



Voices of our Sisters and the Collaborators

**Casa Generalizia,
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Contents

1	Editorial	4
2	SJA Spirituality by Sr. Janet Arrowsmith SJA	5
3	Continued reflection on <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> updates and resources	7
4	Mission: A Summer with young people in Romania	8
5	Jerusalem, A Maternity of Peace	13
6	Mary's Mount School, Kalamunda	18
7	Mission among the Migrants, Guatemala	22
8	Mission in Peru	25
9	Mission in Bulgaria	27
10	Mission in the Philippines	33
11	Echoes from 2 young Sisters in Lebanon	35
12	Change of Leadership teams, Latin America	36
13	Change of leadership teams, Myanmar	37
14	Change of leadership teams Europe	40
15	Change of leadership teams Israel/Palestine	43
16	Formation: Entry to the Postulancy, Thailand	45
17	Entry to the Novitiate: India	48
18	Entry to the Novitiate: Myanmar	50
19	Echoes from the Central Novitiate, Philippines,	51
20	First Professions: India	52
21	Final Professions: India	54
22	Central Juniorate in Gaillac,	56
23	Celebrations: Jubilee celebrations in Malta	57
24	Jubilee Celebrations in Malta	60
25	Sr. Pauline and her mission in Peru	62
26	"Glorious Naval Battle" of Lepante from Greece	65
27	Year of St. Joseph	66
28	Stained Glass window of St. Emilie	70

Editorial

Dear Sisters,

Here we are once again to share the life of the Congregation in different Provinces and listen to the stories of our Sisters. It has been a great joy for us to come closer to all as a Congregation.

Thanks to Sr. Janet Arrowsmith for the 2nd part of her article on Spirituality of the Congregation which is very inspiring.

I thank Sr. Margaret Anne Beech for her interest in updating us on FRATELLI TUTTI and the ways the church has lived this call of the Pope. The references and articles that have come out at world level are very deep and a few of them are mentioned in this article. Thanks to the prompt response and a lot of effort taken by the church and the world as a whole. I also thank her for helping me to choose, edit and construct the pages for the articles for the YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH.

Thanks to all the Sisters who have collaborated in sending articles and photos for the Bulletin. It's your work that makes it possible to put together the special moments, persons and events of the Congregation in the bulletin to be shared.

As the year of St. Joseph ends on 8th December 2021, I would like to thank all the Sisters who contributed articles, poetry, hymns, quotes etc. for St. Joseph's page in the Bulletin. Special thanks to Sr. Margaret Anne Beech who helped in choosing, editing and constructing the page.

As Christmas is approaching let us be ready to bring Christ into the lives of all the people with whom we come into contact. Also, it is a most appropriate way to celebrate the 189 years of our foundation with Emílie our Mother and Foundress.

With all best wishes and assurance of prayers,

Sr. Renee Quadros, SJA

SPIRITUALITY and all that!

Part Two

In the last article I offered an understanding of what Spirituality means as it describes a person's or a group's way of responding to God. It is describing the two-way relationship we all have with God. As we said in the first article, everyone has a relationship with God, whether they know it or not. This is because it is God who reaches out to us first. From the newest conceived human being to the oldest person alive, God touches us in a manner appropriate to our state of development as a human being. One side of this relationship is the God who made us. We, as Christians have become used to thinking



of God in terms of the Trinity, Three persons in one God. We can relate to the Father as a Father, especially if our experience of Fatherhood has been good. For many of us Jesus slips easily into being our friend, our teacher, Our Lord and even for some, our spouse. The Holy Spirit's action is less clear, but His (for some Her) touch has been described as that which sanctifies us as the Spirit fills us with the desire for encountering the Father and the Son. However, this does not fully describe God. Thinking and experiencing the three persons, give us a way of reaching out to God, within the confines of our human capacity, to respond to Him who reveals Himself as Trinity, Three Persons in the one God.

