to a synodal way of life - marked by listening, humility, courage and collaboration.

It was an experience of transformation and empowerment. For many of us felt it was not just an intellectual exercise but a deep spiritual encounter. The practical sessions and spiritual insights empowered me to return to my role with a renewed approach. I recognized that synodal leadership is a journey of inclusion, discernment, and faith - a leadership that listens to every voice and allows the Spirit to guide every step. With tools like "Conversation in the Spirit," a deeper appreciation for lay collaboration, and a renewed sense of mission, the superiors felt equipped to foster communities where each sister feels heard, valued and co-responsible in the mission of Christ.

As the Congregation of JMJ continues on its synodal journey, the seminar stands as a milestone - a moment of grace and growth, renewing our resolve to build a Church that listens, discerns and walks forward together in the Spirit.

From Dialogue to Discernment:

My Insights from the Inter-Province Superiors' Meet

Sr. Maria Prajitha Pudota
Raipur Province



I express my deep gratitude to Rev. Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, the superior general and her Council for their foresight and initiative in organizing the two-days Inter-Province Superiors' meeting in Raipur on 14-15 February 2025. Their leadership in nurturing a spirit of togetherness, dialogue and collaboration is truly inspiring. It was indeed a privilege and joy to be part of this enriching experience. The central theme of the seminar, "Synodality – a Way of Life" was a profound invitation to grow in active listening, engage in respectful dialogue and nurture non-judgmental communication. For me, it was a journey of learning to tune my ears to the gentle voice of the Spirit of God, to listen deeply to one another, embracing the richness of our diverse perspectives and seeking to discern the communal decision emerging from the Spirit moving within us.

The thought-provoking presentation on "Synodality - A Way of Life" encouraged me to cultivate several transformative attitudes as superior to the local community:

1. Allocate time for sharing and understanding: Authentic dialogue requires courage, freedom and charity. It helped me to grow in deeper understanding of each member of the community.

2. Balance humility in listening with courage in speaking: Synodal dialogue calls me to set aside my biases and preconceived notions, creating space for true attentiveness and mutual enrichment.

3. Engage in dialogue that leads to growth and newness: As superior I am invited to move beyond

comfort zones and traditions, to discern new paths in the light of the Spirit.

4. Let go of prejudices and stereotypes: Appreciating the uniqueness of each individual is foundational to communion.

5. Overcome the scourge of clericalism: Clericalism weakens the Church's mission and must be consciously addressed. I learnt to respect every one and have collective decision making through conversation in the Spirit.

6. Cure the virus of self-sufficiency and ideological rigidity: We are called to build bridges, not walls.

7. Foster hope, dream boldly and focus on the future: As leaders, we are challenged to be prophets of hope in a world often clouded by despair.



SYNODAL LEADERSHIP

Another enriching part of the seminar was the brief yet insightful exposition on six key leadership styles. These models of leadership invited deep self-reflection and a renewed commitment to synodal living:

✦ **Servant Leadership** - Placing the needs of others first, imitating Christ the Servant.

✦ **Transformative Leadership** - Motivating others to embrace a shared vision with energy and conviction.

✦ **Collaborative Leadership** - Encouraging co-responsibility and active participation in decision-making.

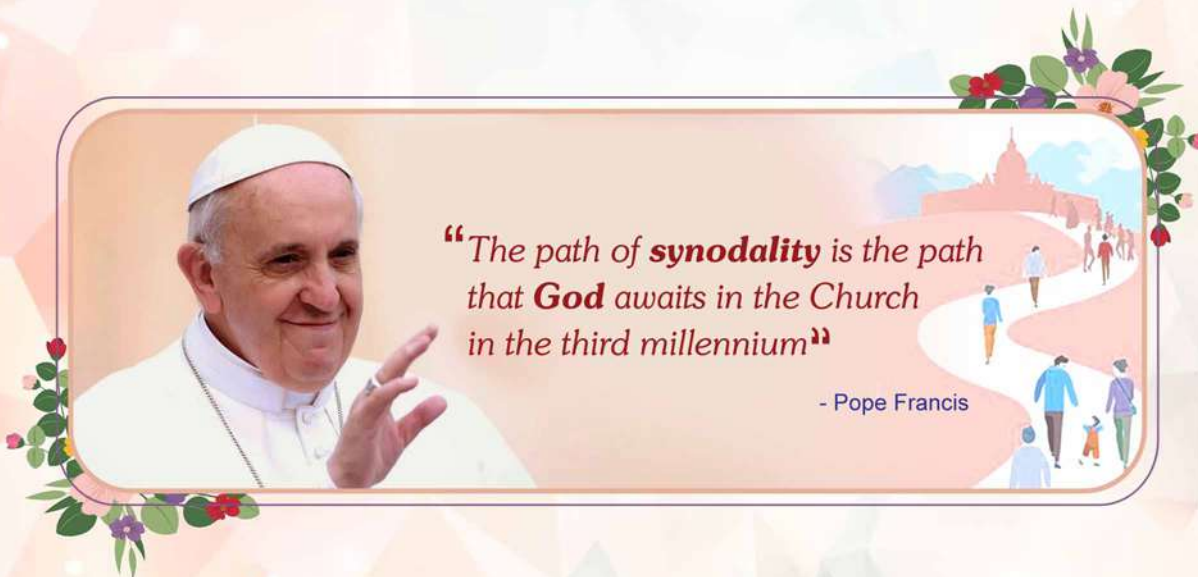
✦ **Discernment-Based Leadership** - Anchoring decisions in prayerful listening to the Spirit.

✦ **Accompaniment Leadership** - Walking alongside others rather than leading from above.

✦ **Prophetic Leadership** – Reading the signs of the times, speaking truth and challenging unjust systems with courage.

This seminar has been a graced moment for me - a sacred space to pause, listen and grow. It renewed in me the desire to be rooted in the Spirit, open to the other and committed to build synodal communities where communion, participation and mission are lived joyfully.

May our conversations in the Spirit continue to inspire us to listen, learn and walk together in hope and become loving daughters of our founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff.



Shaping My Life and Community



Sr. Ansamma Mathew
Hyderabad Province

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, the superior general and her Council for their vision and initiative in convening the first-ever Inter-Province Superiors' meeting with the general council, held in Hyderabad on the 3rd and 4th of February 2025. The chosen theme, "*Synodality - A Way of Life*", was both timely and profoundly relevant.

Participating in this meeting created a profound impact in my life. It has given me a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper commitment to carrying out my responsibilities as a superior of my community in a truly synodal spirit. Being a young local superior, meeting the sisters from other provinces, listening to their experiences, and wisdom enriched me with valuable insights and strengthened my confidence. The coming together of leaders from across the provinces itself was a source of great joy, a meaningful opportunity for mutual understanding and fraternity. I remain grateful for this enriching experience and pray that such initiatives continue to foster unity and shared mission in our Congregation. I like to share a few points that helped me:

1. Deepened listening and discernment: The spirituality of synodality has cultivated in me a deeper capacity to listen to each member in the community. I've learned to be attentive to the Holy Spirit speaking through each member. Listening with the heart has allowed for more inclusive and Spirit-led decision-making. Listening to my sisters enables me to engage in dialogue, grow in understanding and cultivate humility and empathy.

2. Fostering a sense of co-responsibility: I now see my role not as one who controls, but as one who accompanies and empowers others to take

responsibility for the life and mission of the community.

3. Embracing humility and vulnerability: Recognizing my own vulnerability made me more approachable and more compassionate to the vulnerability of others.

4. Appreciate diversity: Synodality taught me to value the beauty and richness of diversity. This attitude has promoted a culture of mutual respect and inclusion. Embracing diversity in personalities and opinions of our community, enable me to be more open, loving, caring and mission oriented.

5. Anchoring decisions in prayer and the Word of God: The spiritual dimension of synodality has grounded my leadership in prayerful discernment.

6. Strengthening a pilgrim mentality: Synodality views the Church as a *pilgrim people*. As a superior, I now see we are people on a journey, always growing, learning, and being transformed. This has helped me to be more patient, hopeful, and open to change.

The Synodal spirituality also enriches my role as a catechism teacher and headmistress in the school. Collaborative decision-making with laity and fellow educators creates a more inclusive and mission driven environment. Lay collaboration brings lot of insights and talents, enriching both catechesis and academic formation. By working closely with teachers and parents in a Synodal spirit, together, we empower young souls with knowledge, faith and moral integrity. This way of approach transforms my mission into a more dynamic and effective ministry of service and love.

Like Andrew, Let Me Lead One



Sr. Lilly Elavathingal
Bangalore Province

As I look back on my first year as Province Vocation Coordinator, my heart overflows with a blend of emotions - joy, weariness, hope, frustration, fulfilment and moments of deep questioning. It's been a year of walking closely with God, yes, but also with young, searching hearts and with all the unseen realities that surround the blessed mystery of a vocation.

Often, I think of Andrew, the first disciple who, after encountering Jesus, didn't keep the joy to himself. He ran to his brother Peter and said, "*We have found the Messiah.*" He didn't have a master plan or a theological discourse, just a heart on fire and the courage to share it. In many ways, this has been my calling too: to be like Andrew, reaching out to young people and saying, "*Come and See.*"

There is such deep joy when I meet a young girl who expresses, with wonder in her eyes, a desire to follow Christ. Her freshness and innocent longing for something more uplifts me. In a world buzzing with endless notifications, curated realities and artificial connections, it is a powerful thing to witness someone choosing silence, prayer and this way of life. Being the province's vocation coordinator, I have made countless train rides, late-night conversations and the quiet tears are worth it. But the path, as often is not straight.

Sometimes, the obstacle is the family - anxious parents, clinging to dreams that don't include convent walls. Other times, the parents are the ones gently encouraging, while the daughter is torn between the thrilling promises of the world and the still, small voice of God. Helping someone discern isn't about faith; it's about accompaniment - slow, prayerful and often without visible results. That's hard. It takes patience, surrender, and a readiness to face rejection without letting it harden your heart.

Over the past year, I've walked through many corners of our country like Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Goa. Each place is its own world, full of rich culture, unique challenges and the same eternal question: What is God asking of me? Sometimes, I plant seeds and walk away wondering if anything will grow. Other times, I see a quiet 'yes' bloom into a beautiful, unexpected vocation.



Being a vocation promoter in today's techno-distracted world is like sowing seeds on a digital, noisy field. But I've learned something crucial - it's not about success. It's about faithfulness. Faithfulness in offering the invitation of Christ, in walking beside the uncertain and in trusting that God will bring the harvest in His time, not mine.

I am not here to fill the convents. I am here to be a Sower, a signpost, a sister and sometimes just a silent witness to God's mysterious work in someone's soul.

As I move forward, I carry with me the faces, stories, doubts and dreams I've encountered. They are written into the pages of my journey with Christ. And like Andrew, I continue to say: "*Come and See.*" The joy is real. The struggles are many. But the One who calls is faithful and He is still calling, even in the most unexpected places.

With renewed hope, I walk on trusting that the God who once called fishermen through the whisper of a friend is still calling young hearts today, even through the static of a scrolling world.

Cross-Cultural Adaptation and Missionary Life



Sr. Nilam Ekka
Ghana Region

The one-month program held from 01 September to 31 October, 2024, at the Tamale Institute of Cross-Cultural Studies (TICCS) was a profoundly enriching experience for me. It offered a valuable insight into Ghana's historical, cultural, religious, political, and economic landscape with the broader context of culture in Ghana and other parts of the African countries. I am sincerely grateful to Sr. Sundari and the Council for granting me the opportunity to participate in this valuable initiative.

We were a group of sixteen participants from various countries and religious congregations – priests, sisters and brothers. Though we began as strangers, over the time we came to appreciate and respect each other's unique cultures and languages.



Ghana, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse traditions, provided a meaningful context for this program. For new arrivals especially missionaries, this immersion offered invaluable insights into the cultural landscape of the country and prepared us to engage more effectively in our respective missions and to avoid the cultural shock.

Each of us is shaped by our own cultural background and entering into a new cultural context often brings about cultural shock which can be both positive and negative. This is a natural part of the cross-cultural experience. However, embracing and respecting the uniqueness of each culture is essential. For missionaries, being sent

means more than just proclaiming the Word; it involves entering deeply into the lives and cultures of those they serve. Sensitivity to cultural norms, including understanding local dos and don'ts, is vital for effective ministry and authentic witness.

Developing a sense of bonding and a feeling of belonging helps bridge cultural differences and fosters unity. Adopting local customs, and identifying with the people deepens this connection and strengthens one's presence in the community.

