



CASA GENERALIZIA
Suore S.Giuseppe dell'Apparizione
Via di Villa Alberici, 8 / 10
00 165 ROMA, ITALIE

May 2021

Contents

1	Editorial Note	Pg.	3
2	Together we Explore (2 nd Part)	Pg.	4
3	Let us pray for the vocations	Pg.	7
4	New Mission in Thailand	Pg.	9
5	Situation of Myanmar	Pg.	12
6	Extended Province gatherings in Myanmar	Pg.	14
7	Enlarged Council Meeting in India/Haiti	pg.	18
8	Latin America: Experience of Covid	pg.	20
9	Meetings on Zoom	pg.	22
10	Philippines Celebrates 25 years Jubilee	pg.	24
11	Mission in Aleppo	pg.	25
12	Final Professions in Jordan	pg.	28
13	St. Emilie's Parish Church, Australia	pg.	29
14	Holy Week in the Holy Land	pg.	31
15	The Lord does work miracles	pg.	34
16	St. Joseph is honoured by SJA	pg.	35
	a) Feast of St. Joseph, Myanmar	pg.	39
	b) Who is St. Joseph for me?	Pg.	41
	c) St. Joseph feast day celebration in Samson	pg.	44
	d) Joseph the just man	pg.	45
	e) Video links with Hymns Composed, video clips etc.	pg.	46
17	RIP: Sister Johanna Borg	pg.	47
18	The Sisters of St Joseph in Saint Affrique – France	pg.	48

Editorial Note

Dear Sisters,

Once again we are here to communicate and get connected. This time we are closer to the Feast of Pentecost waiting for the Holy Spirit to enter into the closed rooms of our lives and bring us out to the world.

We have in this bulletin the 2nd part of the article by Sr. Margaret Anne Beech, “**Together we Explore**’ based on Fratelli Tutti. We would love to have some comments to help us for the future presentations.

We have articles that give us Hope in Thailand, despair and helplessness in Myanmar, sharing of our existing missions in different Provinces and news of meetings and gatherings in other Provinces. The activities and life of the Congregation continues to be communicated and especially through Zoom.

I thank all the Sisters who have helped to prepare this bulletin and specially those who have contributed the articles, prayers, hymns, etc.

I thank the Sisters who sent comments after reading the bulletin which helps us in our presentation.

Together let us participate in the life and mission of the Congregation by reading this bulletin and praying for each other, for we are part of the one and same Body.

Sr. Renee Quadros SJA



“The rush of violent wind” (Acts 2:2) that accompanies the Holy Spirit’s descent on the Apostles is an image suggesting change and force.”



Part Two

Hopefully you were able to engage with Chapters 1-4 of this Encyclical. We now come to explore Chapters 5 to 8 where we find proposals for a renewed approach to social friendship.

Chapter Five. A Better Kind of Politics

At this point Pope Francis leads us in a new direction by encouraging us to find a better way to deal with aspects of public life based on respect for persons, law and human rights. A deeper meaning of the word 'people' and the ongoing search for truth are the underlying principles of this Chapter. The discovery of a better kind of politics is seen as a form of charity.

The growing problem of populism and liberalism (No 155-161) is noted and the common good rather than individual and sectional interests are again highlighted. Employment is promoted for there is no poverty worse than that which takes away the dignity of work. (No 161-164)

A well-integrated life and spiritual growth is the result of sound education and upbringing. This leads to and enhances participation in community where the principles of subsidiarity are to be preserved and promoted. (No 175).

The call for new pathways of hope is to be found in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness. (No 187 and 196) Being sensitive and critical of what is happening around us and on the international stage allows a learning and forming of opinions that arise from the reality of the situation.

Read carefully No 196 as it poses several relevant questions.

- In my ministry what do I do for the progress of people?

Chapter 6. Dialogue and Friendship in Society

Creative and patient dialogue and encountering the 'other' is proposed as it 'quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine.' (No 198.) This section outlines steps in the movement towards fruitful social dialogue for a new culture and the understanding and process of Consensus. (No 199-214) The end section is a reflection on 'kindness and graciousness as a way of listening, encouraging and 'giving the gift of a smile' opening up new paths of social friendship. (No 224)

With an emphasis on dialogue in the search for the common good or common intent we find here several links with the U process. This is especially so in relation to 'Sensing the Reality' of a situation in order to arrive at consensus and truth. (No 211-214). Furthermore, we are encouraged to enter

into a 'culture of encounter' in order to create or embody the new. (No 215). As you read this section note other similarities with the U process.

- What did you discover?

Chapter 7. Path of Renewed Encounter

At this point Pope Francis points out that in seeking the path of a renewed encounter 'truth' is paramount. We are then confronted with the powerful phrase 'penitential memory' whereby we accept the past and not cloud the future with regrets, problems and plans. (No 226-227) Next the importance of being together, acknowledging the point of view of others and developing negotiation skills are encouraged. (No 229-231). All this within the framework of forgiveness and reconciliation. (No 245)

Here the boundaries are being stretched where a multifaceted unity gives rise to new life. This forward movement recalls the goodness in all creation. (No 249) Practical advice is offered in No 268 in the call to abolish the death penalty, in all its forms and work for the improvement of prison conditions out of respect for the human dignity of persons deprived of their freedom.

Chapter 8. Religions at The Service of Fraternity in our World

This final chapter focuses on Religions being at the service of all so as to contribute to a greater world fraternity. A fraternity characterized by peace and harmony where all share spiritual and moral values. We stand before God together with a desire for the transcendent.

In reading this section I suggest you focus on the striking imagery presented.

The Church is a home with open doors

The music of the Gospel

Break down of walls

build bridges

sow seeds



A further point that may be of interest is the reference to 'religious classics' which can prove meaningful in every age, for they have an enduring power to open new horizons, to stimulate thought, to expand the mind and the heart. (No 275.)

- Note the 'religious classics' within our Congregational Tradition. Select one to re-read and ponder.
- What other 'religious classics' do you feel drawn to revisit?

Finally, this encyclical on Catholic Social teaching takes a strong pastoral approach. It broadens our perspective and proposes a way of life which promotes the universal aspiration for fraternal and social friendships.

*May our hearts be open
To all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus, forge bonds of unity, common projects
and share dreams. Amen.*



Let us pray for the vocations!



In recent months, in the Province of Europe, a Vocations Commission has been created, whose member sisters come from different countries and different ages, with the aim of praying and reflecting on the reality of young people in the contexts in which they live and then to sensitize and animate the communities of the Province, always having before the eyes their own vocation: “...*God the Father chose us in **Christ** before the world was made to be holy and faultless before him in love...*”. (Eph. 1, 4).

Some might say that taking care of vocations is a mission exclusively of young sisters, who should work among young people to help them discover their own vocation. Surely their enthusiasm and love for Christ can be a fire that kindles other fires in this world. But also, our elderly sisters are as concerned by the vocations as the young sisters. Yes, they lack energy, but they leave us a spiritual heritage, a long life of dedication, fidelity, and love in the service of the Lord. Therefore, our Commission proposed to each community of elderly sisters to write a prayer for vocations, which has been gathered in a small booklet, so that all the communities of the Province of Europe can pray for religious vocations in our Congregation. The prayers are written in three European languages, such as English, French, and Italian and the layout of the booklet created by Sr. Bed, takes the logo of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition on Inner Freedom in action. Really beautiful!

This is how we began our mission in the Province, animated by the still living spirit and the faith of our elderly sisters, whom we thank for the extraordinary efforts of preparing and sending us such beautiful prayers. May the Lord send many workers into his vineyard to work!!!



God, our loving and wonderful Father, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, we implore you to touch the heart of young people, from every land and inspire them to follow Jesus your Son, the light of the world, in bringing your love and compassion to everyone they meet on their journey through life on earth. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN

The Vocations Commission of the Province of Europe

Consecrated people are meant to bring hope to discouraged hearts

“Totally consecrated to God, they are totally given to their brothers, to bring the light of Christ wherever the shadows are darkest in order to spread his hope to discouraged hearts.”

Pope Francis, Angelus, 2nd Feb 2014



Thailand

The New mission at St. Joseph the Worker Church and Theppitak School, Prae Province.

The invitation of Bishop Joseph VuthilertHaelom, Bishop of Chiang Rai Diocese to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition is to help in the mission at St. Joseph the Worker Church and Theppitak School, Prae Province. On March 8 2021, Sr. Martina and Sr. Laongdao traveled by plane to Chiang Rai Province. The Bishop had appointed Father Vinai, Patriarch from the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata to meet us at the airport and took us to the Cathedral and school compound. We had a chance to look around and saw that the Bishop and the priests live a simple life not different from the people. This Diocese was separated from Chiang Mai Diocese some years ago and is a place largely undeveloped. The Diocese is seeking a proper place for the construction of new buildings.