I have sometimes used a multifaceted diamond as a symbol to help understand the immensity of the being we call God. It is beautiful, impossible to describe fully and shows many different 'faces' to those who see it. Each face or facet show a different attribute of God. He has so many, His love, His mercy, His justice, His patience, His gentleness, His



power.... I could continue to list them for there is no coming to an end when describing God. If he were to reveal the totality of Himself to us, I doubt we would survive. In the Old Testament even Moses, on hearing that God was in the burning bush, hid his face:



'At this Moses covered his face, for he was afraid to look at God.' Exodus 3:6.

If we think of God as like a diamond with every facet of the diamond representing one of His attributes, then it is easy to understand that we will struggle to comprehend just how immense a being He is. No matter how he has gifted us with, what the world calls, intelligence, our minds are still too small to take in His totality. This God of ours knows exactly how much we can understand and he reveals himself to each one by helping us to grasp some of his attributes and virtues more than others. In this way He enables us to be drawn to be more sensitive to certain of His virtues. It is His choice which of His Virtues He gifts us with. But we are called to practice all the virtues. In English there is a saying that when faced with a lot of things to choose, we may cherry pick them. That is like picking cherries off a tree where we can choose which ones we want and which ones we do not want. When it comes to living virtuous lives, we do not have the freedom to choose which ones we will practice and which we will reject. God has created each one of



us for a special purpose and he has endowed each of us with greater sensitivity to the virtues which will be necessary for this task. Having these sensitivities does not mean that we are unaware of other virtues, but we find ourselves drawn more to the ones He wants us to develop and become our Spiritual Strengths.

An image that can be used to help us understand this is to think of God as a beautiful Garden with many different flowers which represent His Attitudes and Virtues. For each of us God has chosen



that some flowers, some of His virtues, will develop stronger than others. It is this mixture of Spiritual Strengths which forms the distinctive nature of each person's spirituality.

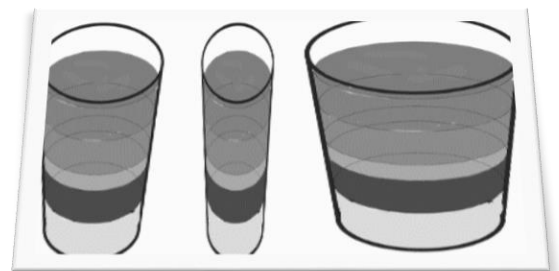


A helpful analogy to understand this is to see these Spiritual Strengths as making up a cocktail of virtues. A cocktail is a mixture of different drinks. These drinks are mixed in different proportions. You can reproduce the cocktail if you always mix the drinks in the same proportion.



If you change the proportions, even though you use the same ingredients, the resulting cocktail will taste differently from the first. If you think of the Spiritual Strengths as the ingredients of the cocktail. In the small picture I have picked Love, Service, Poverty, Faith and prayer as the ingredients. you can see that two people with these virtues in the same proportions, will have a similar

spirituality. They may have different capacities, meaning that they have the virtues in greater strength, but if the proportions of the Spiritual Strengths remain the same, their spiritualities will be similar. However, if the proportions of the virtues are changed, even if they remain the same virtues, then the two people will have spiritualities that have things in common but they will not have the same spirituality.



Take, for instance, the virtue of prayer. Someone gifted with a Carmelite vocation is called to spend a very large portion of their day in prayer, of all kinds. A person called to an apostolic vocation has a different call to prayer which God has given them, of no less value, but to enable them to carry out their mission among God's people.

The spiritual Strengths of an individual or a group, can be described and thus their spirituality described. In the next article I will explore this idea and illustrate this by describing St. Emilie's Spirituality and also that of the Congregation.

Sister Janet Arrowsmith SJA

Further reflections on 'Fratelli Tutti'.

Since the publication of the Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' there has been numerous articles and commentaries on the Document. The recent issue of the UISG Bulletin No 175 2021 has several articles highlighting examples of fraternity and social friendship lived in different forms and places.