Every country has its own traditional culture, shaped by the beliefs and practices of its people which form a vital part of a community's identity and heritage. In Ghana, traditional beliefs remain strong and are deeply rooted in the society. It is notable that even among Catholic families, elements of traditional practices continue to be observed, reflecting the enduring influence of ancestral customs alongside religious faith.

Respecting and valuing the culture is fundamental in Ghana. The **Golden Stool of the Ashanti** symbolizes authority and is a powerful emblem of the people's identity and unity. African indigenous religions (AIR) encompass a wide range of belief systems and practices, rather than a single unified religion.

The 5 parts of Religion are:

B=Beliefs

P=Practices, Ceremonies and Festivals

R=Religious objects and places

V=Values and Morals

R=Religious Officers or Leaders



As part of our orientation program, we visited some of the historical places around Tamale and beyond, such as Red Clay Park, Paga crocodile pond, Burkina Faso border etc. We had the introduction to the Dagbani language. We visited the local community of ‘Gushiegu’ a forsaken camp of women, accused of witchcraft in Tamale. It was a painful and heart touching site. These women are often blamed for misfortunes in their families or communities and are subsequently ostracized and are pushed out from the family and village. They are forced to spend their whole life till their death in the camp.

They work as laborers on others’ farms to earn a living. On market days, they sweep the grounds and collect the grains that have fallen, which they then take home to clean, carefully separating them from sand, stones, and dust, wash and dry them. Many have shared the hardships and painful realities of their lives. The SVD Fathers are actively working for their upliftment, offering support and helping them to live a dignified life.

In short, **cross-cultural spirituality** is a call to transformation. Human life is in a constant state of change and we move according to the change. Each new change in life brings us transformation, which takes place while living in another culture and learning new language. We need to adopt an incarnational approach from within instead of balcony approach. In the first place we need to listen, see, observe, and participate in the ceremonies and festivals to get incarnated thus we become one family. And this is our adaptability and availability as a missionary.



Feast of St. Joseph & Tribute to

Rev. Sr. Josepha Rachamalla MJM

March 19, 2025 Guntur

Sr. Jyothi Pammiseti
Guntur Province



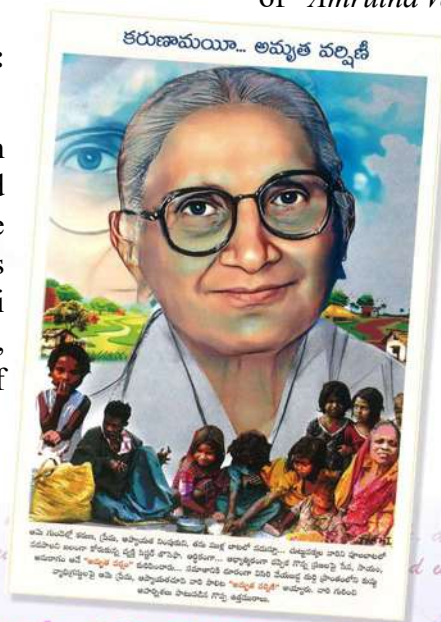
There are moments in our journey of faith that linger in the heart like the scent of incense. After a solemn liturgy, a sacred, serene and spirit-filled March 19, 2025, was one such moment for all of us at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guntur. It was not merely a feast day; it was a holy convergence of memory, mission and celebration of the spiritual patronage of St. Joseph and a tribute to one of our most beloved pioneers, Rev. Sr. Josepha Rachamalla MJM.

Lt. Sr. Josepha Rachamalla, which reflected not only the sanctity of St. Joseph but also the enduring legacy of Sr. Josepha Rachamalla, the first Indian Provincial Superior of the Society of MJM. Her life of faith, simplicity, and tireless service to the poor and marginalized continues to resonate in the hearts of many.

Her story unfolded before us through the release of "*Amrutha Varshini*," a commemorative booklet

A Woman of Mission: Sr. Josepha Rachamalla MJM

We began the day with a solemn Eucharist Celebration, presided over by Fr. Vincent, C.Ss.R. The program of the day was organized by Mrs. Vijaya Rani and Mr. Kasipathy Rayapareddy, the beloved family members of



meaning "*Rain of Immortal Nectar*." The booklet unfolded the weight of her legacy: a woman of prayer, leadership and immense love for the poor. Her service in places like Kondramutla and Durgi wasn't just about outreach, it was about presence, about incarnating God's mercy in human form.

Saint Joseph is a man of love. He was a father who deeply loved

a man of love.

and with love and care." Pope Francis

March 19, 2025

ST. JOSEPH'S FEAST





The presence of the leaders like Sr. Vijaya Mary Udumala, Sr. Innamma Yeruva, and Mrs. Rojamma Yasaggari, along with several priests and lay collaborators, lent grace and dignity to the occasion. But the most poignant moments came from the voices of the people she touched. Mr. Suresh from Kondramutla and Mrs. Ganga Yamarthi from Durgi offered heartfelt testimonies that brought tears to many eyes. Their words weren't rehearsed; they were born from lives changed by a sister who walked with them in their need.

A Living Flame

As I listened, I found myself silently praying: *"Lord, let me love and serve with even a fraction of her zeal."* Sr. Josepha's life was not loud, but it was luminous. She did not seek recognition, yet she remains unforgettable. Her leadership as the first Indian Provincial of our Congregation marked

a turning point in our history. But even more powerful was her simplicity, her deep, prayerful gaze and her unwavering care for the least of our brothers and sisters. One of our sisters whispered to me during the tribute, "She was our St. Joseph - strong, silent and steadfast." I couldn't have said it better.

In the Footsteps of Giants

This celebration was not just an event. It was a sacred pause in our busy lives, a reminder of who we are and who we are called to be. As we honor St. Joseph and pay loving tribute to Sr. Josepha, may we too walk humbly, serve joyfully and love unconditionally. Let their lives not be relics of the past, but roadmaps for the future. May our hands heal, our words bless, and our hearts burn with the same compassion they carried.



*All it takes is one person
to restore hope* - Pope Francis

Walking Together in Hope and Renewal



Sr. Suvarna Kadiri
Hyderabad Province

As a young religious sister completing 12 years of consecrated life in the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph, I find myself deeply moved by the Church's call to Synodality, a journey that invites us to walk together in hope, dialogue and shared mission. In today's world, where disconnection and uncertainty often cast long shadows, this call is more than timely and it is dynamic.

For the past seven years, I have been serving as the secretary of the Provincial Superior, Hyderabad. This responsibility has not only sharpened my administrative skills but also deepened my understanding of community life. I have had the privilege of working closely with many sisters, whose lives of silent service, wisdom and unwavering faith have been a source of deep inspiration. Their humility, consistency, and attentiveness have taught me that leadership is not about position, but about presence.

In the simplicity of daily tasks, I have discovered that even the most ordinary responsibilities can become spaces of grace. These hidden acts of service are where I have most tangibly experienced the power of hope and renewal. They remind me that transformation doesn't only happen in dramatic moments but often in small, faithful acts of love.

This day-to-day experience has profoundly shaped how I understand Synodality. Synodality is a **way of being in the Church** that values every person, every voice and every gift. It challenges us to build communities where listening is intentional, where inclusion is active and where responsibility is shared joyfully. As young sisters, we are especially called to be bridges between generations, between

cultures, and between those at the center and those on the margins.

In our current ecclesial landscape, the Church faces challenges that can seem overwhelming: division, disengagement and spiritual weakness. Yet, I am convinced that hope and renewal are not only possible, they are already happening, wherever people choose to walk together, to listen deeply and to discern in the Spirit. When we make space for one another, especially for the youth, the poor, and the often-overlooked, we allow the Church to breathe with new life.

Within our congregation, I dream of communities marked by unity and shared discernment. I envision leadership that is collaborative, apostolates that are responsive and creative, and formation that shapes not just minds, but hearts prepared for mission. I long for a sisterhood that doesn't simply serve, but one that radiates hope and embodies Gospel joy.

Synodality, to me, is the invitation to this kind of renewal. It is the Spirit's invitation to grow not only as individuals but as a united body, rooted in communion and moved by mission.

As I look back on these 12 years of religious life, I do so with gratitude and with a renewed commitment to live this vocation with greater authenticity, joy and openness. I pray that our lives may reflect the hope we profess, that our communities may become spaces of listening and transformation, and that, together, we may continue to walk in the light of the Spirit, steadfast in love, bold in faith and alive with the joy of the Gospel.

Young Voices Echo in Faith, Communion and Vision

Sr. Shoba Rani Palukuri
Raipur Province



In the light of the Synodal journey, as I walk together with the People of God, I am invited to listen deeply, speak freely and discern boldly. A column in this magazine, namely “Youth Echoes” for me is more than just a platform - it is a spirit-filled movement within the JMJ Congregation, lovingly created to give voice to the young Sisters who carry the energy, passion and dreams of our future.

In this sacred space, I don’t have to be perfect. I just have to be present, authentic “ME” with my dreams, my doubts, my deep love for Christ and my longing to serve with meaning. In today’s world, as a young religious, I constantly find discerning how to remain faithful to my vocation and our charism while responding to the cries of a wounded world. The synodal way of life challenges me to listen more deeply, walk more humbly and love more radically. I find it is not always easy. Sometimes, I feel like ‘a smaller voice in a larger Church’ but my voice matters and so does yours.

In this space, I find the courage to dream big:

- I dream of a Congregation where every sister, young or old, is listened to with reverence.
- I dream of communities that are vibrant with prayer, joy and creativity.
- I dream of being a missionary who carries not only the Gospel in my hands but also the warmth of Christ in my smile.

In the quiet rhythm of daily prayer and work, I often ask myself: What does God ask of me now? When I look at the world and its attraction, its wounds, its hunger for meaning, I feel a

gentle fire stirring in me, that fire is my call, my purpose, my “yes” to JESUS.

I realize, I am a pilgrim of faith, walking with others, listening, discerning and dreaming. The synodal path has taught me that, to walk together is a gift, but to walk together in the Spirit is a VOCATION.



I see our congregation not just as a heritage, but a living mission. My vision of a JMJ is more rooted in the charism and spirituality of our founder and society, more open, more prophetic, where hearts are set on fire with love for Jesus and His people.

Synodality reminds the world that often moves fast and forgets to listen - Slow down and listen with the heart. To the youth searching for direction - Your voice matters, your faith is not a weakness - it’s a courage. To those who feel alone in their call or convictions - You are not alone, we are walking with you.

From my small dimensions of prayer, community life and mission, I discover there is still beauty in simplicity, strength in service and hope in holiness.

A Saintly Farewell: Remembering POPE FRANCIS



Sr. Jyothi Kota
Bangalore Province

The passing away of Pope Francis has deeply saddened people around the world. A man of profound humility, tireless compassion and unwavering faith, his life was a living reflection of the Beatitudes. Prayer was his strength, peace his message and love his mission. His smile was contagious, his presence comforting and his leadership rooted in simplicity and service.

I am personally moved as I recall my encounter with him - his warmth, his attentiveness, his gentle words. That night, I went to bed with the memory of his smile etched in my heart and woke to the grief of his departure.

On the dawn following Easter, Pope Francis peacefully returned to the abode of the heavenly Father, having fulfilled his mission on the earth. As he entered eternity, one could imagine Jesus welcoming him with the words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master."*



Pope Francis lived the Gospel:

- **Poor in spirit**, he depended fully on God and radiated joy.
- **Meek and humble**, he broke barriers and chose to walk with the least.
- **Pure in heart**, he showed mercy to the forgotten refugees, prisoners and migrants.
- **Hungry for righteousness**, he longed for an inclusive Church of love and justice.
- **Peacemaker**, Pope Francis gave the message of peace. He became a global voice against war and division.
- **Merciful**, he reminded us that God's mercy is endless.
- **Persecuted**, he bore criticism with grace, never wavering in faith.
- **Mourner**, he wept with victims and sought healing for the broken.

Now in the embrace of God, he looks down and whispers, *"Ciao a tutti, non dimenticatevi a pregare per me."* (do not forget to pray for me) Let us, in turn, ask him to pray for us and continue to bless the Church he served with love. **Miss you, Papa Francesco.** Forever in our hearts.

Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ

A LEGACY OF ZEAL AND WISDOM



Sr. Regina Zangiti
Ghana Region

The Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ) stands as a vibrant testament to the visionary spirit of its founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, a Jesuit priest with a heart, ABLAZE for God and the marginalized. Fr. Wolff's life and sayings continue to inspire generations of religious and lay people alike. His timeless maxims - such as "Work like a giant" and "Bloom where you are planted" encapsulate a spirituality of radical availability, tireless labor and joyful surrender to Divine Providence.