The Bishop greeted us in a friendly way at 5.00 pm and took us to a restaurant for dinner accompanied by the Patriarch, a young priest, and a Sister from the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, who work at the school. We felt very much at home. The Bishop informed us of our schedule for the following day the 9 March - Mass at 6.30am, breakfast and a 3-hour journey to Phrae Province. Accompanying us was the Superior from the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Bangkok which is the Congregation we are replacing in the work at the school.

Arriving at 11.15 am we met Father Evo, an Italian Priest from P.I.M.E who is in charge of the Church and apostolic work with the disabled. Father took us to the sisters' house which is beside the priests' house. The Sister who works in the school invited us to the school hall where there were 50 teachers. Sister Ratchanee Trakulngek, the Director of the school, gave a welcome speech and introduced us to the teachers. The Bishop addressed the teachers about the purpose of our visit and introduced both Congregations, The Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Bangkok and the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. He informed the teachers of the change which is to take place at the end of the semester where the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Bangkok will finish working at the school and the church. Previously the Bishop had talked and consulted with the priests about the Sisters' request to leave since 2019, but it took time to find a replacement. We see all this as the will of God because this is the year of St Joseph. This Church is St Joseph's church and there is a priest who knows our Congregation who had contacted us. We had talked and are aware that some members of the Congregation have had experience and a license to work in a school. After consulting with Sr Jacqueline Jones, the Provincial of Australia/ Thailand, we requested permission from the Superior General and the request was granted for us to accept this new mission. Therefore, on the 9 March 2021, Joseph Vuthilert Haelom, Bishop of Chiang Rai Diocese gave the information regarding this

change to the teachers. For the work to go forward the two Congregations will make an agreement between themselves.

The Bishop then invited Sr. Martina Ngamwong to give a speech. Sister greeted the Bishop, Priests, Sisters and Teachers and gave thanks to God and to the Bishop for inviting our Congregation to come and work in this situation. We welcome this invitation and are ready to cooperate and collaborate in this mission. Sr. Aranya Kitboonch, Superior General of the Sacred Heart of Jesus spoke about their wish to cooperate with the local Church but with a decrease and aging of the members they were obliged to reduce their work in some places. For them leaving is not a sad thing because the Sisters of St Joseph will replace them and help the Diocese. These formalities were followed by a group photo of the visitors and teachers.

The Superior General of the Sacred Heart Sisters set the date Monday 22nd March for transferring of the work and requested us to send the members to come and take up the work. The Bishop had suggested that we should come and stay at least one week before the Sisters leave and have all financial arrangements in place by 30 March 2021.

Following lunch Fr Vinai and Fr Evo showed the two of us around and we were able to see the reality that the school is now facing. It is a big school from Kindergarten to Mathayom 6 in a large compound and founded 55 years ago. The Government allows the school to have 3000 students, but at present there are only 877 students. The challenge for us is to be a witness of God's love to the teachers, parents, students and the community around. The Church is big but there are only 40 Catholics. Therefore, in this call to serve the local Church we have a challenge and I ask you all to keep this mission in your prayers and thank you for your interest.

Sr. Martina Ngamwong.

The School building





For more photos please Click here



<https://youtu.be/uy96ATnAxnM>



The present situation in Myanmar

On the 1st February 2021 we experienced a darkness in Myanmar. Everybody was shocked. The President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi were detained by the Military Government in Naypyidaw along with some NLD leaders.

The Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) is against the country's post-coup military regime. Since the coup, the CDM has attracted support from abroad and from a range of professionals, medical and health care workers, bankers, lawyers, teachers and engineers across the nation who demanded the military return the elected government to power. Myanmar, also known as Burma, was ruled by the military from 1962 until 2011. In 2015, Daw Aung Su Kyi and the NLD won the country's first election since military rule ended.



On 12th February SJA Sisters prayed in front of the Chinese Embassy in Yangon. Catholic nuns, priests and lay people have joined the anti-coup protests in Buddhist-majority Myanmar following the coup on the 1st February. Hundreds of Catholics including dozens of Nuns marched on the streets of Yangon reciting prayers and the rosary. SJA Sisters from various missions and other Congregations have shown solidarity with the people of Myanmar by marching on the streets, besides praying at convents and offering snacks to demonstrators in Yangon and elsewhere. In the Christian stronghold of the Kachin state, nuns stood at the entrance of a church compound holding posters stating "No to authoritarianism" and "Listen to the voice of people". On the 14th February marchers gathered in the streets of Myitkyina, the state's capital city. Youths held placards reading "Free Aung San Suu Kyi" and "We support CDM," the latter referring to the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Nationwide anti-coup demonstrations have intensified and were repeated for nine days in Yangon, Mandalay, villages and the ethnic regions of Kachin and Chin states. The internet in Myanmar was shut down. A concrete example which best describes the situation is the expulsion order which the police, together with the army, announced that all persons leading CDM must leave and abandon their place so it is free for the police and army. The police and army surrounded not only the villages but also the towns.



On 27th March the police and army killed 144 people. 500 people died, 200 were injured and over the 30,000 people were arrested and are in jail. Every night people make security arrangements to protect themselves in the streets, quarters and villages. On the 27th March in the streets of Mandalay, while people were securing the streets, the army and police suddenly came and shot at the people. As these people did not have means for protecting themselves, they run a way. A man aged 50 was injured by a bullet in his hip and could not move so he tried to hide in a nearby building. During the night a soldier reported hearing his loud voice and on finding him they burnt the building. His body was found in ash. What a crisis! It is painful for us. How can we forget and forgive them. Our sympathy and condolence goes to the family of this man. May he rest in peace. There are many things happening day and night. We pray and believe God will do something for our Country. We also thank all the SJA Sisters across the five continents who remember us in prayer.

Sr. Mary Win.



Extended Provincial Council Meeting Pyin Oo Lwin, 2021 Myanmar.

A gathering of 30 Sisters took place for an extended Provincial Council Meeting in Pyin Oo Lwin on 26th to 28th February 2021. Sr. Magdalene Lim welcomed the Sisters and introduced the Session. She invited all to open their hearts to the breath of the Spirit and encouraged them to take to heart the chosen theme. Through dialogue and the help of those who will be speaking to us may we hear the Spirit's message to us as Religious of today.

Sr. Magdalene and her Council opened a discussion on our community projects in relation to Vision and Mission. She said *'we are in an ongoing process as a result of our General Chapter and that the community projects need to be based on the U process and integrated with the eight commissions throughout Myanmar. The first and second steps of this process are sensing the reality and discovering God's call for us to perceive the reality and finally realize the calls together. By sensing the reality of the situation, one is asked to explore the current situation and data to see what the Body needs to 'let go of'. What is it that we can no longer continue with and then make choices for the future?'*

Time was spent in shared reflection in an atmosphere of interior recollection. After discernment and reflection, they started to draw up a plan for a community project at a personal and community level. Each person was invited to give of her best for the common good. There was a feeling of a sense of unity of spirit. The Provincial Council helped the Sisters to deepen their understanding of God's love. The general aim was to deepen our inner freedom together with the community and to share in the charisma, life and spirituality of St. Emilie. During the meeting Sr. Magdalene said: *Today we want to express how much this journeying together is a strong, spiritual experience and that by the grace of God something we hope will remain engraved in our hearts inspiring our moving into the future.*

Finance Session:

Sr. Magdalene facilitated this finance session. She said, *in order to embrace an inner freedom in action it is more important and vital to see Poverty as a liberation of one's being, free from the ego, self-possession and free from things and free to serve others. To be free to open and welcome God.* (General Chapter 2019). In a word, poverty as freedom and liberation. She also mentioned an intention of the General Chapter *'To be transparent in any financial sharing and to create a financial plan with an internal control system at the level of the Congregation; to ensure accountability of each Sister and Community; and to provide criteria for sharing resources and for discerning the choice of new missions.'* Lastly, she encouraged the Sisters to be transparent which is fundamental for the effectiveness of the mission.

Formation Session:

An ongoing formation session on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator was organized by Sr. Margarita Sai Tin Thiam, from the 5th to 9th March 2021. The objective was to provide the necessary knowledge for the proper use of the MBTI and promote cohesion within the group and knowledge of self and others. The typology is not intended to describe the personality of a person, but to enable the development of her potential. The point of departure is the dynamic conception and evolution of the human person. The Sisters' experiences were profound and the sharing aided self-knowledge and an understanding and acceptance of oneself and others. The Sisters appreciated this session.