To begin with Fr Fabio Baggio C.S presents the current challenges required for growth in human relationships through meaningful encounters. His invitation is to favour those on the peripheries of life such as migrants, refugees, displaced persons and victims of human trafficking. His link to a 'throw away culture' gives clues to a way of acknowledging, receiving and being close to these people. In short, being a 'travelling companion'.

The article by Sr Maria Ausitila , Sr Franca and Sr Paola is more practical and informs us of their experience as a community at Lampedusa as an 'outpost of fraternity'. As a community they try 'to respond each day to the appeals of people.' 'This morning we went to the pier where from behind the fence we talked to the migrants. It gives us an insight into their daily life with its many unknowns.'



Sr Sheila Kinsey FCJM writes from a Franciscan perspective. In embracing and accompanying the isolated and those who are frail and vulnerable, the challenge is to be co-responsible and create new processes and ways of doing things according to our skills, capabilities and opportunities. She calls for an individual and a collective response, one which arises from an interior space by being contemplatives in action. Sr Shelia challenges each Congregation to consider the message of the Encyclical and undertake action according to the particular Charism.

The article in this present Bulletin '**Jerusalem, Maternity and Peace**' must surely flow from 'the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus, to initiate processes whose fruits will be repeated by others'. (FT 196.)





Summer in Romania!
1-8 August, Magis 2021



Sr. Nela



Sr. Elena

During the summer, we were involved in an activity with young people, organized by the Jesuits, who asked us to collaborate with them. We are aware that the presence of consecrated women among young people is important and significant. After some time of reflection, we decided to join this call and to participate both in different groups.

Some of you may be wondering: what is Magis?

Magis is an activity, a provocation, it is a PLUS for living *ad maiorem Dei Gloriam* in concrete service to the brothers and sisters. The proposal was made to young people between 18-35 years old with the theme: "RENEWING ALL THINGS IN CHRIST!".

We were about 50 people organized in six groups, in different places in Romania: each team with a priest and 1-2 consecrated people, in a specific experience full of adventure!

GHIMEȘ - ora et labora: "The way to know God in his element". This experience engaged the group with times of prayer and manual labour by arranging a wooden structure for

those who wish to retire to the mountains for a few days of prayer. This place is very simple; in some things, it also lacks the essential, such as light. It was a great experience where the young people learned to pray and to work, but also to appreciate the simple things.



SIBIU - living stones: "A Church is a meeting place between man and God. What is the hidden message in architecture and religious painting? How does art help us getting closer to the Lord?" Prayer and art have helped young people to know the Lord better. Thanks to these two tools, their knowledge has become a concrete service as tourist guides. A beautiful experience that allowed them to come into contact with a world that was unknown to them by living the following words of the Gospel: "You have received freely, give freely" (Mt 10,8).



SATU MARE - prayer, music and theatre: **"Music is a pleasant harmony in honour of God and of the joy bestowed on the soul"**. The members of this team learned to sing and play in order to transmit what Saint Augustine said: "the song belongs to those who love". At the end of the experience, the young beginners staged a musical on the life of Saint Francis Xavier, a beautiful experience because it allowed them to feel how true the old saying is: whoever learns to sing well prays twice.



MUNTELE BĂIŞORII - bibliodrama: **"Know thyself with the help of the Bible"**. The "biblio drama" is a different method of knowing the Lord and oneself through the texts of the Bible; it helps the person to encounter the characters of the Gospel not only on an intellectual level but also on an emotional level. It was really a great experience because the young people lived a time of retreat, a privileged time.



ROŞIA MONTANĂ - volunteering: **"We are people created for others"** (Fr. Pedro Arrupe, sj). The group (which also included Sr. Nela) in an attitude of total availability, gave its time to serve the inhabitants of this country who were like sheep without a shepherd (cf. Mk 6:34). Some of the young people were housed in a very simple structure, others slept in tents because there was no room for everyone. Their presence was very significant because it allowed the community to come together around the Eucharist and to have moments of prayer and listening. They also cleaned and tidied the church and refitted the accommodation for the volunteers. A beautiful

experience because it helped the parish community to rediscover the centre of its life and to place all its trust only in the Lord.