"Work like a giant", but "trust like a child" this balance of heroic effort and humble dependence on grace became the cornerstone of JMJ spirituality.

Wisdom for the Ages: Fr. Wolff's enduring sayings

Fr. Wolff's words were not mere slogans but distilled truths from a life poured out in service. Two of his most enduring teachings remain vital for today's world:

1. "Work like a giant"

Fr. Wolff embodied this call, labouring tirelessly to establish the Kingdom of God despite meagre resources.

Modern Application: In an era of distractions, his words challenge JMJ sisters and collaborators to pursue their missions with passion whether in the classroom, hospital, social service or pastoral work always prioritizing the greater good.

2. "Bloom where you are planted"

He urged his sisters to embrace their assigned missions with joy, even in obscurity or hardship.

He emphasized on adaptability (bloom where you are planted).

Modern Application: For today's global JMJ family, this means radiating Christ's love right where they are, whether in bustling cities, remote villages, or in a hostile environment. It signifies the modern demands for intercultural and intergenerational community life.

A Founder of all the time Rev. Fr. Wolff's teachings resonate powerfully in today's fragmented world:

- ▶ **For the Laity:** His call to "work like a giant" inspires professionals, parents, and activists to sanctify their daily labor.
- ▶ **For the Church:** His focus on serving Christ in the poor anticipates Pope Francis' vision of a "Church that goes to the peripheries."

Conclusion: Fr. Mathias Wolff's legacy is not confined to history books but we need to carry the torch forward. His spirit lives on in every JMJ sister's teaching a child, nursing the sick or praying for a broken world. As the Congregation faces new frontiers, climate crises, digital evangelization, and religious indifference, may his word remain a compass.

Do not wait for ideal conditions. Begin now, with what you have, and God will multiply it, as the Scripture reminds us: **"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done"** (Ecclesiastes 11:4)

Embracing Faith, Legacy & Womanhood

A Spirit-Filled Webinar

“The most powerful force in the world is a woman who knows she is loved by God and lives in His mission.”

March 30, 2025, was not just another date on the calendar; it was a moment of sacred convergence, when the JMJ Guntur Province brought together three beautiful dimensions of our identity in a single, spirit-filled gathering. As we joined the province-wide webinar, we found ourselves united in honoring St. Joseph, reflecting on the legacy of Fr. Mathias Wolff, and celebrating the strength and grace of consecrated women.

For me, it was something more than intellectual stimulation; there was a deep, personal stirring. This wasn't simply a formation session; it was a rekindling of purpose, a reminder of who we are and why we have said “yes” to this life.

The Power of Three: “A Sacred Weave of St. Joseph, Wolff, and Women”

The theme “**Honouring St. Joseph, Continuing the Legacy of Mathias Wolff, and Embracing Women's Strength**” was a gift in itself. Rooted in the spirit of March, with International Women's Day (8th), the birth anniversary of our beloved Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff (9th), and the Feast of St. Joseph (19th), the session invited us into deeper communion with our past, present, and future.

The JMJ Sisters pursuing their higher studies at KU Leuven, Belgium, served as our resource panel, offering not just knowledge but a lived witness.

St. Joseph: Model of Quiet Courage

Sr. Sanjuta Ekka opened with a gentle but profound reflection on ‘*Patris Corde*,’ drawing our

Sr. Fatima Kommareddy
Guntur Province



attention to the seven virtues of St. Joseph. What struck me personally was her insight on “**creative courage**,” how Joseph responded with trust to life's unexpected challenges. In our own ministry, especially in times of uncertainty or quiet struggle, this reflection reminded me that leadership does not always look loud. Sometimes it is simply being present, faithful, and open to God's detours.

Fr. Wolff: A Founder Whose Vision Still Breathes

Sr. Arputha Lilly's segment on Fr. Mathias Wolff, moved me deeply. She posed a question that lingers in me still: “*Am I living as a true temple of God?*” Her unpacking of the evangelical counsels was liberating rather than limiting, and it reawakened in me the joy of my own vocation. Fr. Wolff's belief in each JMJ Sister as a vessel of God's presence is not a distant ideal; it is our daily call. Her words reminded me of my own initial formation years, when I first read his writings and felt that spark of purpose. This session brought that same fire back.

Women of Faith: Called to Lead

Sr. Anitha Showri Rani powerfully connected the charism of our Congregation with the call for women's leadership in today's world. Her emphasis on self-perception struck a chord: leadership begins not with external roles, but with how we see ourselves as women consecrated to God.

Quoting the life of Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey, she reminded us that religious life is not a retreat from the world, it is a bold witness to God's healing, justice and love. I found myself reflecting: Am I allowing God to use my voice, my gifts, my story, in the service of the Gospel?

A Seamless Thread: Moderation with Grace

The webinar was beautifully moderated by Sr. Joseph Mary Mruduravali. Her ability to synthesize reflections, pose thoughtful questions, and create a space for shared insight made the experience cohesive and rich. Her gentle leadership mirrored the very themes we were exploring.

More Than a Webinar: A Spiritual Awakening

As the session concluded, I realized that I had not merely attended an event, I had encountered a renewed sense of mission. The webinar called us back to our roots: the strength of St. Joseph's silence, the vision of Fr. Wolff's holiness, and the dignity of our identity as JMJ women.

In my heart, I felt grateful; grateful for our Provincial Superior Sr. Vijaya and her Council,

whose discernment brought together a much-needed moment of grace. It reminded us that we are not just carrying a tradition; we are living it, shaping it, and passing it on.

Walking Forward with Joyful Fidelity

Today, as I return to my community and mission, I carry with me a renewed commitment. The quiet strength of St. Joseph, the deep vision of Fr. Wolff, and the powerful identity of womanhood in Christ are not just ideals; they are paths I desire to walk every day.

May we, as JMJ Sisters, remain faithful daughters of our Founder, silent witnesses like St. Joseph and courageous women in mission, ready to serve, ready to lead and ready to love.

**God never gives someone
a gift they are not
capable of receiving.
If he gives us the gift of
Christmas, it is because
we all have the ability to
understand and receive it.**

- Pope Francis



A Life That Formed Hearts



Sr. Punitha Margaret M.
Guntur Province

Formation in religious life is not just about education or discipline; it is a sacred journey. It is the delicate and grace-filled process through which a young woman comes to encounter God more deeply, to discern her vocation, and to root herself in the Charism and spirit of her Congregation. In this transformative journey, a formator becomes far more than a teacher; she becomes a mother, mentor, guide and mirror of Christ. For me, that person was Sr. Sophia Thaikkatil.

To speak of Sr. Sophia is to speak from the heart. She was not only my novice mistress but truly a daughter of our beloved Founder, Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff. In her, I encountered the living spirit of the JMJ Congregation, its prayer, compassion, missionary zeal and unwavering fidelity to God. And in doing so, she shaped not only my vocation but my whole spiritual foundation.

During those early and vulnerable years of novitiate, Sr. Sophia was a pillar of strength, a woman of deep prayer, simplicity and tremendous patience. Her life preached louder than any words. Day after day, we saw her in the chapel before dawn, immersed in conversation with God. No matter how busy or burdened she was, her time with the Lord was non-negotiable. She gently taught us that personal prayer, meditation and examination of conscience were not just practices, but they were lifelines.

What marked her life was consistency. Her fidelity to prayer, her simplicity, punctuality and humble service left a profound imprint on us. She guided

us not only through her wisdom but also by stepping into our shoes, understanding us, walking beside us, and encouraging us with compassion and firmness. She was a formator who truly knew our hearts.

Sr. Sophia formed many generations of sisters, adapting to the signs of the times with grace. She never imposed but gently invited each of us to be shaped by the Spirit, to become fitting instruments for the mission of the JMJ Congregation. Her trust in us and her belief in our vocation gave us the courage to say 'yes' to God with confidence.

Even today, Sr. Sophia continues to inspire. She meets us with her gentle smile and reminds us to remain rooted in prayer, to be faithful to our spiritual duties and to love our Congregation wholeheartedly. Her words may be simple, but they carry the weight of a life lived with integrity and total surrender to God.

To the young sisters of our Congregation, I offer this: if you ever feel lost or unsure, look to the lives of those who have walked before you. Sr. Sophia is one of those, rich in grace, humble in service, bold in love. Let her example inspire you and me to live our Charism with the same fire and devotion.

Thank you, dear Sr. Sophia, for forming not just minds but hearts; for forming us in love, in faith, and in the spirit of our Founder. May your life continue to inspire the next generation of JMJ sisters to walk in fidelity, joy and surrender.

A Tribute to Our Founder and Missionary Legacy



Sr. Alphonsa Nagothu
Hyderabad Province

The political, social, and religious conditions in the Netherlands during the 18th and 19th centuries were marked by strong Protestant dominance. The Dutch Catholic community suffered greatly under this government persecuted, denied the right to hold public office, and excluded from public life. Treated as second - or even third-class citizens, they were forced to practice their faith in secrecy, often in catacombs. Yet, in the face of such adversity, they clung steadfastly to their faith.

Amid this oppressive context, several compassionate individuals emerged to restore hope and dignity to the Catholic Church in the Netherlands. Among them, the most outstanding was our beloved Founder, **Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, S.J.** A man of deep prayer and bold vision, he lived by maxims such as *"I want to work like a giant"* and *"I want to win souls for Christ."* He saw education as the key to renewing the Church and liberating its people.

With this conviction, Fr. Wolff founded educational institutions in Amersfoort and Engelen, collaborated with the Diocese of Nijmegen and initiated vocational training and sewing classes in cities like Amsterdam, Utrecht, and 's-Hertogenbosch. Believing that a women's religious congregation was essential to this mission, he established what would become the Congregation of the Sisters of JMJ. His vision extended beyond the borders of his homeland. Inspired by his call *"The Sister of JMJ should bear the four corners of the world in her heart and be ready to go wherever obedience calls her,"* our Dutch missionary sisters courageously left for Indonesia in 1898, India in 1904, and later to Australia and Africa. It was their generosity and unwavering missionary spirit, leaving behind the comfort of their homeland to serve in distant lands

with unfamiliar languages, climates, cultures, and food, that opened the way for many of us to discover the JMJ Congregation and find our calling within it. Their legacy is evident in many educational and healthcare institutions they established, providing access to education for poor girls and quality healthcare for people from all walks of life. Their mission lives on.

Today, Fr. Wolff's vision continues to radiate. Our sisters are ready to serve wherever needed, whether in America, Africa, Germany, Austria, Italy or Hungary, faithfully living our Congregation's Charism of an **Ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability and Ever Renewed Search for God's Will.**

"In my own life, I may never have continued beyond elementary school if it weren't for the opportunity to study at St. Joseph's Boarding School in Guntur. It was there, under the gentle guidance of our Dutch missionary sisters and the inspiring leadership of Indian sisters like Sr. Ignatius Yeruva and Sr. Scholastica Singareddy, that a deeper calling began to take root in my heart. Their example of dedication, compassion and faith stirred something within me and in many others too and blossomed a desire to serve. Today, our JMJ schools across India continue to be fertile ground where countless young hearts are nurtured, inspired, and called to a life of purpose and vocation."