Annual Retreat

With the Session completed the Sisters entered into a 6-day retreat preached by Fr. Nicodemus, MS. The theme was “Empowering the community spirit of the Sisters to obtain inner freedom in responding to God’s call for a broken world”

R- rediscovering your authentic self
E- encountering the risen Lord
T-transforming into a living signs of God’ love
R-renewing your life’s purpose and passion
E-empowering the Spirit
A-awakening to make a difference
T-thriving for fullness of life



The Sisters spent time in personal reflection and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. The message of Jesus is a message of love, a message which may not always leave us comfortable in our own little world. If we try to create a God of our making, then we end up with the wrong answers about God.

With the wonderful and long-awaited days ending and having a good memory and experience, we hope our time together will be fruitful for our continuing life and mission.

Sr. Mary Win





ENLARGED COUNCIL MEETING India/Haiti

The Enlarged Council was held from 27th to 29th March 2021 with 38 participants.





Highlights

Living in the Present

- Who is God calling SJA to be in the world that is becoming?
- What is God calling us to do in the world?

We need to rediscover our identity as SJA connecting to the problems we face as a Community/Province/Congregation:

- The first challenge that we face is woundedness and brokenness of oneself.
- The second challenge is that the spiritual Experience is converted into program ability.

Keeping in mind the signs of the time we need to Renew, Regenerate and Recreate our missions with zeal and enthusiasm.

- 1) How can we renew and strengthen our ministries?
- 2) How can we renew and take new initiatives in our ministries?
- 3) How can we do things differently in order to be effective in our mission?
- 4) How can we live in collaboration with others in our ministries?

Along with the evaluation of the life of the Province and other important matters, the Apostolic, Finance, and educational Projects was revised and commissions were formed to work on them.

Latin America: Sharing this experience after surviving Covid-19 is truly a gift from God.

“What return can I make to the Lord for his generosity to me”

Each of us have experienced this disease through different symptoms, however we have agreed on some feelings, which were emerging in the development of this disease. Fear, doubt, trust, faith and hope, frame this time and interweave the presence of a close and faithful God.

Three of our communities have been infected. Where and in what way? We do not know, but we believe that it has been a time of communion and union with the people around us, with our Province and with the entire Congregation.

“I woke up very cold and with pain all over my body, I took an acetaminophen and I felt better, but when the reaction passed I couldn't breathe and I felt very agitated and my heart was pounding. After a moment, blood started to come out of my nose, but that's how I spent the day with all the discomfort.

After talking by phone with Sister Maria del Carmen, we decided to have a swab test. Upon receiving the results our life had changed, two of us tested positive, when I got home I locked myself in, but before I got on my knees and told Jesus, here I am Lord ready to live or die, I felt a deep peace even in middle of the annoyances”.

Sr. Martha

“I will thank you forever. In the midst of daily activities, I started to feel bad, especially at night, but I never imagined being infected with COVID-19. After testing positive, I started the treatment, however I felt worse, it was difficult for me to breathe and I felt tired. I decided to call Doctor Luis Rene Cruz Gordillo who attended me and followed me up by phone. Due to my situation, it was necessary to put oxygen on me and thanks to Sisters Catalina and Isabel; it was possible to have it at home.

In the midst of the illness; I did not know if I was going to live or die, but thanks to the special attention of the sisters, the doctor and others persons, I have been able to recover and I can only express my gratitude to God for his goodness and closeness; manifested in so many human gestures”

(Sr. Maximiliana)

"Trust in God." “When I tested positive, I immediately worried and thought about my sisters, however, they were the ones who cared the most for me and gave me all the necessary attention... I feel that in the midst of this situation, God allowed me to experience a break from the daily life and likewise have a look at my surroundings, allowing me to reaffirm his unconditional love in my life.

Through the contagion, I felt in solidarity with so many people who have been infected by serving others, the doctors, nurses, fire fighters, priests and religious. Some gave their lives to serve them.

I believe that God gives me another opportunity to continue living to serve the smallest of our society. When I came out of this illness, I went to work as a teacher and in the midst of the difficulties I was still experiencing, I felt happy to meet the parents and the children again”.

Sr. Cecilia

"It is a new beginning of a new history, where God will write, a new chapter"

The silence and solitude of a room accompanied my life for 24 days. Listening to the news and seeing the reality of death caused by this virus, mixed feelings came to me in a special way when I did not know what was going to happen to my life.

Prayer allowed me to experience the closeness of my sisters and my family, who were always attentive to my reality. In my loneliness, the love and attention of others helped me feel that I was not alone.

Sr. Ruvy

"The real presence of God with us was our strength and hope." Testing negative for COVID-19 has allowed me to accompany my sisters with an attitude of dedication and service. The first days it was a normal concern, in search of keeping them stable I made an effort to prepare a balanced diet. However, in the second week, the case of one of them became complicated and although my concern grew, my trust was firm in the God of Life.

Thanks to the prayers of all the sisters and the gestures of closeness, I was able to experience an inner strength, which kept me faithful to the service of life despite physical fatigue. I thank God for the lives of my sisters, for the accompaniment of the Communities of Lavarreda and San Juan, who despite living the same experience, did not stop sending us fruits, vegetables and medicines”.

Sr. Isabel.

We cannot forget the great Love of God manifested in the concrete gesture of the poor, who upon learning of our situation showed us their closeness, bringing us fruits, vegetables, juices and everything necessary to be able to cope with this time. “A gesture that has touched my heart has been the knowledge that a group of people from the Church came together to fast and pray for our recovery. (Sr. Marta)

Faced with all this experienced reality, we feel called to continue giving our lives in favor of the simplest and needy. With faith in God we keep saying "Here I am Lord, to do your will."

With gratitude: Sisters Maximiliana, Marta, Cecilia, Ruvy and Isabel

Province of Latin America.



Zooming

“A new way of connecting not quite as good as meeting face to face but a good second best.”



Due to COVID 19 restrictions the General government met with most Provincial and their councils by Zoom. It was a first time for us to get such a global picture of the congregation through Zoom over a period of three months from January to April without leaving our house in Rome! Unfortunately, due to the political situation and WIFI lockdown we could not get a connection with our sisters in the Myanmar Province.

The meetings with each province took place over two days, (times and dates agreed beforehand) with a 2 hours' lively dialogue between the provinces and the general team. The beginning of each encounter began with a reflective prayer and welcome by Sr. Monika. The U process was used looking at the reality of each province, the missions the challenges and then discerning God's calls for the future and how we can work together as One Body for the healing of our broken world. The dialogue was initiated by the Provinces with answers to questions which were sent out beforehand. All participants used the Generative listening and generative speaking learnt at the Chapter. It was a worthwhile experience as we could truly enter into the reality of each other. "We feel One Body and let us meet again this way" was a comment after each Province Encounter.

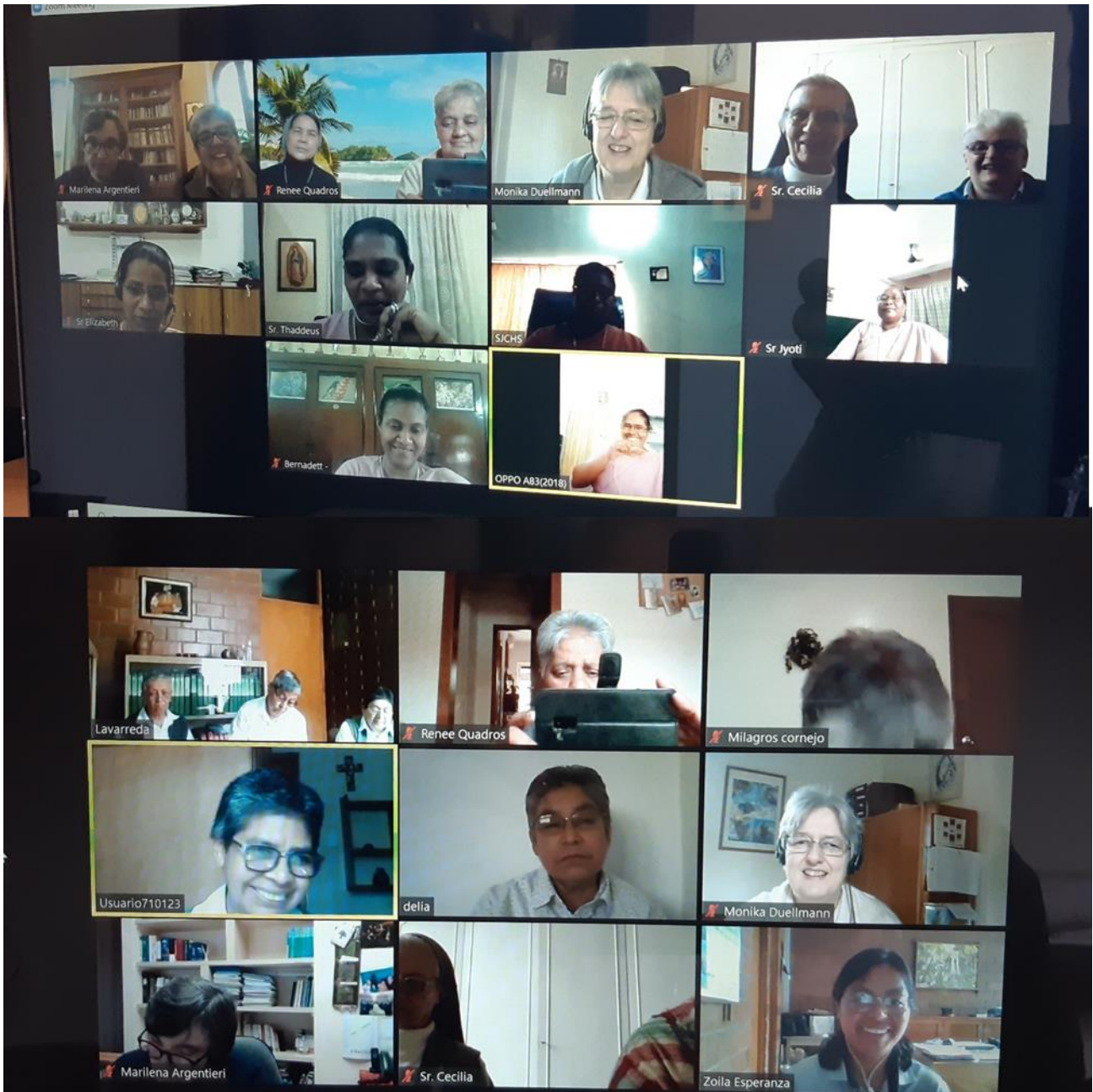
It was a joy and privilege for us to listen to the lived reality of each of the provinces and to hear at first hand the missionary work our sisters are doing during these challenging and difficult times. Through Zoom we travelled in our minds and hearts, as we listened to the witness of our sisters in the different Provinces.