VIA TRANSILVANICA (from VATRA DORNEI to BISTRIȚA): "Nature is the best spiritual guide". Walk with the Lord and recognize him in Creation! Since everyone's life is always in a hurry, hiking helps us keep pace with each other, slow down to observe and recognize the beauty that is around us and within us. In five days, the group (including Sr. Elena) walked 100 km, with the backpack and more. A beautiful, wonderful and tiring experience, where everyone remembered the wonders of the Lord and his care, experiencing what the psalmist says: "My soul clings to you and the strength of your right hand sustains me" (Ps. 62.9).



After five days of group experience, we all gathered in BĂIȘOARA, a mountain area where for two days we had the opportunity to get to know each other but also to reread our experience and shared it with others.



At the end of the week, we were very tired but also immensely happy with what we had been through. This experience enriched us a lot and opened us to the world of young people so little known to us. It was a wonder to see to what extent the young people of today are committed to living charity, by giving the time of their vacations. We firmly believe that they are a precious gift for the future of the

country, a resource to be exploited in the construction of a more human and just world. We conclude with three words that sum up the whole experience:

THANK the Lord for this opportunity.

RECALL the wonders of the Lord and the faces encountered.

REOPENING the heart to other possibilities of collaboration.

We consider that our presence among them was significant and we tried to convey what Pope Francis says in the apostolic exhortation *Christus vivit*: "He is our hope and the most beautiful young person in this world. Everything he touches becomes young, becomes new, fills with life. Therefore, the first words I want to say to every young Christian are: He lives and wants you alive!" (cf. See Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation to Young People 2019).

By Sr. Nela Ciobanu and Sr. Elena Martin

Magis video link : <https://youtu.be/xO52enGldPE>



Jerusalem

The maternity of peace

Introduction

We would like to share with you an article published in “Marie Claire magazine”, in France, regarding the Maternity Department of Saint Joseph’s Hospital here in Jerusalem.

Since its opening in April 2015, we have tried to accompany mothers and newborns to life by respecting the natural process of birth; we try to remove unnecessary medical interventions, and above all certain "violence" which too often makes childbirth traumatic for either the mother or the baby. In this Holy Land which already suffers much violence, we seek to give birth in peace and kindness (tenderness), hoping that these children will become people of peace tomorrow.

The first result of this desire is that Jewish couples have started, since 2017, and with the introduction of childbirth in water, to choose our hospital, in East Jerusalem - to give birth to their children, by confiding in our Palestinian staff. A little mustard seed, and may the grace of God make it grow every day.

In East Jerusalem, at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is the St. Joseph maternity hospital, run by Catholic sisters and staffed by Palestinians. It is so renowned for the quality of its care and its humanity that more and more Jewish families are choosing to have their babies there. Our reporter went to meet these parents and caregivers, in this place open to all faiths, where life begins and war ends. By Caroline Laurent-Simon



Sister Valentina (left), the Italian nun. Catholic midwife, who created and run the maternity, and Amal Abed Rabbo (right), the pediatrician. Palestinian Christian specialist the neonatal unit. They have only one goal: the baby's well-being and of his parents."

WHEN ANAEL, 26 years, GEOLOGIST, AND TOMER, 29 years, ECONOMIC ADVISOR, announced to those around them that they had chosen a hospital in the Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem with a Palestinian team to give birth to their first child, their relatives, friends and neighbors of Ma'aleh Adumim, one of the oldest Israeli settlements, told them: "You are completely crazy, this is an Arab hospital!" The young religious Jewish couple maintained with their decision, braving prejudices and resentments in a society that is evolving but still often remains polarized between "enemy" camps. The last two months of Anael's pregnancy took place in May and June, which means when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict knew the worst troubles since 2017, between Israeli bombardments on Gaza and Palestinian rocket fire, while there were daily violent clashes between Jewish and Arab crowds in