Wherever our sisters serve, whether in education, healthcare, social work, or pastoral ministry, they are known for their compassion and outreach to the poor and marginalized. In following the path laid by our pioneering missionaries, we continue to keep the Founder's vision alive: **the liberation and upliftment of the oppressed through love, service, and faith.**



Sr. Nirmala Lingala
Hyderabad Province

We Walk Together Still

*We walk not where the world applauds,
But where the silent Spirit nods,
In hidden paths and humble ways,
We spend our strength in love and praise.*

*With hearts attuned to heaven's song,
Our journey's road is steep and long;
Yet every step, with Christ beside,
Becomes a grace, a holy stride.*

*The vision of our Founder burns,
A flame that guides, a light that turns
Each act of care, each whispered prayer,
Into a mission lived with flair.*

*Not clamour, but communion sweet,
Not power, but love at mercy's feet.
We listen deep, we walk as one,
Until the Father's will is done.*

*To serve and love without a claim,
To lift the lost, not seek a name.
This is the charism we hold dear,
A sacred fire, steady and clear.*

*We are the voice for those unheard,
The echo of the Gospel Word.
We are the bridge, the balm, the guide,
The Spirit's breath the world can't hide.*

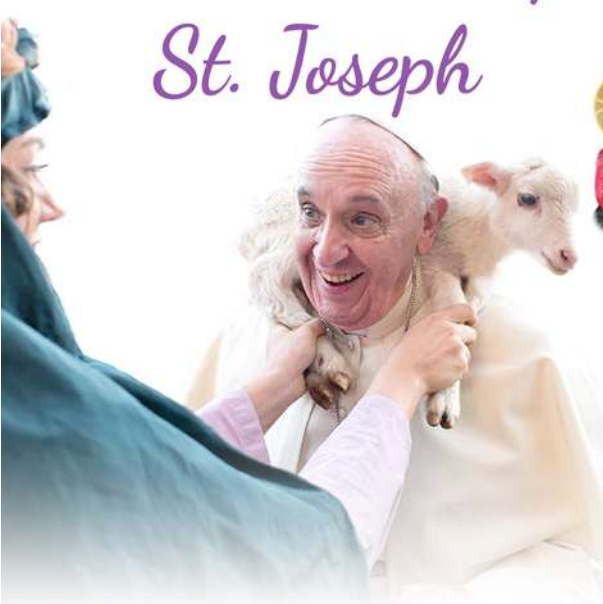
*Synodality, our sacred call,
To journey with, and stand with all.
To speak with truth, to hear with grace,
To find in each a sacred place.*

*We do not walk this path alone,
Each sister's heart, a living stone,
Together built into the whole,
A dwelling place for Christ, our goal.*

*So let our legacy be this:
A life poured out in quiet bliss;
A Church alive with every voice,
A world renewed by faithful choice.*

*In all we are, in all we give,
In Him we move, in Him we live.
And even when our voices fall
His love will echo through it all.*

Celebrate Pope Francis and St. Joseph



Sr. Santhosh Mary Micheal
Bangalore Province



I passionately admire Pope Francis. Pope Francis was a man of God and the people's Pope. He was the shepherd with **'the smell of the sheep.'** He was known for his humility, compassion, and dedication to serving the most vulnerable. He was a symbol of hope and a voice for the voiceless, particularly within the Catholic Church and to the whole world. A few days earlier, on 19 March 2025, Pope Francis completed a full twelve years since his Papal inauguration. These twelve years have been a watershed moment in the history of the Church. Pope Francis has proved to be the person the world desperately needs at this moment of history, with his all-embracing, far-sighted vision and his unflagging mission to make this world a more humane, just, peaceful and loving place. He is truly a prophet for our times: for this, we celebrate!

The day Pope Francis assumed office is also the day on which the catholic Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph, the patron of the Universal Church. For Pope Francis, the feast was not a mere coincidence: it was a clear message to the Church and the world that he wanted his Pontificate to be modelled on the person and message of St. Joseph. His homily at the inaugural Eucharist focused on St. Joseph. He said, "In the Gospel, St. Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working

man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak, but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness that exercising the role of protector as St. Joseph did, means doing so discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. The Gospels present St. Joseph as a husband to Mary, at her side in good times and bad, and as a father who watched over Jesus, worried about Him and taught Him a trade. St. Joseph responded to his call to be a protector by being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's plans, and not simply his own." For this, we celebrate Pope Francis!

In focusing on the qualities of St. Joseph in his first homily, Pope Francis left no doubt that he would be doing his best to imbibe some of these qualities personally. As one looks back at these past twelve years, the 'Joseph' in Francis has certainly defined his papacy in many different ways. St. Joseph epitomizes caring and protecting; he cares for and protects Mary and Jesus. It was not easy to do so, but he undertook the responsibility entrusted to him with complete diligence. That is exactly what Pope Francis has done, he cared for and protected one and all. He reached out to the lonely and the sick, the youth and the aged, the poor and the vulnerable, the excluded and the exploited, the migrants and refugees, the prisoners and the victims of an unjust world, in ways most extraordinary. His care and protection reached out to the whole of creation. He inspired and encouraged others to do likewise. For all of this, we celebrate Pope Francis' legacy. We, the JMJs, are privileged to have St. Joseph as our protector.

The Glow of Inspired Living



Sr. Jyoti Kisku
Raipur Province

Living with senior sisters is a uniquely enriching experience. They inspire me in many ways in their ripe age, with their wisdom and quiet conviction. They carry the grace that only years of living can bring. Their stories, often told with a gentle smile and distant eyes, are not just tales of the past but lessons wrapped in time, full of meaning for the present.

In our community at Karuna Nivas, Bhilai, we are deeply blessed to have the enduring presence of our senior sisters Dr. Sr. Tresa Bellamkonda, Sr. Pelagie Thattil, Sr. Sabina Mulakkampully, and Sr. Rosalini Thachil. These sisters stand as the four pillars of inspiration and guide to the younger generation in countless ways. Their legacy is not only a testament to their commitment but also a living example of the values we strive to uphold in the community. Their words aren't hurried, their emotions aren't scattered, they know the value of silence just as much as they know the power of a well-placed word. There's a richness in their presence, a depth that brings perspective when my mind feels cluttered with the noise of this modern life.

Each wrinkle on their face is a chapter. They remind me that strength isn't always loud sometimes; it is calm, consistent, and unshaken. Their faith, routines, and enduring bonds show me the beauty of commitment and the grace of letting go. They contribute actively in community life, faithfully joining in the daily prayer, sharing meals, common work, and recreation. These purposeful acts have fostered unity, support for the apostolate, and a spirit of communion in the community. Their lives reflect a beautiful renewal of their call, deeply rooted in the Spirit and charism of our founder, Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ.

Sr. Tresa has numerous firsthand accounts of God's providence experienced through her healing ministry. She never gets tired of sharing these miraculous stories with the sisters, all of which stem from her complete surrender to God's will. Her dedication to the healing ministry, coupled with a disciplined life deeply rooted in faith, has earned her public recognition and serves as a continual source of inspiration to me. Sr. Tresa listens attentively to the struggles of others and remains steadfast in her commitment to uplifting the poor and standing in solidarity with the marginalized. Sr. Sabina never grows weary of extending a helping hand wherever there is a need. Her spirit of availability is truly remarkable and a testament to selfless service. Sr. Rosalini contributes to the healing ministry in the hospital with quiet dedication, offering her service in humble yet impactful ways. Sr. Pelagie, the senior most, loves to spend her time in the presence of her master, lifting all the intentions of the community and praying for the various needs of the world. Their rich experiences and wisdom bring a sense of belonging and shared responsibility within the community. They have inspired countless individuals to grow in faith and remain steadfast in prayer.



Four Pillars of Inspiration to the Younger Generation:

Our senior sisters personify the spirit and charism of our congregation through four foundational pillars that have guided their journey of faith, service and dedication. These pillars are not just values; they are lived experiences that continue to inspire generations.

1. Prayer

Through faithfulness to the prayer, they continually nourish and re-energize their souls. Their punctuality and dedication to community prayer set a powerful example, inspiring the younger sisters to deepen their own spiritual lives. Their very presence in the chapel is a silent yet profound invitation to grow closer to God.

2. Vocation

Our sisters cherish their vocation with deep gratitude and love. True to the words of our founder, Fr. Mathias Wolff, “Your vocation in JMJ requires you to be willing to do anything and go wherever you are sent,” they have lived their call with wholehearted dedication. Whether in mission or now, their lives speak of a joyful “yes” to God’s call.

3. Attuned to the Will of God

Their spirit of obedience to the authority is another profound example of embracing God’s will. Their lives are a witness to humble surrender, grace, and deep spiritual maturity.

4. Readiness for Anything

Their apostolic availability is remarkable, their readiness reflects the true spirit of JMJ: to go where the need is greatest, for the love of God. This hallmark of total availability is what makes them true followers of our founder and living witnesses of the Gospel.

Their exemplary lives continue to inspire me as well as the younger generation to walk faithfully in the footsteps of Jesus with courage, love, and unwavering trust in God. On this shared journey, they faithfully pass on the legacy of JMJ, a heritage we are called to cherish, treasure and carry forward for generations to come.

“

Being old is just as important and beautiful as being young. The alliance between generations, which restores all ages of life to the human level, is our lost gift. It must be found again.”

- Pope Francis



Beyond Barriers:

Journey of JMJ SSS with Transgender Community in Andhra Pradesh

Sr. Saritha Prattipati
Guntur Province



In the heart of Andhra Pradesh, amidst cries for dignity and justice, the JMJ Social Service Society (JMJ SSS), Nallapadu, is quietly yet powerfully building bridges of love and empowerment. It has stepped forward with compassion, courage, and a prophetic vision that truly meets the signs of the times by responding to the silent suffering of the transgender community, often pushed to the margins by society.

Rooted in the charism of our Founder, Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, the Sisters saw not merely a population in need, but a community with dignity and untapped potential. Thus, we began our mission in deep solidarity and long-term empowerment.

Empowerment Through Livelihood:

Partnering with NABARD, JMJ SSS has opened pathways to sustainable livelihoods. Skill development training in tailoring, beautician work, and handicrafts has empowered transgender individuals to dream anew and live with dignity. These aren't just vocational skills; they are instruments of freedom. By facilitating micro-finance access and business training, JMJ SSS helps them build small enterprises, enabling true financial independence.

Compassion in Action:

When floods devastated parts of Vijayawada, transgender individuals, already socially vulnerable, were among the hardest hit. The response was not just logistical; it was deeply personal. The Sisters stood beside the affected, offering more than aid, the ray of hope.

JMJ SSS responded swiftly through:

- ✦ **Emergency Relief:** Distribution of food, clothing, and hygiene kits
- ✦ **Shelter & Rehabilitation:** Temporary housing and access to services

Dialogue & Advocacy:

True empowerment requires systemic change. Through state-wide consultations, JMJ SSS has created platforms where transgender individuals speak, share, and advocate for themselves. These gatherings illuminate injustices and ignite policy conversations.

- ✦ **Addressing Barriers:** Stories and struggles are shared, heard, and validated.
- ✦ **Policy Advocacy:** These voices are echoes to influence systemic reform.
- ✦ **Building Networks:** Transgender individuals connect with each other and create a broader support system, fostering solidarity and resilience.



MYRIADS OF MISSION



A Mission That Reflects God's Love

This initiative is more than a social project. It is a spiritual mission, a mission that dares to go beyond comfort zones and embrace the Gospel mandate to love without condition. It is a testament to the JMJ spirit: going where the need is greatest, serving those most forgotten.

Through this mission, the JMJ Social Service Society, Nallapadu, is not only changing lives but also rewriting narratives of life. The transgender community is no longer seen through the lens of pity but through the lens of partnership, potential, and profound human worth.

Looking Ahead with Faith

This journey continues, and it offers a model for an inclusive mission. To every JMJ sister, volunteer, and supporter of this mission: thank you. In our synodal journey, together we strive for a more just and compassionate world. May our lives always be a “YES” to God’s call to stand with the least and the lost, especially those whose voices have gone unheard for too long.



“A touch of mercy transforms everything. It is the most profound feeling we can have: It alters the world”

- Pope Francis

International Women's Day - 2025

Theme: Accelerate Action

*"When you empower a woman,
you empower a generation."*

This truth echoed with vibrant clarity on 8th March 2025, as the JMJ Social Service Society Nallapadu, celebrated **International Women's Day** under the inspiring global theme: **"Accelerate Action."** At the heart of this celebration was a call to move beyond promises and programs; to take bold, concrete steps to uplift women, especially the most marginalized, and to walk with them toward equality, dignity, and self-reliance.

Our Congregation, inspired by the vision of our beloved Founder, Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ has always stood with women and youth, nurturing potential, breaking barriers, and fostering inclusive communities. In the Province of Guntur, that mission is alive and active, especially through the hands and hearts of JMJ SSS at Nallapadu.

Empowerment Rooted in Action

This year's Women's Day celebration marked not only a day of recognition but the culmination of transformation. Ninety women, drawn from rural villages across Guntur district, proudly received their certificates and tailoring machines, having completed the NABARD-sponsored Advanced Tailoring Training Program. Among them, 35 women from Vejendla, received special support; their eyes shone with hope as they spoke of their dreams.

What made this moment so special was not merely the certificates or machines, but what they symbolized: *'freedom,'* freedom from dependency. Freedom to earn, contribute, and lead. Each woman walked away not just with a tool, but with

Sr. Mary Kumari & Team,
Guntur Province



renewed identity, as *earners and changemakers* in their families and communities.