We listened to experiences of pastoral work, Schools, hostels for students, retreat houses, hospitals, in different countries. Through each encounter with each Provincial Team we heard stories of the effects of Covid on the economy, health and education of all peoples. How families struggle to survive, searching for food etc. and how our sisters respond freely and simply to the needs around them sometimes supported by charitable organizations or working closely with lay volunteers. We heard how each province continues to animate and support their sisters both young and old through

prayer, visits and provincial assemblies. We got a global picture of our congregation today through these meetings.

Truly our congregation is alive and active in different parts of the world. The Provinces are diverse and are at different stages of growth and development. But in all of them the spirit of St Emilie alive and active and our sisters doing all the good they can with what they have and will receive. Zooming is not perfect but it provides a medium through which we can be connected. We will zoom again! until we can meet face to face.

Sr. Anita Callaghan.



Philippines Celebrates 25 years of SJA presence

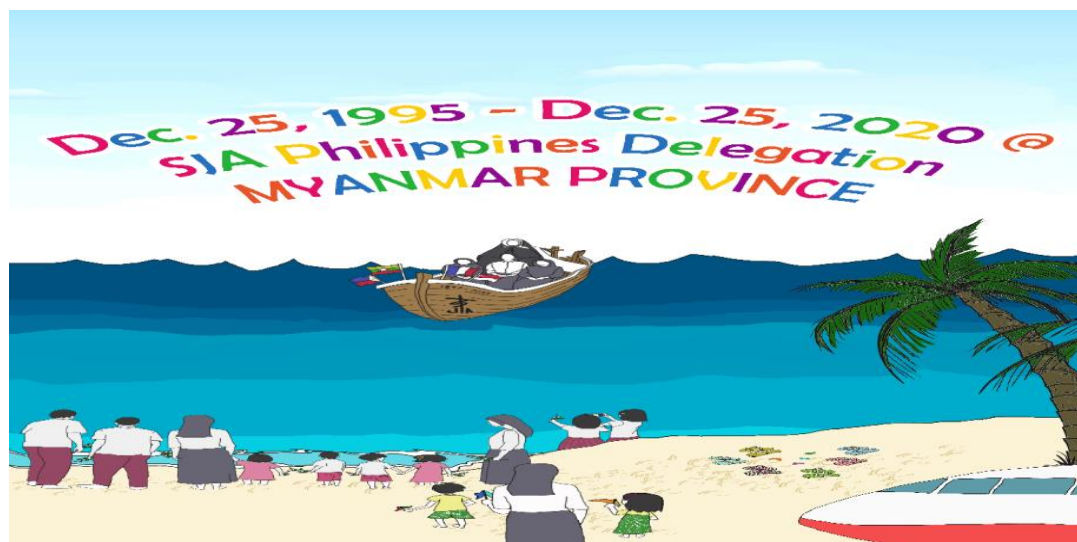
ALLELUA! The Congregation of St Joseph of the Apparition in the Philippines is a Delegation of the Province of Myanmar and celebrated their Jubilee of 25 years. (December 25, 1995 – December 25, 2020)

Greetings to all the SJA Myanmar pioneer Sisters who filled with the passion and missionary zeal of St Emilie de Vialar, risked and sacrificed much in the establishment of this mission. With very limited resources they remained steadfast to their calling and who courageously today continue the work in different areas. These include school administration, teaching in schools, guidance, counselling, pastoral work in parishes, formation for Postulants, Novices and Junior Sisters, social and charitable works and ongoing studies.

Over the years ongoing studies have been a central part of our mission and many have received different degrees and certificates. The Sisters' hearts are full of God and happiness is the real wealth shared with what the Lord gives to each person. However, despite all the shadows, mistakes and even defeats, the inspiration of the Spirit with all its bright colors, signify the Sisters' submission to God's will, for theirs is the task of continued service and love

Together we give thanks and praise to God for His continued love and guidance.

Sr. Esperanza B. Magsino
Delegation Leader



For Photos click here [➡ https://youtu.be/dcCcku9KKX8](https://youtu.be/dcCcku9KKX8)

Syria: "Let's not let hope die! "

To Saint-Joseph, honored in this year which is dedicated to him, we owe him a lot for his protection throughout the war which lasted more than 10 years.

To him our praise, our thanksgiving and our prayer before sharing with you our situation and the reality that we live in our mission in the heart of this city of Aleppo.



Figure 1 Destruction city of Aleppo caused by terrorists

wounded, millions of refugees, thousands of missing, destruction, violence of all kinds, immense suffering for all the population in particular. for the most vulnerable such as children, women and the elderly. "

Faced with this dramatic situation, suffering continues, a country torn to pieces where it lacks a bit of everything to survive and the people live in conditions of extreme poverty and despair.

Lack of fuel, lack of gas for the kitchen, lack of gasoline, for 20 liters we have to stay in line for days to get to the distributor, hours and hours to have bread for the day, and also electricity is given to us only 1 hour per day. And to think that Syria is rich in oil, gas, wheat fuel, but it cannot benefit from it because all are expropriated from it.

Before the start of the events, we lived very well, a stable, secular and prosperous country, everything was not perfect, far from it, but no injustice and no violation of human rights, nor any reform justifies that the country is destroyed and generations of Syrians are sacrificed.

Although for the past year there has been hardly any fighting in Syria, the lives of Syrians have been one of hardship, sacrifice and suffering. Syria is struggling with an acute economic crisis, massive unemployment and long-awaited reconstruction. People are worried and discouraged,

We take up the words of Pope Francis during the Angelus of March 14, 2021 where he invites the faithful to pray so as not to forget the martyred Syria, and renews his call to the belligerents of the conflicts to lay down their arms to restore some hope. to an exhausted people.

Pope Francis says “: 10 years ago the bloody conflict began in Syria which caused one of the most serious humanitarian catastrophes of our time. The fighting which ravaged the whole country caused an imprecise number of dead,

wounded, millions of refugees, thousands of missing, destruction, violence of all kinds, immense suffering for all the population in particular. for the most vulnerable such as children, women and the elderly. "



Figure 2 LONG WAITING LINE FOR BREAD ...

the sanctions imposed by the countries of the European community and the USA and the “Caesar” sanction are cruelly making life unbearable with the sole aim of making Syrians suffer and deprive the Syrians of their dignity to live.



Figure 3 Sr Anne-Marie with a caregiver

The basic necessities are at unaffordable prices. Do you think? Before the war a dollar was worth 50 Syrian pounds and now more than 4,750 when wages are about the same. To this distressing situation is now added the Corona virus pandemic which has weakened moral, physical, economic and social forces. Over 80% of the population is starving, people are hungry

In the health field is crucial, many of the of Aleppians today cannot seek treatment due to the high cost of medicines and medical examinations. Every day we are faced with family situations that make us sick to the heart.

Fortunately, international organizations and local churches come to their aid otherwise people would die of hunger or disease.



Figure 4 Sr Arcangela Returning from the Operating Room

We pursue our mission in the difficulties of all kinds that arise in everyday life, but we walk in faith, trust and hope.