Israel. Yet another chaos started from Sheikh Jarrah, a district of East Jerusalem annexed by Israel in 1967 and where, last May, attempts by Jewish settlers to seize the homes of Palestinian triggered a violent reaction. However, it is in Cheikh Jarrah that St. Joseph's Hospital is located and its maternity managed by the Catholic Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition and whose administrative staff, doctors, nurses, midwives and nursing assistants are all Palestinians of Muslim or Christian faith. Valentina Sala, a 42-year-old Italian Catholic nun, a midwife by training, created the maternity ward of St. Joseph in 2015 and directs it. She remembers that at the height of the clashes last May on the esplanade of the al-Aqsa mosque, "We welcomed young Palestinians wounded by gunshots of the army, on the ground floor of the hospital and Israeli women were giving birth on the first floor".

TOMER REMEMBERS THAT HE HAS TAKEN OFF HIS KIPA before crossing the threshold of the hospital the first time they came for an antenatal visit. "I was apprehensive though," he smiles. "But I did not feel any hostility towards us from the Palestinian medical staff, quite the contrary. We don't speak Arabic, Anael and I, some nurses and midwives don't speak Hebrew, but we understood each other. And not just because we sometimes used English to communicate or a third person to translate, but because we were on the same page, listened to and respected each other beyond everything that separates Jews and Muslims here." At each of the following antenatal visits and when Anael was admitted to the labor room in June to give birth to their child, Tomer kept his kipa. "Those around us were astonished that, in this moment of tension between Jews and Arabs, we persisted in choosing this place over an Israeli hospital," says Tomer. We told them that "the medical infrastructures and obstetric skills were renowned and had proven their worth, that we preferred a maternity hospital on a human scale ... rather than a gigantic hospital where deliveries take place successively in an impersonal climate. Besides, the maternity of St. Joseph has acquired an indisputable medical reputation. "



Ade, Israeli Jew, gave birth a few hours ago. Here it is quiet, in her private room that she can breastfeed her baby



Anael, Jewish from Israeli colony of Ma'aleh Adumim in the West Bank, leaves the maternity radiant: her little boy is fine, her husband Tomer and his mother came to take them.



"It's a space of diversity, but also a structure where the quality of the mother-child bond is taken into counts as much as medical care."

THE LITTLE BOY OF THE RELIGIOUS JEWISH COUPLE came into the world thanks to the medical expertise of a Muslim midwife wearing a hijab and Sister Valentina. They also called on the "coaching" of a non-religious Jewish doula, a practice increasingly common among the younger generation. The newborn was then taken care of by Arab nurses and the nursery nurses living in the Bethlehem or Jericho area who, every morning, must show their permission to enter and circulate in Jerusalem to Israeli soldiers at

checkpoints. Like Dalal, a resident of Bethlehem, head nurse of the neonatal unit where premature babies are placed in an incubator, under constant surveillance. Releasing a communicative serenity, Dalal, an oval face wearing a hijab, has occupied her position since the creation of the maternity ward. For nothing in the world would she work in another hospital: *"It is a place of co-education, but also a structure where the quality of the mother-child bond is taken into account as much as medical care. In my unit, we record mothers' voices and broadcast it, outside of visits, to infants who sometimes spend weeks in incubators. We allow mothers - and fathers - to stay with their child for a long time, to promote skin-to-skin contact. It is a humanitarian hospital, where humanity predominates."*

Dareen, 23, a nursery nurse who graduated last November, comes from Beit Sahour, in the West Bank, and passes through military checkpoints every day, morning and evening. *"Before working here, I didn't know any Jews,"* explains the young Palestinian Christian. *"Most of the Israeli mothers whose babies I care for have never met Palestinian women. With some, no doubt also thanks to the family atmosphere that reigns here, we exchange our email addresses and stay in touch. They give me news of them and their children. Working in this unprecedented human context, which shakes up preconceptions on both sides and mutual mistrust, brings even more value to my professional vocation."*