Inspiring Voices, United Purpose

Presiding over the celebration was Mrs. B.M. Leela Kumari, a well-respected advocate and social activist. "Empowerment," she said, "begins at home, when women believe in their worth, and when families and communities affirm that worth." Her words served as both a challenge and an inspiration: change begins with us.

Mr. Sarath, District Development Manager of NABARD, addressed the gathering, reinforcing NABARD's commitment to women's progress. He assured the participants that their training certificates would serve as gateways to further financial support, particularly through Dwakra Group linkages. His message underscored the power of institutional backing in sustaining women-led entrepreneurship and community growth.

Unity in Diversity

Over 120 women from villages including Numbur, Peda Kakani, Chebrolu, Nallapadu, Tenali,





Vengalayapalem, and Vejendla came together for this celebration, bringing with them stories of struggle, survival, and strength. Their presence was a celebration in itself. The team at JMJ SSS honoured every participant with small gifts of appreciation, symbols of respect for their perseverance and spirit.

But beyond these tokens, it was the atmosphere, joyful, united, filled with laughter and pride, that spoke most powerfully. It was a reminder that empowerment is not about individual achievement alone, but about collective progress. It is about standing together, rising together, and moving forward as one.

The JMJ Spirit in Action

At its core, this celebration was a living embodiment of the Charism of the JMJ Congregation, a Congregation that has always stood for integral human development, education, and the upliftment of the poor and marginalized. For decades, JMJ Sisters in the Guntur Province have championed youth development, women's empowerment, healthcare, and education, especially in rural and under-resourced regions.

The International Women's Day event is just one of the many initiatives that reflect this deep commitment. Through JMJ SSS, our sisters are not only responding to immediate needs but also



planting seeds of lasting transformation by building confidence, offering skills, and creating avenues for economic and social empowerment.

A Call to Continue

As the women returned home with tailoring machines in hand and dreams in their hearts, they carried more than tools; they carried confidence, recognition, and a new sense of purpose. JMJ SSS continues to walk hand in hand, heart to heart, committed to building a future where no woman is left behind.

In every International Women's Day, we do not just celebrate women. We celebrate their courage, their capacity to transform, and their boundless potential. Let this year be a turning point. Let us accelerate action, not only on days of celebration but every day, in every village, with every woman we meet.

A Symphony of Hope Amidst Global Chaos



Sr. Innamma Yeruva
Hyderabad Province

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you”. (Jn 20:21)

This Scripture verse signifies Jesus’ commission to the disciples, mirroring his own mission from the Father and establishing a continuation of the divine mission. We are sent on a mission.

Present Global Scenario: Amidst the chaos of the present global scenario, we keenly observe major shifts in how the missionary task is being carried out around the world, marred by war, economic and political instability, faith crises, and a widespread erosion of human values, complexifying the missionary endeavours. And yet, opening up a diversity of strategic opportunities and myriad modes for missionary service today.

Signs of Hope: A desperate search is made for signs of hope and the JMJ Congregation, through myriads of Missions, each uniquely crafted by the Spirit, yet united in one goal, make God’s love visible and tangible to all as radiant guiding light and hope. Across continents and cultures, our every ministry becomes a channel of healing, every act of service a sign of God’s enduring love: primarily by our presence that piercingly speaks a single message: God is near, and hope is alive, love is possible and renewal is necessary and then through education, healthcare, social service, pastoral care, evangelization, formation, and humanitarian outreach, we continue the legacy entrusted to us: we strive to touch lives and transform hearts, bearing the flame of the Gospel bright, steadfast, and unwavering.

Rooted in Synodality: Along with our collaborators, the heartbeat of JMJ - we form a living tapestry of ministries. Our collaboration with Dioceses, NGOs, other congregations, lay partners, national and international platforms is not merely a strategy but a living embodiment of

synodality: rooted in synodality. We journey together, listening to the Spirit deeply, discerning carefully in communion and walking hand in hand with those we serve. Our mission is not a solitary endeavour, but a shared pilgrimage, where every partner, lay collaborator, and sister is a co-traveller in God’s dream for humanity. It is unquestionably a path of renewal, where each step forward carries the message that hope is not extinguished even in the darkest night.

Carrying the light forward: Together, we journey forward, in the mission of hope with Synodality as a path to renewal. In the disordered world of present times, as JMJ family and collaborators, we are called to be the harbingers of hope, forging paths of unity, sowing seeds of renewal, and building bridges where there are divides. The Spirit calls us to renew our commitment: to be bearers of hope, artisans of peace, and architects of a new future where the message of the Gospel becomes tangible in the lives of those we serve.

Entrenched in Christ’s call: As the heart of our mission, is deeply entrenched in Christ’s call to serve, pounding with the rhythm of compassion, justice, and solidarity - whether in remote villages or bustling cities, in classrooms or clinics, in the silence of spiritual direction or the dynamism of social outreach, let us walk this sacred path with joy, courage, and unwavering trust in the one who makes all things new. Let us continue to be the healing touch, the listening ear, the encouraging word, and the lighted lamp for a world that thirsts for the presence of God. In the end, it is not merely what we do, but who we become, a people so ingrained in Christ’s love that we become the living signs of hope for the nations.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you” (Isaiah 60:1)

Wolff's Vision Radiates - **Rooted in Mission, United in Spirit**

Sr. Helena Galleli
Raipur Province



I feel deeply proud to be a follower of Jesus through the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph, founded by Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, S.J. My journey began during my time at St. Joseph's Junior College in Kurnool, where I was deeply inspired by the dedication and selfless service of the JMJ Sisters.

After completing my basic nursing studies, I was assigned to teach at the School of Nursing. As a Nursing tutor for eight years in Jamshedpur, it remains a treasured chapter of my life. As a young sister, I was entrusted with the roles of Principal and Superior of the community. It was during this time that I truly experienced the incredible hand of God guiding me in His mission.

I was blessed to serve alongside a senior sister in her 70s, a companion of mine, a young sister serving as the warden, and two student sisters. In addition to managing the School of Nursing and the hostel, we conducted two full weeks of HIV/AIDS awareness programs every month for all the nurses in Jharkhand State for five years. It was a time of testing my limits, discovering hidden strengths, building confidence, and learning what it means to depend completely on God.

Those days still rejuvenate my spirit. Despite the differences in age and experience, we worked together with mutual respect and shared purpose. I discussed everything openly, planned deliberately, confronted challenges courageously and carried out the responsibilities in unity and care. Often, I felt thrown into situations without knowing what to do. But everything I learned, I learned it by doing.



I served genuinely and generously, uplifted by the trust of my sisters in me. Our community was marked by openness, deep listening, and cooperation. The ego never disrupted our unity. We were few, yet the mission we accomplished was immense. We had no time for distractions; our focus and peace were rooted in our shared mission. I am grateful for all the sisters who journeyed with me for their cooperation, coordination and deep commitment. It gives me a lasting sense of shared accomplishment. This is what I experienced as the synodal solidarity with my community members.

That period of my life often reminds me of the first believers described in Acts 2:44 - 46. I strongly believe our beloved Fr. Wolff's vision lives on, not in grand gestures but in small, faithful acts of community, in the courage to listen and the humility to change. We heal not in isolation, but in togetherness.

Carrying the Light of Christ in Challenging Lands

Sr. Jisha Komban
Raipur Province



Our missionary journey in the small village of Chapra, located in the Bethia, Diocese of Bihar, has been a profound and life-changing experience. This region is marked by immense hardship, deep rooted poverty, and education remains a distant dream for many. Human life, especially that of women and children, is often at grave risk. The realities here are harsh: brutal incidents are common, and safety, particularly for young girls, is a constant concern. Female students beyond the sixth grade are few, as many families, driven by poverty and societal pressures, either transfer their daughters to government schools or withdraw them from education altogether.

Violence casts a shadow over daily life. In many households, keeping weapons such as swords is seen as a necessity, and acts of aggression can erupt even over the smallest disputes. Women, despite the burdens they carry, the societal constraints they face, show remarkable resilience. Mothers with young children often move about with their faces and bodies completely covered, preserving their dignity in a place where vulnerabilities are many.

Finding female staff members for our mission remains a significant challenge, with only one or

two courageous women stepping forward to serve under such difficult circumstances.

Recognizing the immense needs of the local communities, we organized a charity event through our school. We invited staff members, parents, and students to contribute clothing and food supplies for the most deprived families. Their generous response was truly heartening. The collected items were carefully sorted and distributed among two of the poorest neighborhoods in the area.



This initiative was not just about providing material support; it was a moment of solidarity, a chance to stand with those who face unimaginable hardships every day. It was a moment of shared humanity, a way to bridge the gap between those who have and those who struggle. Through small acts of kindness, we live the Gospel in action.

Each encounter with the families, each smile, and each expression of gratitude reaffirmed our commitment to continue this mission. We experienced, in a deeply personal way, the words of Pope Francis: *"Mission is a passion for Jesus and at the same time a passion for His people."* Strengthened by these experiences, we move forward, determined to be faithful missionaries of God's love, bringing light where there is darkness and hope where there is despair.



A Journey of Faith, Compassion and Mission



Sr. Kiran Bendria
Raipur Province

In the heart of rural India, nestled amid the forests and fields, lives a community often overlooked - the Santhals, one of the largest tribal groups in the country. Historically marginalized and excluded from mainstream education, many Santhal children grow up believing the world beyond their villages is not for them. I saw this harsh reality - and decided to do something.

My journey in Giridih in the state of Jharkhand, began not with grand plans, but with a simple desire: to make a difference. When I first came to Giridih a very remote Santhal area. I met many students who lack opportunities for better education. I knew I couldn't change their lives overnight. But I could be a bridge - a bridge between their silent dreams and the world beyond. The first step was not teaching, but listening. Education, I explained, was not just about books - it was a tool to preserve their identity and unlock their future.

We began with four small rooms. And every day, we worked on more than literacy - we worked on confidence, dreams, and discipline. Their transformation is not just academic - it's spiritual, emotional, and cultural.

The road has not been easy. We battled dropouts, poverty, language barriers, and deep-rooted societal neglect. But for every student who chose Nursing education over early marriage, for every parent who allowed a daughter to study, for every smile after a passed exam - it was worth it.

To see a Santhal student stand on stage, speak in English, and dream fearlessly - that is my reward. From nothing to something, from shadows to spotlight - this is the power of belief, of education, and of an unyielding mission.

Training Santhal students for nursing is not just about professional education - it's about rewriting destinies. It's about giving young tribal youth the tools to heal others and to rise themselves. In their hands lies not just care, but hope. And in their eyes, the light of a future once thought impossible.



Today when I look back my mission over here I feel so happy and contented. I thank God Almighty for making use of my talents for these students because I started just with 19 students and now just two years completed and we have more than 156 students getting trained. I am glad that these young students are breaking barriers and stepping into the noble field of nursing. This is the story of transformation. Of training Santhal students not just for jobs, but for life. Not just for income, but for impact.

As I reflect on my journey as a religious and as a nursing tutor, I see a beautiful thread running through every classroom session, every hospital visits at patient's bedside and every whispered prayer at dawn, a thread of compassion, service, and faith guiding my mission.

The spirituality and charism of JMJ empowers me in three profound ways:

1. Formation through Compassion

As a tutor, I am not just forming professionals; I am shaping the future of my country. The JMJ charism helps me to mentor students with love

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and discipline, teaching them to see their work as a ministry and not just a career.

2. Healing through Presence

The healing ministry is not just about medicine - it is about being present, just as Mary stood at the foot of the Cross. I have learned from her silent strength and Joseph's faithful support that presence is healing in itself.

3. Mission through Community

In JMJ we are never alone. We live in sisterhood and communion and that spirit spills into my mission reminding me to collaborate, to listen and to serve joyfully, whether in teams or in solitude.

A Charism Lived in Communion

The Church today calls us to a path of synodality - journeying together in faith, mission and dialogue. And for me, this aligns deeply with the JMJ charism. The Holy Family walked together, they listened to each other, they responded to God's voice in community. So, for me synodality in my daily work means:

- Listening to the students not just as learners but as future caregivers with their own stories and passion.
- Collaborating with healthcare teams in mutual respect.
- Being open to the Spirit moving through others' insights not just my own.



Synodality is not a new idea for us, it's how we've always walked. But now, I am called to deepen it with more intentionality and trust. The spirituality and charism of JMJ are not abstract ideals. They are the living pulse of my mission as a Nursing Tutor. They have formed me, challenged me, comforted me and strengthened me.