Thanks to the “Open Hospitals” project, started in our hospital, wanted and encouraged by Pope Francis, in collaboration with the apostolic nuncio, Cardinal Mario Zenari. This project finances the care of needy patients, the purchase of medical equipment, and a salary bonus for our staff. This project makes it easier to respond to the many needs. May the present and generous Providence be blessed with all people of good will.



Figure 5 Sr Lydia with a Nurse



Figure 6 At the Foyer Azizié on the Feast of St Joseph: Hospital side: Sr Samia, Sr Thérèse, Sr Arcangela, Sr Lydia, Sr Anne-Marie. Community of Azizia: Sr Lina & Sr Rihab

Our life is not easy, and our strengths diminish as we age, with non-stop work, and the hard and stressed times we have experienced during the war. We dare to believe and hope that the appeal that Sister Monika made on our behalf comes true after this pandemic which has blocked travel.

On the other hand, Azizié's home was reinforced by two young sisters from the province to take over from Sister Hana, who was very tired and at the end of her tether after what she took on alone during the war. We sincerely thank her for her presence and the courage she had to start repairing the Foyer again each time a bomb fell on the house or around the Foyer causing significant damage.



Figure 7 Sr Hana and Fr Elias Adess who came to see the Azizié damage from a shell that fell on



With Pope Francis, let us pray to the Lord that "so much suffering in beloved martyred Syria" will revive Hope in all. Also continue to pray for us for all to go forward with courage as much as He pleases.

Saint-Joseph companion of our roads, you who walked through the lights and the shadows grant us to remain in the confidence, make that our hearts remain open to the distress of our brothers

without distinction of religion or social conditions by making us close, because we are all brothers loved by the same Father.

Sr. Arcangela Orsetti
Hospital of St Louis in Aleppo

Final Professions in Jordan



Sr. Athar SHAIMA

Sr. Suzan FAHIMI

Sr. Afaf GAMAL

To see the YouTube, click the Link: <https://youtu.be/BteNKRUTRU0>

ST EMILIE'S CHURCH CANNING VALE

In August 2000 Fr Robert Carrillo was approached by the Archbishop of Perth, Barry James Hickey, to build a church at Canning Vale. The latter was developing rapidly with many migrants, particularly from The Philippines, were beginning to settle there. Fr Carrillo who originated from the Philippines had a good understanding of the culture.

In April 2000 land on which to build a church had been purchased by the Archdiocesan Finance Committee. In December 2000 Fr Robert was officially named as Parish Priest of Canning Vale. There was a house on the land purchased and Fr Robert took up residence there on the 19th March 2001. In April of this same year Sr. Margaret Mary Gannon SJA joined the parish as a pastoral worker.

The first Mass was held in the Parish house. The numbers increased so celebration of Mass on weekends was moved to a local Government School catering for the increase in numbers. Later as the Parish School was in operation the celebration of Sunday Eucharist came to be celebrated in one of the school facilities this once again catering for another increase in the number of parishioners. Gradually there came about a very sound community ready for involvement in the many aspects of parish life.

The name of the church was high on the list of priorities. Fr Robert invited the Parishioners to participate in the naming of the Church on 21st October 2001. From this exercise nineteen names were submitted. These names were displayed for parishioners to submit three of most popular names. These were taken to the Archbishop. Everything takes time. On the 4th August 2002 the parishioners were advised that the preferred name of the new parish was SAINT EMILIE de VIALAR. This was the first parish in the Southern Hemisphere to bare her name. The parishioners were overjoyed as were all the SJA sisters here in WA and



The Sanctuary

actually a cause of celebration for the whole Congregation to have a Church named after our Foundress.



The name was officially announced by Bishop Don Sproxtton at a concelebrated Mass on the 17th October 2004. At this Mass some of the parishioners wore their national costumes. During the presentation of the Offertory gifts symbols representing a particular aspect of the parish life were brought forth. Such items as a Special Banner, the Mission Statement, a Portrait of St Emilie and a Food Basket symbolizing commitment to the poor. It was a day of much rejoicing for all concerned.

On the 21st June 2009 the foundation stone to commence the Church building was held with Archbishop Barry James Hickey, Archbishop of Perth presiding. This building was finished in May 2010. However usual parish programs were on track... Sacramental programs, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), Religious education classes for those attending State Schools, Outreach programs for those in need, Liturgy groups, Acolytes, Parish Council and strategies to raise funds for the new building. All in all, much activity.

At last the day arrived, May 23rd 2010, when the opening Mass for the new St Emilie Church was celebrated. What a time of rejoicing for the many people involved. While challenges happened along the way the parish of St Emilie can be very proud of their faith commitment to this great endeavor. May the Parish community continue to grow in faith under the patronage of St Emilie today.

Sr. Bernadette Casey

Holy Week has another taste in Jerusalem

Easter with its wonderful time is here. The weather is pleasant with cool mornings and warm days. The color green is prominent, and flowers bloom everywhere. It is also a captivating time for religion. Often, the Jewish holiday of Passover is celebrated concurrently with our week of Passion. With all these, Jerusalem becomes a major, significant center of spirituality and faith.

There is no better place than Jerusalem to spend Easter; it is the place of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Week is absolutely unique; for it is here that the great events being celebrated originally took place.

As for the celebrations, with more than half the population of Israel having received two vaccine doses, coronavirus restrictions were eased to allow small congregations to gather and celebrate. Pilgrims were missing, as well as organized parish groups from the Galilee. The traditional permits for Palestinian Christians did not arrive either. Despite the still complicated moment, however, great joy was felt in comparison to last year.

Holy Week officially began with the celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; The Christian Quarter bustled with activity as passersby were seen carrying festively woven palm or olive branches. The young local Arab Christian scouts were seen everywhere in their colorful uniforms, playing the bagpipes and beating their drums with great enthusiasm. Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher presided over by Latin Patriarch Mgr. Pizzaballa. It was a moment of great joy at the start of this "open-door" Holy Week, which saw the participation of the local faithful. It was a much more serene Holy Week than last year, when the doors were closed.

In the afternoon, thousands of Christians, gathered on the top of the Mount of Olives for the exuberant procession of palms going down to enter the Old City and conclude at St. Anne's Church. The procession was as colorful as it was multicultural, a joyful cacophony of sights and sounds with groups from all nations displaying their flags and singing songs accompanied by guitars, drums and other instruments.

Mgr Pizzaballa, made a stop at the Dominus Flevit sanctuary, from where he blesses the city: a gesture made for the first time last year, in the most dramatic moments of the pandemic. It was requested by the people to pray over this city. It was very significant blessing the Holy City with the Cross, sign of Redemption, but sending as well the light of Christ's Resurrection to the whole world.

In the morning of Holy Thursday, in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher, the Easter Tridium began with the Chrism Mass and the Last Supper Mass.

In the afternoon, there was the pilgrimage to the Cenacle on Mount Sion. The place where Jesus dined with his disciples on the evening before his arrest is a reminder of the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood.

In the evening, local Christians alike watched with Christ during a meditative Holy Hour in the Garden of Gethsemane, followed by a candlelight procession to the church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, the place where Jesus spent the night after his arrest.

On Good Friday the Old City was packed with people eager to follow Jesus' steps up to Golgotha where he was crucified. The Via Dolorosa is along the stone alleys of the city, between houses and shops, through the daily life of the people, as two thousand years ago.

In the evening, a special liturgy took place in the Basilica with the "funeral procession" of Christ, recalling the gestures that accompanied the burial of Jesus according to the customs of the time taking the body into the tomb at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher. Waiting for the Easter Vigil, with the announcement of the Resurrection

Easter Vigil was celebrated in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher. In this holy place life has risen, sadness has given way to joy, fear to hope, and we can thus proclaim that Christ lives, he is risen as he said. The Gloria is sung first, because Jerusalem is the only place in the world where the Easter Vigil is held in the morning and is therefore considered the 'mother of all vigils'

Easter Eve is celebrated on Saturday morning, because this was the ancient tradition. The status quo has preserved it and cannot be changed. Jerusalem must be the first place in the world where Easter is celebrated and that it reaches the whole world from here, because the announcement of Easter starts from this empty tomb".

In his homily, the Patriarch said: We have lived a year marked by fear, whereas today's Gospel tells us: 'do not be afraid'. Fear with all its links, death, and paralysis, everything standing still. But today's Gospel tells us to look ahead; Easter is a proclamation of joy, the presence of love, of hope in our midst. We must have confidence that despite everything, Christ has conquered the world and we with him".



On Easter Sunday, Mass was celebrated with a procession around Jesus' tomb. And on Easter Monday, the encounter between Jesus and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus was commemorated with the celebration of Mass at the Holy Sepulcher, and also by the Custos in Emmaus.