FOR SO MUCH, NONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITAL TEAM SHOULD BE IN TRIUMPHALISM, aware of the weight of the wounds, the mistrust or even the hatred which, for so long, have sealed the confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians. *"If one works in this establishment, it is because one thinks that society should be mixed and tolerant as it is the case here,"* said Khadija, 30 years, a Muslim midwife. She comes out at the end of the morning of two deliveries, two Palestinian Muslim babies, and watches on the monitors of the electronic board the contractions and indications of cervical dilation of two future mothers of Jewish children. *"It would be wrong to think that the reality of the conflict never affects us. It has happened to me, during serious tensions and clashes, to wonder if this newly born Israeli baby will wage war against Palestinians. Likewise, some Israeli women I help give birth who come from settlements in the occupied territories must be apprehensive that a Palestinian woman is the one helping them give birth."*

"All mothers, Christian, Jewish or Muslims have the same concern: that their babies are in good health!" Amal Abed Rabbo-pediatrician



The gifts poured in for the birth of Malouk, here with his mother Amira, Palestinian Muslim.



Yoni and Naomi, a couple of religious Jews Israelis arrive at the maternity ward for a prenatal visit.



Noor, Palestinian Muslim, happy to present her baby to her mother (right) and to her grandmother (left)

Mobile constantly in hand, Sister Valentina, with luminous energy, and Doctor Hania al-Jouzy-Kasbaoui, warm chief pediatrician, who practiced medicine in Nantes, in France, and in Jordan, and whose word of order to the teams is *"Here, we don't treat mothers like numbers, nor do they fall into blissful*

"angelism." Both know that it is one of their performances; the water birth first of all, drew Jewish couples to the Palestinian hospital. But they want to believe that Jewish, Muslim and Christian couples who rub shoulders - and talk to each other - in the nursery where their newborns sleep side by side, will not forget this precious experience at a time when some, in Israel, ask segregation, with rooms and places reserved according to confession in Israeli hospitals where Jews and Muslims give birth.

"YOU CANNOT TAKE OFF THE IDENTITY OF THE OTHER, her feeling after years of conflict, terror and bloodshed, does not elude the Italian nun wearing a white veil. *I wouldn't say everything is simple! During the escalation of violence in June, Jewish couples called me asking if "the staff had changed their attitude towards prospective Israeli parents." A Palestinian staff member told me, "Maybe in the future this baby will shoot one of my children." That I am a Catholic religious midwife is not always obvious, at the beginning, for some parents. And yet, even during episodes of political tension, everything is conducted with respect. We tell ourselves that at least in this place, at the birth of these children of all stripes, we give everyone a space of peace. On average, two hundred and fifty children are born each month in St. Joseph's. For two years, the number of Jewish mothers has increased significantly. It currently represents 20% of deliveries, for 30% on the Christian side and 50% on the Muslim side. After examining a very premature baby, Dr. Amal Abed Rabbo, in her thirties, sums up: "All mothers, Christians, Jews and Muslims have the same concern: that their babies are well!"*

Beckie, 31 years, and her husband Michael, 34 years, videographer, members of the King of Kings Pentecostal Church, have chosen to give birth to their fourth child here again. *"Our first two were born in a big hospital, it felt like we were in the factory,"* explains the young housewife. *"We come back here for the medical skills, the care given to mothers and children, but also because it is a meeting place. For my third childbirth, I encountered an Armenian, an Orthodox Jew and a Muslim, we were from the same generation, and we started talking together, meeting in the dining room."* In the patio of the cafeteria on the ground floor, Diana, 16 years, a Muslim father from East Jerusalem and a mother of Ukrainian and Romanian origin who converted to Islam, is recovering from the birth of her baby Mirna born the day before. Her parents, Ammar and Olicia, are divorced but support the high school student and single mother. *"When I had contractions, we went with my mother to a big hospital in the city, the staff was almost aggressive when they found out my age and that I was a future single mother. I found the place dirty, crowded, begged my mom to go somewhere else. We arrived here. I come from a Muslim family, and the doctor had no judgment on my age, on the fact that there was no father, on the contrary, he reassured me: "You are not the first, there are others."* Diana, a child-faced teenager with hair in a loose bun, walks upstairs to look for her daughter in the nursery where a young mother in a hijab lays hers in a cradle. In the next room, Hana, 29 years, and Imad, 32 years, a young bourgeois Muslim couple, hug to thank Sister Valentina for her advice. In her room, as her childbirth is imminent, Nadar, staring at her cell phone, awaits a message from her Palestinian husband from the Territories who will tell her that he has left Hebron and has passed the checkpoint to attend at the birth of their first child. In an adjoining room, Ade, 31 years, and Nadav, 37 years, Israelis from Abu Gosh, still can't believe they say, *"lived such a harmonious and warm moment with the Palestinian midwife"* when Ade gave birth to their daughter in the small pool.