Called to Heal, Called to Love

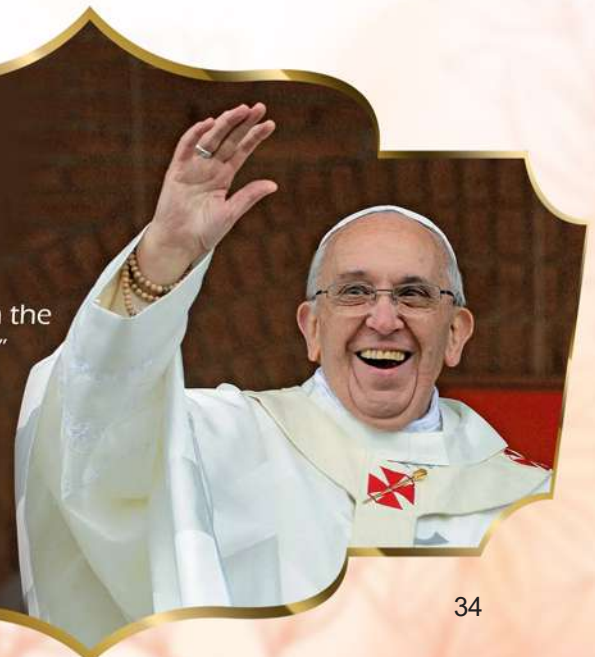
In every patient's tear, I see Mary's tenderness.

In every tired student, I see Joseph's quiet diligence.

In every act of care, I see Jesus walking again into the lives of the poor, the sick and the lonely. This is my joy. This is my calling.

"We have a Lord... who is capable of crying with us, capable of walking with us in the most difficult moments of life"

- Pope Francis



Arco Mission - A Divine Providence

Arco, deriving its name from the Latin word *Arx* meaning “**fortress**”, developed around a hilltop castle, gradually expanding into the town it is today. True to its name, the town grew around a castle that once stood proudly on a hilltop. In the past, its mild climate led to the founding of several sanatoriums. Over the past 60 years, Arco has grown into a dynamic center of industry, agriculture, and tourism. Key landmarks include the *Castello di Arco* and the *Collegiata dell’Assunta*, a baroque church built between 1613 and 1671 by Giovanni Maria Filippi. The local economy thrives on summer tourism and the production of olive oil, wine, and fruit. Arco’s cultural heritage is celebrated through traditional crafts and the feast of its patron saint, Saint Anne, on June 26th.

The JMJ Congregation’s presence in Arco is a testament to God’s surprising and providential plan. On 02 September 2024, Sisters Usha Chacko, Sarojini Kiro, and Sunitha Tirkey were missioned to Arco, accompanied by Sisters Valsa and Christy. We departed by train in the morning and arrived at Rovereto Station at 12:45 p.m. From there, a



Sr. Usha Chacko
Overseas Missionary



vehicle arranged by the Arco Foundation brought us safely to our new home - Mary Glowrey Convent, earlier known as Villa Tabor, a House of Prayer, for the people of Arco.

We were warmly received by Mr. Paulo, President of the Foundation, Mrs. Laura Pollini, Director of the Foundation, Fr. Francesco, the Parish Priest and members of Caritas, namely Mr. Romano and Mrs. Maria Pia, along with many others. The Arco community rejoiced at the arrival of the religious sisters, who had come to serve the people of Arco.



By 09 September 2024 all our documents were finalized and the sisters began their mission at the Old Age Home, known as “**Fondazione Comunità di Arco**” providing assistance and care to the senior citizens of Arco and its surrounding areas. Entering a completely new system and collaborating with lay people and staff from diverse countries and backgrounds presented significant challenges to us. Adapting and integrating into this unfamiliar environment was not easy. Everything was new – the place, the people, the culture, and the responsibilities. Yet, with faith and determination, we embraced this mission as a new beginning,

trusting in God's providence, each day as we took one step at a time in serving the elderly of Arco. JMJ is the only religious congregation working among the laity in Arco. At times, our presence is met with indifference or misunderstanding. Yet, through our gentle presence, our genuine smiles, and compassionate service, we strive to inspire and bear witness to Christ's love.

A Joyful Visit and Blessed Recognition

On 03 January 2025, Rev. Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, our superior general and her Council visited Arco. The purpose of their visit was to participate in the official presentation of JMJ sisters to the parish of Arco by Archbishop Lauro Tisi, of Trento. 06 January 2025 will remain a memorable and historic day for us, the JMJ sisters as it was a day specially set apart to introduce us formally to the parish community. His Grace Archbishop Lauro Tisi graced the occasion, specifically to welcome us and present us to the people of Arco.

The celebration was marked with a solemn Sunday Holy Mass in the church over crowded with the presence of the Mayor of Arco, President of the Foundation, many faithful parishioners, and other dignitaries. During the ceremony, Archbishop Tisi introduced the JMJ Sisters to the parish, while the parish priest Don Francesco officially read the letter of appointment signed by the archbishop, formally declaring that the three JMJ sisters now belong to the parish.

During his homily, the archbishop expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Sr. Mary and Council for sending three sisters to serve in the parish and to assist in the care of the sick and elderly at the *Fondazione Comunità di Arco*. He spoke warmly of our presence, calling JMJ sisters a blessing to the community of Arco, especially at a time when the practice of faith is declining. He prayed that our presence would bring a ray of hope, renewal of faith and drawing people closer to Christ and the Church. His final words deeply touched our hearts:



“These sisters have left their homeland and have come here to offer a helping hand in caring for suffering humanity. It is not easy to live amidst cultural differences. Yet, for the **love of Christ**, and to follow Him more closely in His mercy and compassion, they have embraced this challenging way of life. Let us support them with our prayers and welcome them with great joy. I wish and pray that they may have a permanent stay among us.”

After the Holy Mass, the parish council had arranged snacks and beverages for everyone in honour of the sisters' presence. His Grace, Archbishop Lauro Tisi, along with other dignitaries, visited our community, and together we shared an agape meal. It was a wonderful experience, marked by the warm and heartfelt welcome extended to the sisters by the people of Arco. It was truly surprising and touching to discover that almost everyone in Arco was aware that the JMJ Sisters had arrived.

This is how with the prayerful support of many generous hearts, both near and far our mission in Arco officially began. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our previous general team Rev. Sr. Innamma and council, who initiated the mission in Arco, to Rev. Sr. Mary and her Council for their constant encouragement, support, and prayers. We continue to carry out the mission entrusted to us by our Congregation. It is a journey filled with grace, but not without trials. We walk forward, inspired by the words of Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey: **“The hand that gives is the hand that blesses.”** With this in our hearts, we continue to serve, love, and be a beacon of Christ's light in Arco.

Empowering the Youth:

A Transformative Workshop in Raipur

Sr. Denin Mary Chiriyankandath
Congregational Mission
cum JPIC Coordinator



The International Mission and JPIC Commission (IMJC), in collaboration with the Provincial Council of Raipur, organized a two-day workshop on January 28-29, 2025, at JMJ Provincialate Raipur. The workshop was held under the theme: **“Empowering Youth to Discover, Develop and Lead.”**



**Empowering Youth to
Discover, Develop
and Lead**

It aimed at equipping sisters from four provinces to initiate and enhance youth ministry at the inter-province level, and to empower the youth animators with skills and knowledge to lead and inspire the young people on their faith journey. Total 30 sisters from four provinces and a few youths from St. Mary’s Church Raipur were part of it. The program sought to address the spiritual, emotional, socio-cultural needs of young people while equipping them for leadership roles in the Church and the world. Fr. Dr. Yeruva Joji Reddy SDB, a renowned expert in youth engagement and leadership development was the resource person for the workshop. Fr. Joji Reddy emphasized the importance of understanding the challenges young people face today and encouraged the animators to be empathetic, innovative and proactive in their approach to youth ministry.

Fr. Joji encouraged the participants to start youth ministry in their own educational institutions, focusing on integral formation of the heart, head and hands through proper accompaniment and follow-up. He emphasized the need to establish

networks among educators to share experiences, develop dedicated leaders and engage unorganized youth in their neighborhoods. Key areas of focus for youth ministry included providing guidance on career development, personal issues and personality growth. The program concluded with participants reflecting on the powerful mantra that ‘youth are the heart of the Church.’



The seminar not only empowered youth animators but also reaffirmed the importance of standing by the youth, working for their cause and ensuring their holistic development. It provided clarity on the mission ahead and gave participants the necessary guidelines to begin their work with enthusiasm and vision. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, the superior general, and her Council, as well as to Sr. Marykutty and her Council, for their timely support and invaluable contribution to the success of this workshop.

Peace, Happiness and Personality Development through Education

A Training Program for School Students

In the context of growing violence in the society, it is an urgent need to inculcate values of peace, religious harmony, and Ahimsa (non-violence) in the midst of children at the early age. As part of JPIC initiatives for peace this program was implemented in few of our schools in Guntur province.

1. Amali English Medium School, Vijayawada,
2. St. Joseph's High School, Pedda Kakani
3. JMJ English Medium High School, Nambur

The program was conducted by Fr. Dr. Scaria Kalloor, OFM Cap., and Fr. Ditto Sebastian, OFM Cap. They engaged the students for four hours in each school through **an activity-based, child-centered approach**. The sessions focused on cultivating positive attitudes among children, while promoting the integration of peace and happiness with education under the guiding theme: **"Together Towards Harmonious Peace."**

The event featured peace prayers from various religious traditions, along with a transformative meditation session led by Fr. Ditto Sebastian. The students actively participated in the meditation and later shared their personal reflections and inner experiences. As part of the program, they were also taught to greet others by saying **"Peace to you"** while offering a handshake. This simple yet meaningful gesture helped foster stronger bonds and a spirit of mutual respect and harmony among the students.



They were given awareness on cyber-crimes, right use of mobile phones and to build good relationship with the family, and were divided into different groups to discuss on how they would promote peace in their school, homes and in the society at large. They came out with very concrete action plans, and had a joyful learning in the workshop.

The students spent time in silent prayer and were introduced to peace prayers from various religions, which fostered a strong sense of community feeling and inner peace. The serene atmosphere in the campus further supported them in reflecting on their goals with clarity and focus. Through these experiences, they gained a deeper understanding of the value of peace and were inspired to become active promoters of peace in the society.

Along with students, the teachers also participated in the training program, which enhanced their skills and effectiveness in fostering a peace-oriented learning environment. By introducing peace education and peace clubs into the educational system, young minds are equipped with the tools to become compassionate, open-minded, and socially sensitive individuals. This initiative empowers students to grow into responsible global citizens, capable of addressing the complex social, political, and religious challenges of our times.

This peace education program fosters a peaceful and nurturing campus environment, encouraging students to actively contribute to a more harmonious world. Its ultimate aim is to form individuals of strong character and integrity; good human beings grounded in core human values. Such transformation is only possible when values-based education becomes an integral part of a young person's development.



Formation JPIC Session:

A Call to Personal Transformation

We are deeply grateful to the JPIC sessions organized by the International Mission and JPIC (IMJC) team Sr. Denin and Sr. Joseph Mary that held from April 1-2, 2025 at the Postulants' House in Goa, and April 20-21, 2025 in Bhopal.

✞ Bridge prayer and action:

Let faith inspire practical steps toward a better world.

✞ Commit to personal change:

Develop a personal action plan aligned with the *Laudato Si'* Goals.



Through this session, we realized that care for creation, justice for the poor, and peace among people are not abstract goals but our daily responsibilities. The JPIC values challenged us to examine our lifestyles, choices, and attitudes in light of the Gospel and the cry of the Earth.

We learned the valuable lessons such as:

✞ Live a simple life with responsibility:

Use resources wisely, reduce waste, and choose sustainable practices.

✞ Be a voice for the voiceless:

Stand for the marginalized, speak out against injustice, and act with compassion.

✞ Practice peace and nonviolence:

In words, relationships, and daily interactions.

✞ Grow in ecological awareness:

Recognize the sacredness of all creation and our role as stewards, not owners.

The JPIC session gave us the tools and motivation to live a meaningful, Gospel centered life that respects people, planet, and peace. It is a journey from awareness to action, from personal transformation to global impact.

We are grateful for this opportunity and for guiding us toward living more consciously and compassionately caring for our common home and all its creation.



Anti Human Trafficking Campaign in Sambuli - Ghana

On the occasion of the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of human trafficking, a short yet deeply moving prayer service was held at the hospital in Sambuli. Staff, patients, and visitors came together in prayerful solidarity, honoring the life and witness of St. Bakhita, who endured the painful reality of slavery and became a beacon of hope and resilience.