The message of Easter is life and love, despite all the signs of death, corona, pandemic, whatever, we believe in the power of love and life.



Video : <https://youtu.be/5ZNwikfj0C>

The Truth Miracles

Sr. Marie Celine came for the sessions and annual retreat in Phyin Oo Lwin. She seemed very happy even after a tiring, daily routine life in the mission of Panwan near the Chinese boarder.

One day during the lunch as she was queuing to get food, she suddenly fell to the floor. Thank God the Sisters who were on the spot helped her. Sister who had low blood pressure when checked by a Sister, saw it was very high. Sr. Magdalen accompanied by other Sisters took her to the clinic at Aung Thit Zar Pyin Oo Lwin. Having been examined by the doctor and having X-ray's it was discovered that there was a blood blockage and Sister needed urgent surgery. With such high blood pressure, they were concerned as she was also experiencing eye problems. She was to undergo brain surgery as soon as possible hence she was transferred by ambulance to Mandalay.

In Mandalay at the Thit Zar Yar Zar clinic, she underwent a CT Scan and was then admitted to Hospital. However, another doctor did not recommend surgery but preferred to give her other medical treatment. At first Sr. Marie Celine could not see anything clearly. According to the doctors she had little hope of being cured from very serious meningitis. However, the Sisters continued to pray, along with adoration of the blessed Sacrament and they gave her a relic of Saint Emilie. Her condition improved and a week later despite some kidney problems she was cured!

Sr. Mary Win





Year of Saint Joseph

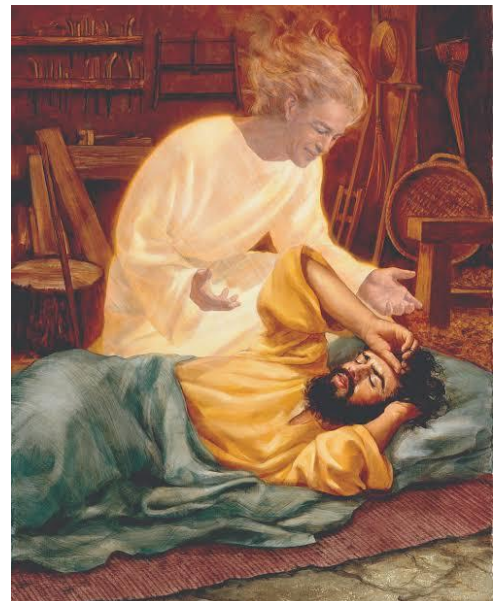
The apostolic letter ‘Patris Corde’ of Pope Francis was presented to us on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. The introduction of this letter refers to his four dreams. The following is an article written by Michelle Vass director of St Mary’s Towers, Retreat Centre, NSW.

St Joseph - Man of Dreams

Mt 1:20, Mt 2:13,19,22

Luke’s Gospel speaks of a single visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary setting her path for the rest of her life. In Matthew’s Gospel, we hear of an angel visiting Joseph some four times, guiding him step by step through troubled times. Interestingly, these visitations come to the sleeping Joseph in his dreams.

As a carpenter, Joseph would have been no stranger to silence. We can imagine him spending time alone, honing his patience and concentration as he worked the wood. Perhaps there is a link between this silent way of Joseph and the silent way of dreams in which the angel communicates with him? We could be fooled in thinking that, as a man of dreams, Joseph lived in a fantasy world. Nothing could be farther from the truth. As a man of dreams, Joseph has much to teach us about the power of trust, the power of prayer and the power of discerning God’s presence in our lives.



Joseph’s dream come to him at difficult times, when he is afraid and needs to make important decisions. The first dream comes after he finds out about Mary’s pregnancy and has decided to dismiss her. The dream allows Joseph, the righteous man who knew the law, to interpret the law with love. He might have been angry and disappointed, yet he acts as if he is saying what his step-son would say to a woman about to be stoned almost thirty years later, “He who has never sinned, let him cast the first stone”. (John 8:7)

Joseph’s dreams are brief, or at least the snippets we hear are brief. In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph to get up, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until further instructions. If we listen to the Scriptures and the saints, it would seem that brevity is a strong characteristic of spiritual experiences. St Teresa of Avila writes very clearly that the duration of a

rapture is short, and any prolonged raptures are more often due to the sister not being in control of herself, than to God!’ (1)

Joseph’s dreams give clear instructions. In the third dream, again Joseph is told to get up take the child and his mother and go to Israel, for those seeking the child’s life are dead. They also give reason and encourage. In the first dream, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. In the fourth dream, he is warned that Herold’s son has replaced him and so to go to Galilee. Somehow Joseph knows to trust these messages. There is no fussing, no questioning or consulting other’s opinions; he simply acts. Think how steadfast his trust in God must have been to know that what come to him in a dream was not to be questioned.

Do you trust your dreams? Dreaming is an interesting phenomenon and research continues into its function in our lives. Dreams help our brains work through the myriad experiences of our day – a kind of mental processing and decluttering. (2) Scripture also attests to dreams as a powerful sign of the presence of God. God is believed to actively speak through dreams as we hear in the Book of Joel, “...your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions”. (Joel 3:1)

Joseph’s dreams offer us a lesson in discernment. When we are plagued by troubles, it can be very difficult to get to sleep, let alone rest enough to be aware of a dream. To do so, we must trust, surrendering all our cares to God. We might even say we surrender our cares in exchange for our dreams!

Joseph reminds us that rest is essential if we are to hear God’s voice and understand what is being asked of us. He shows us what happens when we wait patiently even in fearful circumstances, trusting and remaining open to how Love might work in our lives. Just as Paul reminded the Romans to be transformed by the renewing of the mind so as to discern the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom 12.2) – Joseph reminds us to allow our minds to be renewed through our dreams.

The fact that we hear about four of Joseph’s dreams reminds us too that discernment works in all aspects of our lives. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit and is honed with experience. The Desert Fathers and Mothers prayed for the gift of discernment in all things. They knew that discernment in every aspect of life requires flexibility, constant self-examination and spiritual awareness. (3) Just as Joseph’s actions were constantly guided by the angels’ instructions, we too need to adapt our spiritual practices to work, family and community demands, always alert to the need for change

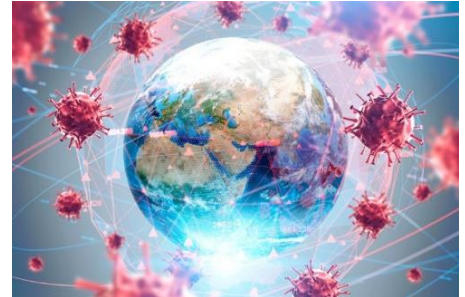
Finally, you are probably aware that Pope Francis has a special devotion to St Joseph. “I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have a statue of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! So, when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: pray for this problem! (4)

Joseph the man of dreams, reminds us that prayer and discernment are not about what we do, so much as how we keep our hearts open to the gifts of God. We must wait for what comes inwardly attentive, always ready to live the message of Love. So, happy dreaming tonight. Remember the Psalmist’s advice (Ps 127) that your earlier rising and going later to rest are in vain, for gifts will be poured on you the beloved as you sleep, just like Joseph!

- 1 St Teresa of Avila, the Book of her Foundations pp 83/84
2. Kendra Cherry, why do we dream?
- 3 Balance of the Heart, Desert Spirituality pp173-186
- 4 Sermon of Pope Francis, January 2015.

Snippets from Sisters

- 1 Righteous father Joseph, help us your children to follow in your footsteps with humility and trust so that in all we do, whether large or small the world may know God's presence through us.
(From Myanmar)



- 2 Joseph, we humbly ask that by following your example we may cherish in our hearts the signs of God's love and love for Jesus. We beseech your love and protection for the poor, the downtrodden and orphans. Keep us safe from all dreaded diseases that are present around us.

(Virapandiapatnam Community, India)

3 Joseph the Maestro of the Incarnation

Everything in life fills us with wonder for
Our world is full of profound mysteries
The greatest of all being the Mystery of the Incarnation
It makes us wonder and discover new relationships
with Him who is Mystery

Joseph as Maestro of the Incarnation you:
listened quietly after the angel spoke with Mary
discerned your call through a dream
obeyed the Lord when everything seemed confused
remained calm when Herod was raging with anger
kept silent, yet vibrant, teaching us lessons for today
maintained an inner freedom in responding and following your dream.

Sr. Anusha Antoinette, India



A Litany to Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, earthly father of Jesus	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, tender and caring	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, prudent and brave	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, wise and faithful	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, lover of simplicity	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, pattern of patience	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, model of workers	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, guardian of families	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, caregiver of the dying	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, comfort to the fearful	Pray for us
Saint Joseph, protector of our Church	Pray for us.



FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH IN MALAMYINE, MYANMAR.