ORDINARY DAYS IN A PLACE THAT IS EVERYTHING EXCEPT ORDINARY... Some evenings, a few streets away, you can still hear the noise of clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians opposed to evictions from homes where their grandparents were born. Not an Israeli family and not a Palestinian deny that an outbreak of violence on both sides can degenerate into a new threat of war.



In the nursery on the first floor, six newborns, girls and boys, Jews and Muslims, sleep peacefully in identical cradles, side by side. Children, whose young generation of parents from both camps, find themselves hoping that mentalities will eventually change as they transform in this bubble of diversity.

MARY'S MOUNT SCHOOL Kalamunda.

On the 17th June a number of our Sisters attended celebrations marking the Centenary of Mary's Mount Primary School. A number of celebrations, to a lesser degree, because of Covid-19, had taken place dating from the beginning of the 2021 school year. This gathering at St Mary's Cathedral, on 17th June took place on a very significant day, the feast of our Mother Foundress and patron of the school. It was no mean achievement to arrange transport for the whole school, which is about 28 kilometers from Kalamunda where Mary's Mount is situated. Before I proceed further I would like to briefly explain our connection with the school.



In 1921, Archbishop Clune, the then Archbishop of Perth, proposed to sell our Sisters a house and 25 acres of land for the purpose of establishing a day school and a boarding school for boys under twelve years of age. The Sisters accepted the proposal and the school was opened on the 31st January 1922, with five boarders and twelve day pupils. There were ups and downs as the school progressed with the shortage of money and labour, it being war time. As the years progressed many new innovations took place ending up in beautiful classrooms and surroundings, as one can experience today.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Perth, Don Sproston celebrated Mass with four Concelebrants. In his homily the Bishop paid tribute to the rich history, traditions, achievements and Catholic Education which evidently continues to flourish today. Mass was embellished by some beautiful and appropriate singing by the school children. The children were extremely well behaved, indeed a credit to the school and of course to their families.



The school's principal, Emma Bell, installed at the beginning of the year spoke at the conclusion of Mass and this is what she had to say: "In the short time I have been here I have met families with whose own histories are woven into the fabric of the school. I have loved hearing the stories of generations of family members connected with Mary's Mount. The students, families and staff have certainly made this a welcoming and vibrant school environment." She also referred to 2021 as a year

when students are encouraged to create their own stories and memories of Mary's Mount while taking inspiration from the sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition and their faithfulness to the charism of their founder St Emilie De Vialar.



The apostolate of many of our Sisters, starting with the three pioneer Sisters, were very much part of the landscape. We can see that vast changes have taken place in a century. It was in January 1921 that three sisters set off for the Fremantle train station to begin the journey that would take them to the new foundation, named Mary's Mount and their little dwelling. They arrived in traditional fashion with a debt and 5 pounds in their pocket. This latter fact didn't daunt them and school commenced. There was a yearly increase in the intake of pupils. The

school went from strength to strength. Many families were supported by the Sisters especially migrants and the Sisters endeared themselves to the local community.