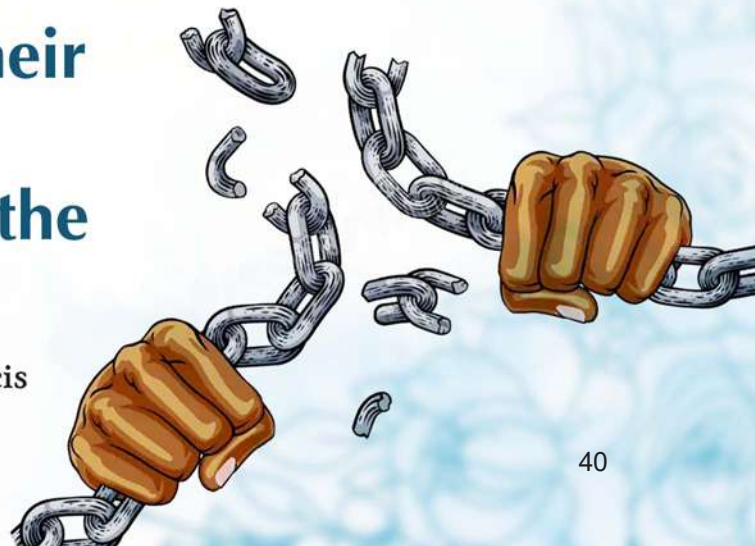


In line with the spirit of the day, a Power Point presentation was prepared and shared during the event to raise public awareness on human trafficking, a crime that continues to affect millions across the globe. The presentation highlighted key facts about modern slavery, its warning signs, and the urgent need to uphold the dignity of every human person. The content was both educational and empowering, encouraging attendees to be vigilant, compassionate, and proactive in addressing this grave issue.

This initiative was not limited to the hospital setting. We extended our efforts to our schools, particularly focusing on the higher-class students. The entire day served as a powerful reminder of the continuing need to pray, educate, and act against the injustice of human trafficking.

“May we listen to their cry for help and feel challenged by the stories they tell.”

~ Pope Francis



Safeguarding initiatives

Called to Care, Committed to Protect



Sr. Joseph Mary Vadlamudi

Congregational Safeguarding Coordinator

The first half of 2025 has been a season of meaningful milestones and growing commitment to our safeguarding mission. Through workshops, policy dissemination, inter-province seminars, and vibrant community participation, we continue building a culture of protection across our provinces and regions.



It gives us immense joy to announce that following important events are materialized during the half year:

- The **JMJ Safeguarding Policy** was officially released on **2nd February 2025**, during the inauguration of **Divyodaya: JMJ Spirituality and Mission Centre** in Hyderabad. The Safeguarding Policy booklet and logo were unveiled by our Superior General, **Sr. Mary Karickakunnel**. Following the launch, **600 copies** of the Congregational Safeguarding Policy were printed and distributed across provinces and region, including our communities in the **USA** and **Germany**.
- The **safeguarding commission members** of Guntur, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Raipur and Ghana Region, about 30 members, participated in online training program offered by Institute for Formators (IFF), Bangalore in collaboration with Institute of Anthropology (IADC), Pontifical Gregorian University.
- A seminar for all the HODs of Guntur province was conducted on the Theme: “Safeguarding with Compassion” which dealt on abuse types, reporting, and the role of safeguarding coordinators.
- During General Council’s orientation in India, sessions focused on the responsibilities of superiors in the local units to create safe environment and deal with allegations, were held in Raipur, Hyderabad, Guntur, and Bangalore. All the superiors of Indian provinces attended the workshop.
- The sessions focused on the theological and scriptural foundations of Safeguarding, healthy relationships, grooming indicators, presentation of the safeguarding policy and integrating safeguarding into daily ministry was conducted **for the TPS** in Hyderabad, Guntur, and Bangalore.
- Interactive two-day session with prayer, group activities, and personal sharing were conducted for the **pre-novices in Goa**. The workshop focused on introduction to safeguarding, recognising signs and indicators of abuse, red flags of perpetrators and introduction to safeguarding policy. Participants expressed deep learning and commitment.
- At **St. Mary’s CBSE School**, Timarni (MP), children and staff were trained on online safety, reporting abuse, and creating safe environments. Children came forward with concerns - an encouraging sign of awareness.
- Regular **Congregational Safeguarding Commission (CSC) meetings** were held

MISSION, JPIC CUM SAFEGUARDING INITIATIVES

online to finalize schedules, assign roles, and prepare action plans for various formation levels and provinces.

- “*Synodality: A Way of Life*” was the focus of a vibrant **inter-province seminar for Safeguarding and JPIC members** on 22nd and 23rd February. Dance, drama, and theological reflection created a heartfelt call to protect the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable.
- In the **spirit of collaboration**, and with the support of provincial councils, the congregational and province/regional safeguarding commission members, psychologists like Dr. Suman, and collaboration with theologians like Fr. Alla Stanislaus, the Safeguarding Commission continues to offer training rooted in theology, pastoral care, and practical wisdom.



Commission in Action - Oath Taking Ceremonies

Guntur Province: An online session was conducted by Srs. Joseph Mary, the Congregational Safeguarding Coordinator and Sr. Saritha, the Province Safeguarding Coordinator for all the teachers and staff of the Educational Institutions and the commission members pronounced their commitment in the presence of the provincial council and all the participants of the seminar.

Hyderabad Province: Sr. Joseph Mary presented the significance of oath taking and read Pope Francis’s message. The Province Commission members took the Oath of Commitment online in

the presence of all the sisters of the province and the Provincial Council.

Ghana Region: Included an online workshop by Fr. Francis, an alumnus of IADC, Gregorian University followed by oath taking by commission members.

Charting the Path Forward

- Sessions are planned for TPS, formees, and institutional staff.
- Standardized training materials and province-specific action plans are in development.
- Continuous engagement with UISG and other global safeguarding efforts ensures we remain informed and united with the universal Church in our mission.
- Networking with similar organisations in spreading safeguarding message.

Let us walk together in creating safe, healing, and empowering spaces in our communities.



From Culemborg to Rome:

A Pilgrimage of Heart, Heritage, and Hope

The Jubilee Year pilgrimage of the Sisters of JMJ to Europe, held from May 7-20, 2025, was a sacred and transformative journey through the spiritual and historical roots of the Congregation across the Netherlands, France, and Italy. Our sisters from Ghana, India and Italy numbering 55 of us reached the Netherlands on 7th evening.

Netherlands:

Retracing the Spiritual Roots of JMJ

The pilgrimage began in Culemborg, on 8th morning, where Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ with his co-Jesuit, Fr. De Hasque commenced his mission in 1816. Culemborg is also called “The Gateway to the Betuwe” for its well-preserved ancient town set in a beautiful natural landscape. We were welcomed warmly by Auxiliary Bishop Ted and local leaders. Mr. Anthony Zielhost, the president of the Church Council, who had earlier received his catechism from our sisters in Culemborg accompanied us. Our joy doubled when Sr. Anitha and Sr. Lilly, came all the way from Leuven, Belgium to guide us through JMJ’s historical spots. Mr. Anthony explained every corner of the town where our Founder once walked and lived. We visited significant sites, including Pater Wolff pad, then continued to walk in Mariakroon where the JMJ sisters once ran a kindergarten and a kind of orphanage which was located behind the R.K. Barbaraziekehuis, near the city canal, and was named after the former monastery Mariakroon. During our visit to the church in Culemborg, we were drawn to the special painting of *Seat of Grace* (1628) by Cousiers, a pupil of the renowned Flemish artist Rubens. This treasured artwork holds deep significance for the parish as well to us JMJ. We also visited the town hall, where Fr. Wolff once

defended the Catholic faith against Protestant opposition, marking a pivotal moment in his life.

Later, at the monastery garden in Mariakroon, we paid our respects at the memorial monument where Fr. Wolff’s relics were interred. At 11:00 a.m we gathered for the Holy Mass. Pilgrims entered in procession, carrying a Jubilee candle blessed by Bishop Ted and six flower pots symbolizing the four provinces, the Ghana region, and the mission - honoring the Jubilee year and our gratitude to the Founder and pioneers. The liturgy set a reverent tone for a meaningful and grace-filled celebration.

After the Mass, we proceeded to St. Agatha (Kloosterlaan), which houses the archives of the Society of JMJ. There, we were left in awe by the writings of our Founder and the beautifully preserved documentation of our sisters - their handwritten notes, artistic work, and records left an indelible impression on our hearts and minds.

Our final pilgrim step of the day was Nijmegen, where our founder served as a parish priest from 1834 to 1846. As one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands with deep Christian roots, Nijmegen is also the birthplace of Saint Peter Canisius. We walked in the footsteps of our founder, cherishing each moment with deep spiritual joy. In the same church, we visited the Chapel of Our Lady of Nijmegen, also known as the Mother of Mankind, who is remembered for healing a crippled boy and according to history, miraculously healing our dear founder as well.

A meaningful prayer service was led by Sr. Lilly and Sr. Anitha, enriched with a historical note that brought us back to our early learnings from the books of the Society. We then continued to ‘**De Schommel**’ the swing - now a war memorial for

those who lost their lives during the Second World War, including 8 of our JMJ sisters, 24 school children, and many others. Our pilgrimage concluded with a symbolic walk along the path our founder once took to the River Waal, from where he visited the sisters in Amersfoort and Engelen by boat.

The first day of our pilgrimage was a profound immersion into the lines of history, especially into the spirituality of our Founder. From the religious diversity of Culemborg to the monastic peace of St. Agatha, and the urban spirituality of Nijmegen, the journey offered a rich and comprehensive experience of religious heritage of the Netherlands.

Memories of Journeying into the Glorious Past:

On Friday, 9 May 2025, our sisters embarked on a meaningful pilgrimage to Heeswijk, Marienburg, and 's-Hertogenbosch, sites of deep historical and spiritual significance to the heritage and mission of our Congregation.

We arrived at Hoofdstraat 80, Heeswijk-Dinther, Mariakroon Garden the sacred resting place of our beloved founder, Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff and JMJ Sisters. The site serene and exudes a quiet beauty, welcomed the sisters into a moment of stillness, prayer and deep reflection. A solemn prayer service was held at the gravesite. In a spirit of reverence, our hearts lifted in prayer and thanksgiving. In that quiet, sacred space, time felt suspended, and all were enveloped in a profound spiritual connection with our founder and the generations who walked before us in faith.

Then we visited to the Dutch Sisters' Home – Abdijstraat. It was a Grace-Filled encounter with Our Dutch Sisters. We arrived at Cunera De Bongard, a serene and welcoming haven where 21 of our beloved Dutch Sisters now live out their sunset years in peace, companionship and spiritual tranquillity. The home exuded a quiet dignity, reflecting the lives of the sisters who dwell there, pillars of our Congregation's enduring legacy, fostering intergenerational connection and gratitude.

We were graciously received by Sr. Laetitia, the Regional Superior. In her touching address, she reflected, "My life is like a Psalm, an unfolding hymn of gratitude, trust, and praise to God." The visit unfolded into a heartwarming time of joyful interaction, shared memories, and mutual appreciation. The room echoed with laughter and heartfelt conversations, which reminded us of the missionary zeal, silent sacrifices, and unwavering commitment of our senior Dutch Sisters, whose pioneering spirit helped lay the foundation of our Congregation.

Symbol of Unity: Jubilee Year Badges as a gesture of togetherness and love, were presented to the sisters with the Jubilee Year logo, symbolizing our unity as one family in mission across generations and geographies. The visit was more than an event, it was a chapter of love, legacy, and spiritual kinship, one that will remain etched in our hearts forever.

After lunch, we visited Marienburg, a place of mission and legacy from where our pioneering Sisters were first sent forth to India and Indonesia. We arrived at JADS University, stepping into a place that once echoed with prayer, service, and dedication. Though now an academic hub, the spirit of the JMJ legacy still lingers in its walls. We were warmly welcomed by the staff of JDAS University.

As we moved through the ancient corridors and rooms, we felt the presence of those who had gone before us. The sacred walls stood as silent witnesses, holding in their quiet embrace the prayers, sacrifices, and dreams of our sisters who once lived and breathed life into this mission. Every stone, every shadow seemed to whisper stories of courage and calling. This was not just a place, it was a sacred ground, etched with our shared past and soaked in purpose. In a meaningful prayer service, we paused to recall, reflect, and reawaken the legacy left in our care. With hearts full of pride, we walked through this cherished space, capturing memories, especially in the serene

Pear Garden, a special attraction that added beauty to our visit.