In honor of the Year of St Joseph, the Sisters of 3 communities from Kyaik Kha Me, HIV / AIDS care Center and Malamyine in Mon State, gathered on the feast of St. Joseph in Malamyine. When the Moon had set and the Sun risen a very warm welcome was extended with a number of surprises.

We welcomed eight priests from the Malamyine Diocese and a number of boarding girls from the convent of St. Joseph. In his homily Fr. Joseph Soosay, outlined the humility and availability of St. Joseph during his life. We all know well who St. Joseph is, yet we know little about him other than the few lines that the Gospels tell us. Joseph does not speak a single word in the Gospels. Yet no matter how hidden his life was, his role was important. In his hidden life God entrusted him to care and be responsible for His Son who came into the world as a powerless baby. Like St. Joseph, we are invited to make of our lives an offering to God. No matter how small our actions. We can join together with Universal Church in praying for the Holy Father's intentions and the Church and call to mind and follow his example.

After Mass we shared a meal during which Fr Peter presented us with some gifts. We thank you Sr.Rosi Lwin and Community of Malamyine for the excellent meal with a variety of dishes which you had prepared.

Other Reflections and Thoughts

- In all the communities we found a family atmosphere, a distinguishing factor of the Sisters of St. Joseph: simplicity, openness, universality, variety of services but all rendered with the same aim: "To make known the love of God in the historical and ecclesial context in which you are situated."
- The Sisters were very delighted and thanked us for these very kind words. "To be at the heart of the world today a memorial of the Love of God who became incarnate to reach out to mankind by human actions in the manner of St. Joseph who was humble and available".
- There were many good moments where we discussed our Apostolic Projects. It was very interesting to know about the day to day lives of our Sisters. All of which was a great encouragement as we continue our mission in Malamyine Diocese. Our gathering concluded with a shared prayer.

Sr. Mary Win



Saint Joseph

Who is St. Joseph for you? What do you learn from him?

I asked this question to the people who work with us: teachers, employees, former students... these are their answers

Saint Joseph is an example for everyone who bears responsibility because he took care of his home and family with much love and fidelity. We learn wisdom from his silence.

Ghada Shomali St. Joseph School-Bethlehem

My experience with Saint Joseph started since my childhood with my grandmother who was close to him to the point that she gave his name for my uncle and aunt: Joseph and Josephine. March 19 of every year, was a great feast for the family that we celebrated after Mass. I grew up and considered him a father, a brother, a protector, and a guard for me and my family, and I continue to ask for his protection in every difficult situation. This relationship reached the top when I started working at St. Joseph's school 6 years ago. He took me out of a great crisis. "It was St. Joseph who sent you to us, and we are lucky to have you." Hearing these words from the superior encouraged me. Before I leave school every day I greet him with a hymn, I ask for his protection and I get inner peace.

Sally Qessessieh/St. Joseph School - Bethlehem

Saint Joseph is the saint who always interceded for me every time I entered school, especially during exams time. He had a special place in my heart, and I loved his being a carpenter. There was carpentry in front of my school, I always imagined him using his tools and working with Jesus besides him. Whenever I needed anything from our Lady, I used to tell him: You are her fiancé, and she loves you, ask her to answer me.

Rana Ary/St. Joseph School-Jerusalem

Saint Joseph accompanied me from the first day I started working in Saint Joseph's School. In every distress, obstacle, or difficulty that I encountered, I used to pray to him: Oh Saint Joseph, this is your school, take care of it. I feel him so close to me, especially that he endured many difficulties. I learned to trust in God and trust in Divine Providence.

Director Yasemin Al Qalaq-St. Joseph school, Ramleh

I am a father of three children at Saint Joseph's School where I was a student. I was touched by the sisters' assistant for me, especially with the family problems I was facing. I learned from St. Joseph to sacrifice my personal project for the sake of a bigger project. I learned not to focus on myself as a father but rather give my children the priority.

Tony Saleh-St. Joseph school, Ramleh

Saint Joseph was distinguished by silence, obedience, and dedication to the Holy Family. I learned how to serve the church for free, to give the name of God the first place in my life, and to praise Him in every work I do.

Parish Choir Responsible, Estefan Emsis-St. Joseph school, Ramleh

The Saint Joseph school, to which I proudly belong, is one of the pioneering schools in the field of education. The sisters, the administration, and the teachers are the image of their Patron St. Joseph in their love, service and generosity. Through my educational career, I acquired those noble qualities that strengthened my belonging.

Nicole Hreish / St. Joseph school-Ramalla

Saint Joseph is an example of a virtuous educator who believes in the grace of God and allows it to bear fruit. He is an example of a silent worker, a compassionate father and a protective companion who provides support and advice with faith, hope and love. In my life as a teacher in the midst of our world full of difficulties and challenges, despite our ignorance of God's plan many times, Saint Joseph gives us hope to complete the journey with steady steps and trust in God.

Rola Rafidi-St. Joseph school-Ramalla

My spiritual and professional life was affected by this great saint and his nuns who took him as their intercessor. He is my father and my role model in life because he is the educator of the son of my Lord. I follow his methodology in my work and my life, and I reflect it on those around me. Because he is honest, silent, he surrendered to the will of God and obeyed him with faith and honesty, relying on the Divine Providence. I feel comfortable and proud whenever I feel that I am following his example in our educational career, to pass our aspirations to our students. Yes, I follow him in his silence, his love, sacrificing for his loved ones with courage, humility and purity of heart. He used whatever talents God granted him to preserve the purity of the Virgin Mary and to lead Jesus to a safe land. For all this, I always put the school in his hands and his protection, and of course my family as well, isn't he the family's guard, protector, and our intercessor? And to him we turn in our distress and derive our strength from it.

Shireen Moghannam-principal, St. Joseph school-Ramalla

I have been working at Saint Joseph Hospital in Jerusalem for more than ten years and I work with the Sisters on a daily basis ... I never felt alienated or isolated as a Muslim working in a Christian religious institution ... on the contrary, I see humility, respect, love and sympathy for everyone without any distinction of sex, race, or religion. They devote themselves in silence, they serve the patients themselves and are keen to create an atmosphere of humility and work for the sake of the patient... I am proud to be a member of the staff with its sublime message.

Wasseem Kamal-St. Joseph's Hospital

As a former student at St. Joseph's School and as a doctor working now at St. Joseph's hospital, I can say that Saint Joseph had a great impact in my life and the life of my family, as he is a symbol of the Holy Family and has always been our patron, close to our hearts, and we feel him as a guardian

angel for our families. We learned many lessons from him, such as humility, devotion to God, to loving and serving His will. We always seek his intercession and feel his presence among us.

Dr. Hania-St. Joseph Hospital

Saint Joseph gives a feeling of reassurance and security, the example of a loving and generous family. He is a safe fortress and a refuge for expatriates. His feast is connected with hope and joy, full of spring blossoms that herald great joy.

Dima Saeed-St. Joseph Hospital

Through my work at Saint Joseph's Hospital for 15 years, I read a lot about him, and I was greatly affected by his obedience to God, and his perseverance and devotion. I was greatly affected by such qualities, for I am a person who surrenders to the will of God in order to enjoy inner peace and live my life without fear, as I rely on God in everything. I felt strongly the intercession of Saint Joseph at the beginning of the pandemic and the horror in which the world lived, but I felt peace and safety in my work that is full of risks of infection. Through the intercession of Saint Joseph, this critical period has passed.

Lubna abdel latif-St. Joseph hospital

Saint Joseph is the symbol of good fatherhood, He is the one that God has chosen as a companion of the Virgin and Jesus and guardian of the great mystery. I learned from him silent and unconditional obedience to the will of God and not to complain in any circumstance no matter how difficult. This is what I live with my students through catechism classes, and with my family and everyone around me .

Badira Qassees – St. Joseph School- Nazareth

By Vicky SJA
Province of Israel/Palestine



St Joseph's Feast day 2021 Samson

The sisters commenced the feast of St Joseph with Mass in their various parishes. In the afternoon they met at Samson to celebrate the occasion and it was pleasing to see some of our lay staff in attendance.

To commence the afternoon Sr. Pat led us in a meaningful prayer service. Fr Greg Donovan who has given us reflections on Lenten and Advent topics previously, gave us some insights which focused mainly on the Silence of St Joseph in the Gospels. Fr Greg's words were very thought provoking. He remembered that when he first met our sisters he was impressed that one of our traditions was making a silent retreat on every First Sunday of the month.

Following on we had afternoon tea with some tasty finger food and other goodies prepared by the community and some staff members. It was a relaxed and very enjoyable gathering with plenty of chatter and good humour on the feast of our Great Patron who is an example of holiness to us in so many ways and to the whole Church.