Our next visit was to the magnificent St. John's Cathedral at Den Bosch, a spiritual and architectural marvel with faith expressed in stone, glass, and silence. As we stepped into this awe-inspiring sanctuary, we were drawn into a deeper awareness of God's presence. Praying the Rosary at the feet of Our Lady united us spiritually with generations of pilgrims who have sought her intercession with trust and devotion. The serene explanations by Bro. Rangel, a member of the Franciscan order, opened our hearts to the theological richness embedded in the cathedral's sacred art.

Blossoms of Grace:

Our destination on 10th May was the renowned Keukenhof Garden, affectionately called the "Garden of Europe." As we wandered through vibrant fields of tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and artistically designed landscapes, we immersed ourselves in the beauty of nature's glory. The evening hours offered us a tranquil canal cruise through Amsterdam, gliding along the UNESCO-listed waterways, past picturesque bridges and historic buildings. The city's graceful blend of architecture, culture, and innovation revealed yet another dimension of God's creative spirit at work. There we also had time for shopping and visiting nearby museums, enriching our day with cultural immersion.

Touched by Grace: A Day of Healing and Light in Lourdes"

Day 5 of the Jubilee Pilgrimage, the 11th May, was a sacred and deeply moving experience for the entire group as the pilgrims journeyed to the holy town of **Lourdes, France** a place of profound healing and Marian devotion. We were privileged to participate in the Holy Eucharist celebrated in English by an Indian priest Rev Fr. Prathik OP, at St. Kolbe's Chapel, fostering a deep connection to the Lord through the intercession of Our Lady

of Lourdes as our attention captured his introductory message: "Through Mary To Jesus".

Following the Eucharist, a local guide led the group through the historical significance of Lourdes, recounting the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette and the spiritual messages she conveyed. The evening was graced with participation in the Eucharistic Procession, a solemn event where thousands of pilgrims from around the world, joined in adoration and prayer in a splendid underground Cathedral.

At twilight after supper pilgrims participated in the Candlelight Procession, a moving experience as they walked with candles in hand, singing hymns to Our Lady, immersed in a sea of flickering lights and united in prayerful silence. The beauty, grace, and healing presence of Lourdes deeply touched each participant, reaffirming their faith and strengthening their commitment to live out the JMJ charism.

On the morning of 13th June, we departed from France and journeyed to Rome, the Eternal City, arriving at our Generalate by 7:30 p.m. There, we were warmly welcomed by Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, our superior general, along with the general council, sisters from the generalate community, Monte Senario community, and Arco mission. With heartfelt joy, they received us with the traditional *arati*, and adorned each pilgrim with a stole and a pilgrimage badge. This gesture filled us with deep emotion, gratitude, and a profound sense of belonging, it was truly a joyful home coming.

An Encounter on the Sacred Precincts of Vatican City

On 14th May our pilgrimage reached its spiritual summit in Rome with the papal audience, receiving the blessing of the newly elected Pope Leo XIV- a deeply moving and globally significant event, truly a dream fulfilled.

In the afternoon, joined by our sisters in Italy and led by Sr. Mary, the Congregational head, we

undertook a **pilgrimage walk through the St. Peter's Square**, carrying the cross, praying the psalms and singing hymns, and reverently entered through the **Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica**. Inside the basilica, we spent time in prayer and contemplation, while also admiring the basilica's rich artistic and spiritual heritage, and visiting the tombs of Popes in the crypt. There are also invaluable ancient works of art and relics in these hidden grottoes. The visit renewed our faith as we offered heartfelt prayers for our congregation and for the needs of the world.

Jubilee Celebration at Monte Senario

On 15th May 2025 we started the faith journey at 8.am. enjoying the beauty of Rome passing through different significant places and visited the famous **Callistus Catacomb**, the official cemetery of the Church of Rome in the 3rd century, where about half a million Christians were buried, including dozens of martyrs and sixteen pontiffs. We also visited **St. Sebastian's Basilica**, where we saw the arrows, and part of the pillar said to have been used in his martyrdom, and the way led us to **Quo vadis Domine?** It is a Latin phrase meaning "Lord, where are you going?" This is the place where Jesus encountered Peter as he was running away with the fear of persecution and changed his heart and returned back to be a witness of faith in Rome.

Afternoon the long-awaited moment knocked at the door and we started our journey to join the Jubilation with the sisters of Monte Senario. We had the twin Jubilee Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Joshtram Kureethadam SDB, and concelebrated by many other priests at the parish Church, St. Gemma Galgani, which was a spirit-filled time. After the Mass we walked to our convent at Monte Senario 57, for the festive meal and felicitation. We had an open air gathering of our sisters, well-wishers and invitees.

A felicitation program was held to honour the Sisters of Monte Senario on the occasion of the community's silver jubilee, as well as to celebrate Sr. Sarojini Kiro's silver jubilee. The celebration

was, marked by heartfelt appreciation and communal joy. As a gesture of affection and remembrance, the community presented a token gift to every member of the pilgrim group, a touching memento of this blessed journey. This day will remain etched in our hearts as a celebration of faith, fidelity, and fraternity, reminding us that we are part of a living tradition of love and mission.

Pilgrimage to Assisi

On 16th May, 2025 we visited Assisi, a place no one misses to visit when they come to Italy. We deemed ourselves privileged to witness the tomb of Carlo Acutes, the would-be young saint, whose mortal body lay intact and is venerated, where we could pray for the youth of today.

We were impressed by the beauty of the architecture and the peaceful atmosphere of the **Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi**, a magnificent and sacred place that stands as a testament to the life and legacy of St. Francis. We then proceeded to **San Damiano**, the humble church where St. Francis received his divine calling to "rebuild My Church," and our pilgrimage continued to the **house of St. Clare**, a simple yet powerful reminder of her unwavering devotion and commitment to a life of poverty and prayer. Some of us had the privilege of making confession at Assisi and by 4 pm we had the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Abin a Franciscan priest. It was a day of unforgettable memory.

17th May, 2025 was a day of grace and indulgence, the day started with renewed spirit and enthusiasm. We began our journey at 7.30 am accompanied by our superior general Sr. Mary and council and the community. We as a family of JMJ entered through the Holy Door of **St. Mary Major Basilica**, visited the **tomb of Pope Francis** and attended the Holy Mass. We could feel the sanctity that enveloped the basilica, a sacred stillness that seemed to hush even our thoughts. Next, we entered through the Holy Door of the **Basilica of St. John the Lateran** and humbly knelt on the **Scala Santa** (the Holy Stairs), believed to bear the sacred relics of Jesus's path during His Passion. We felt deeply blessed to

visit the **Gesù Church**, the mother church of the Jesuit order, where the tomb of St. Ignatius of Loyola rests in solemn splendor. There, too, lies a revered relic, the preserved right arm of St. Francis Xavier. We also had the profound opportunity to visit the Museum of St. Ignatius, where we viewed treasured relics of the saint and stood in the very room where he died.

The afternoon was marked by the entry through the Holy Door of the **Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls**, where the very chains that once bound the Apostle are preserved, a powerful and tangible reminder of his unwavering dedication to the Gospel. We then made our way to **Tre Fontane (means Three Fountains)**, the traditional site of St. Paul's martyrdom. According to ancient tradition, when he was beheaded, his head struck the ground three times, and at each point, a spring miraculously burst forth. Our journey continued to the **Shrine of Our Lady of Revelation**, a deeply spiritual place where the Virgin Mary is believed to have appeared to a farmer. We also had the rapid view of the historic places like Colosseum, Castel San Angelo, UISG office etc. It was a day of exploring Rome.

18th May 2025 marked the final day of pilgrimage. In the morning, we participated in the Holy Eucharistic celebration at the parish of Our Lady of Mercede, and had some time for shopping the memories of Rome. At 2:45 p.m we gathered for an evaluation with the superior general & Council, community members and sisters from Monte Senario. Sr. Mary thanked all the pilgrims for their determination, adjustments and keeping healthy to make the Jubilee Year pilgrimage a memorable one. The evaluation ended with gratitude to God, deep appreciation to the general council for their meticulous planning and execution of the entire program. The pilgrims expressed their sincere thanks to general council and the sisters for their untiring service, care and hospitality in Rome.

At 7:00 p.m., the pilgrimage journey was concluded with a short prayer service at Generalate followed by fellowship meal. This memorable day

will remain etched in our hearts, reminding us that we are one family in JMJ, faithfully living the tradition of love.

On 19th May, we had a solemn Thanksgiving Holy Mass at our parish church, St. Theresa of Avila, offered by Rev. Fr. Cherian Thunduparampil CMI, the postulator for the Cause of Sr. Mary Glowrey in Rome, who reminded the members of the need to pray for miracles through the intercession of Mary Glowrey. With hearts full of gratitude, enriched by unforgettable experiences and cherished memories, with our spirits uplifted, we were ready to return to our motherland, India, departing at 11:00 am.

This pilgrimage was more than a journey – a sacred encounter with history, heritage, and the enduring mission of the Society of JMJ. With a heart full of gratitude, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving to God Almighty for His gracious and abundant blessings. This Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Netherlands, Lourdes, and Rome has been an exceptional and priceless gift to each one of us, a time of reflection, renewal, and profound spiritual enrichment. What made it even more meaningful was the privilege of walking through the sacred grounds where our beloved Society was born in the Netherlands. With deep appreciation, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our beloved superior general, Rev. Sr. Mary Karickakunnel and Council, for their visionary leadership and for organizing this enriching pilgrimage. A special word of thanks to Sr. Chinni and community, Sr. Celine and community and to all the sisters from Italy and Belgium who accompanied us. Your selfless service, joyful companionship, and heartfelt presence made us feel supported, cared and cherished. We especially acknowledge and extend our heartiest thanks to all the provincial superiors and council, whose dedication and generosity ensured a joyful and seamless pilgrimage experience for us in Europe.

**Jubilee Year - 2025
JMJ Pilgrims of Hope**



Our joy in
Generalate



GUNTUR PROVINCE



HYDERABAD PROVINCE



BANGALORE PROVINCE



RAIPUR PROVINCE



GHANA REGION



A Tribute to Pope Francis (1936-2025)



*The Church remains in awe, with grateful praise,
For you, dear Pope, who led through humble ways*

*From "Habemus Papam" to a whispered goodbye,
You taught the weary world to look up to the sky.
Not from thrones, but simple rooms you led,
A crown of mercy placed upon your head.*

*In Laudato Si, Earth's cry became our own,
A call to care, through seeds of mercy sown.*

*You blessed the Earth, the migrant's nameless face,
And showed the Church must be a home of grace.
You shattered silence with a gentle word,
A shepherd's heart where distant voices stirred.*

*From domes of Rome to deserts swept in sand,
You reached across both creed and shattered land.*

*With every step, a synod's dream took flight,
Of listening hearts and justice burning bright.
A priest, a brother, father to the least,
You called us all to love and never cease.*

*You spoke of Christ not locked in gilded halls,
But walking with the bruised, within life's broken walls.*

*The lonely square where rain and silence fell,
Still holds your prayer, where God with us did dwell.
You held the world's deep wounds within your frame,
And signed them with the Cross and Jesus' name.*

*With feet washed, wounds kissed, and tears embraced,
You made the Gospel real love boldly traced.*

*And now, you rest beneath Madonna's gaze,
Where hope once bloomed before your pilgrim days.
Yet Francis, still your spirit moves and sings
A joy that lifts us on prophetic wings.*

POPE LEO XIV (Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost) IS OUR NEW HOLY FATHER...!

*Lord God, Eternal Shepherd,
We thank you for the gift of our new shepherd,
Pope Leo XIV,
to lead Your Church in a time of challenge and renewal.
Enkindle in him with the flame of the Holy Spirit,
and grant him the wisdom to guide
your church with unwavering faith,
a zeal for unity, and a heart reflecting Your mercy.
Grant him the wisdom of the apostles,
The humility of Your servant St. Peter,
And the strength to lead Your flock
with courage and compassion.*



*May his papacy be one of unity, peace, and renewal,
And may he inspire all Catholics to
deepen their faith and follow Christ more closely.
Bless him with clarity in his decisions,
That he may faithfully protect and guide Your Church
In these challenging times.
May he be a source of hope and light for all the world,
Shining the light of Your love into the hearts of all people.
May his voice echo Your truth,
his hands serve Your people,
and his life bear witness to Your glory.
We ask all this in the name of Your Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,*

- Amen.