Sr Krystyna Dzialosz



GIUSEPPE, UOMO GIUSTO, SPOSO DI MARIA, SEI AL CENTRO DI UNA GRANDE MISIIONE

(Translation in English below)

Tutto parti dal "Si" che Maria disse all'angelo dell'Annunciazione
E Gabriele apri loro la via al cammino dell'Incarnazione.

Mistero che a Giuseppe fu rivelato, in una notte oscura e tenebrosa,
Nel sonno fortemente tormentato, da dubbi, incertezze per la sua sposa.

Conoscendo bene la sua dolce Maria, da uomo giusto quale egli era
Voleva segretamente mandarla via, ma giunse dall'alto la Parola Vera:

"Non temere Giuseppe di prenderla per sposa, è avvenuto in lei un fatto strabiliante
È lo spirito santo che la resa grandiosa e del nascituro tu ne sarai garante.

Conosci di Maria la sua grande virtù e al Figlio dell'Altissimo che lei partorirà
Come buon padre darai nome Gesù e ne avrai tutta la responsabilità."

Apparve a lui in sogno il messo del Signore e Giuseppe l'accolse con gioia ed umiltà
E man mano cresceva nel suo cuore il desiderio di una piena paternità.

Per il silenzio e la tua disponibilità grande tu sei, nostro amato Protettore,
grande per l'audacia, l'amore, la fedeltà, nell'accogliere la volontà del Signore.

Nel silenzio e nella contemplazione di questo grande mistero d'amore
Tu, Giuseppe, dopo tanta tensione, hai detto "sì!" nel segreto del cuore.

E questi "SI!" che hanno salvato il mondo continuano ad infondere in ogni cuore
Un desiderio sempre più vivo e profondo ed è l'amore per il Cristo Signore.

Suor Fernanda Scannella, comunità di Fiesole

Poem for St Joseph (English version)

GIUSEPPE, RIGHT MAN, MARY'S SPOUSE, YOU ARE AT THE CENTER OF A GREAT MISSION
Everything starts with the "Yes" that Mary said to the angel of the Annunciation
And Gabriel opened the way to them on the path of the Incarnation.
Mystery that was revealed to Joseph, in a dark and gloomy night,
In his sleep, heavily tormented by doubts, uncertainties for his wife.
Knowing his sweet Mary well, as a just man as he was
He secretly wanted to send her away, but he came from the top of her the True Word:
"Do not be afraid to take Joseph as his wife, an amazing fact has happened in her
It is the holy spirit that the great surrender and of the unborn child you will be guarantor.
Know of Mary her great virtue and of the Son of the Most High whom she will give birth
As a good father you will give the name Jesus and you will have all the responsibility for him.
The messenger of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and Joseph welcomed him with joy and
humility
And little by little the desire for full fatherhood grew in his heart
For the silence and your great availability, you are, our beloved Protector,
great for audacity, love, fidelity, in accepting the will of the Lord.
In silence and contemplation of this great mystery of love
You, Joseph, after so much tension, you said "yes!" in the secret of the heart.
And these "YES!" who saved the world continue to infuse into every heart
An ever livelier and profound desire and it is love for Christ the Lord.
Sister Fernanda Scannella. Community of Fiesole. Italy

Video links with Hymns Composed, other videos

<https://youtu.be/qigN6SOqYZs> **There is a Candle by Novices in the Philippines**

<https://youtu.be/RBpmtYY6X0s> **Oh St Joseph Come to our aid by Novices**

<https://youtu.be/zF0ZqzuEOWg> **Feast of St. Joseph by Sr. Gabi in Ethiopia**

https://youtu.be/fzxY7_UbH0E **Feast of St. Joseph, Greece**



Obituary:

A life all given to the Lord Sister Johanna Borg

Our dear Sister Johanna left us on the morning of September 3rd around 3.30am. After three years of care without being in bed, but the last year, one of our Filipino girls was in charge, almost night and day.

A few words to evoke the memory of our dear Sister Johanna, who passed away after a busy life:

Born in Malta, she studied at the school of Saint Joseph of the Apparition in Malta, her native country so dear to her heart. She did the postulancy and the novitiate in Marseille in 1958. She was very young; she was then 19 years old. After her first vows, she had obedience for her mission at the Jaffa boarding school in Israel. Then she was sent on mission to Beersheva with the Judeo-Christians.

Sister Johanna gave much of her life to the mission and to the province, to her sisters of the community whom she loved with so much charity and love. She was very discreet, loved by her sisters and by her province and by all those she met. She was always available, welcoming and very kind.

She was nominated Provincial for three times because she was loved and respected by all.

Thank you to Sister Johanna for all these good testimonies and availability to each sister she meets.

Often I would hear her say in English: "Jesus help me".

Sister Johanna passed away on September 3rd, 2020 at 3:30 a.m., the three sisters near her and the 6 Filipino girls. On September 4th, her funeral was held at St. Joseph's Hospital in Jerusalem.

May her soul rest in the peace of the Lord; her memory will remain engraved in our hearts especially of her Kyriat Yearim community.



Sister Marie de l'Arche
Kyriat Yearim

The Sisters of St Joseph in Saint Affrique - France

THE MERCY

An old mission and yet still a new one.

1 - A little return to the past to understand today.

In 1839, at the request of the priests of the parish, Emilie de Vialar sent some sisters on mission to St Affrique, in Aveyron, to do a "work of mercy", that is to say to bring humanity and comfort to a population very affected by great poverty: meet food and health needs, watch over the sick and dying, day and night when necessary, provide housing, educate children in difficult family situations humanly and spiritually... Remain attentive to all and open to all situations, to relieve, take care, compassion, serve without counting, for love.

I would like to quote here the words of Mother Barthélémy, Superior General, during a visit to St Africa: "Mercy, a very suggestive name: to be merciful is to bend down, with all the enthusiasm of your heart., on the misery of others". Yes, our sisters witnessed this momentum, given that they were. They have not ceased to be inventive until today to remain faithful to Emilie de Vialar's founding intuition.

Over the years, the number of sisters increases and the house can accommodate the elderly as well as our sisters who return from their mission and need to restore their health. Thus in 1966, 20 nursing home rooms were created, the embryo of the current home which has 83 beds.

The sisters managed the retirement home, helped in this by lay people in a management association. Then, looking at the social future of our country, taking into account our limited skills with regard to administrative requirements, the Province decided to entrust the management of the retirement home to a lay person in 1990, then 2 other directors appointed him. succeeded.

A painful passage for the sisters but so necessary - "it was their work" - we must leave. To adapt... to take one's rightful place, to strip oneself, in short to make the choice of life so that the Institution continues to respond to the needs of the population by leaving to the laity all the initiatives that are their responsibility. But the Congregation remains vigilant and maintains a link with the director so that the Spirit of St Emilie remains in the house.

2 - My mission in St Affrique: yesterday and today

I was sent on a mission to St Africa as community leader in 2008; I knew the sisters a little but knowing the sisters by meeting them from time to time and living with them inside the retirement home requires a radical change to be made in a double fidelity: to the community and to the institution. It requires living a permanent tension for the good of all, in a very humble attitude of availability.

What to do?

"First of all, to know more about the functioning of the retirement home, the place of the sisters who still had a few small activities; they participated happily in the life of the house and then, taking into account the ages and the frailties of health, they were gradually stripped of the service rendered, a renunciation sometimes difficult to accept ...

- ✓ Think about the future of a Christian presence for the home. In connection with the diocese and the director who agreed to create a post of chaplain, we welcomed a lady as chaplain for 10 years. This person has retired. After long months of searching for a replacement, the process was unsuccessful. So I am currently assuming this mission of chaplain for the retirement home with Sr. Rachel.
- ✓ Listening, reassuring, pacifying, helping the sisters to live the last stage of their life as well as possible, by making the link between our SJA vocation and the daily life which can sometimes be heavy to bear; prayer and community reflection, sharing of the writing and deepening of the constitutions, frequent reminder of the meaning of our presence in the house - “when we have nothing more to do and we feel useless” then gradually, this food is offered in a homeopathic dose and adapted according to the situation of each sister; finally, end-of-life support.
- ✓ Keep in touch with the director as administrator (I am a member of the managing association) and responsible for the community; transmit to him “the values of the Sisters of St Joseph” to be implemented in our institutions to give meaning to an integral care of the residents. The current director fully adheres to these values and refers to them with the staff. I often talk to her, a relationship of trust has been established, she asks me for my opinion on such and such a thing; I encourage her sometimes and I feel close to her; she informs me of her difficulties and her joys. I feel very free with her, I can make suggestions to her. This is an important aspect of my mission.

The COVID year with the lockdown was very trying for management, all staff, families and sisters, 2 sisters died from the virus. Community meetings became less and less existent. I communicated with the sisters mainly by phone. Today the house has started to open its doors to outsiders ... but be careful and vigilant.

Here is very simply and fraternally expressed my mission to Mercy

Sister Suzanne Marin - April 30, 2021