In 1969 Mary's Mount ceased to accommodate Boarders. Sr Olivera Morris was the last Sister to act as Principal of Mary's Mount. A lay Principal, John Downey was appointed in 1974. A number of Sisters continued in the school and lived at St Emilie's Convent which was in close proximity to the school

Besides being a school and as it developed over passing years, many of our Sisters spent their school holidays at Mary's Mount. It was a very healthy environment, with plenty of space and beautiful flowers and with the boarders on holidays there was extra accommodation. It was also an ideal place for retreats and sometimes amusing adventures. On one occasion when the Novices were on holidays (I was one of them) the roof of the boarders' quarters was being repaired. We were sleeping in the big dormitory and it poured rain, a bit unusual for summer, the dormitory was flooded so the novices had great fun mopping up for two days. Nothing like a change from the tedium of novitiate routine. All in all, Mary's Mount has a store of not only

great education successes but much fun and many enjoyable times. We usually get invitations from the school to attend various functions despite the fact that we are not involved in the school now.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

START From 4.30pm

Collect a map

Self Guided Historical Tour

Archives

Student Artshow

Sign our Visitor Book

Entertainment

Foodvans

Memorabilia

Pop into Classrooms

www.mmps.wa.edu.au

5.30PM OFFICIAL WELCOME & BLESSING OF OUR NEW SACRED SPACE

FRI 29 OCT 2021 | 4.30-8PM

Mary's Mount Primary School - Open Night





MURRAY VIEWS NO. 20. MARY'S MOUNT BOYS' COLLEGE, GOOSBERRY HILL, W.A.



Mission among the Migrants Guatemala

"DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU"

In light of the current reality, we as Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition live in the border area of Ceibo,¹ La Libertad Petén, and we write of our experience. An experience of encountering the suffering faces of men, women, children, young people, older people and entire families. Their faces reflect disappointment as they face the reality of being migrants and dreaming of a new world in a foreign land.

Today the cry of our migrant brothers and sisters challenges us and leads us to stop for a moment in front of a world convulsed and marked by the reality of the Pandemic. The demand is for us to listen with a 'contemplative gaze' and assume an attitude committed to the defense of life and taking risks amidst so much uncertainty.

"I have seen and heard the cry of my people" For more than 25 years as sisters we have tried to discern the will of God in the midst of these people. Throughout our journey, we discovered that one of the most vulnerable realities has been migration. We try, by means of small gestures, to accompany these people with the help of some institutions and the achievement of the construction of a migrant care home. This house which provides assistance to migrants is part of the Social Pastoral of the Apostolic Vicariate of Petén.

As sisters we have tried to be close to this pastoral activity collaborating in the crisis or alarming situations, such as the deportation of hundreds and hundreds of migrants of Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Haitian and Venezuelans origin.

We have had the opportunity to receive and accompany the caravans that emerged last year. It was a tough experience but at the same time, marked by hope and an illusion of a new world for each of them.

Today's reality is different; it shows a harshness of human life. We feel that only the Grace of God makes it possible to offer a word of encouragement. It is impossible for this reality not to move us. They arrive with a 'lost look' and without strength. They come empty-handed, some with dirty clothes, because they do not have a change. They have been deceived by various authorities and lack any information about their fate. Some are treated cruelly as payment for dreaming of something different for themselves and their families.

At the beginning of the deportation under "Title 42"² we went to the migrant's house to render service. The house was full but some spaces were set up to provide a bit of security and tranquility. In the midst of exhaustion, they shared their disappointment and the way they were treated. They arrived with nothing, but in the midst of everything, some recognized and thanked God for being alive and for finding people with good hearts.

1. El Ceibo is located about 600 kilometers north of Guatemala City, specifically in the La Libertad municipality, in the Petén department, adjacent to the state of Tabasco, Mexico.

2. According to this initiative, it says that foreigners who enter or try to enter the United States by land are immediately returned to the country through which they entered, that is, to Mexico, and if that is not possible, they are returned to their country of origin.

3. The number of deportees is considered to be more than 400 people per day.

We remember the faces of two mothers: The first was lost, her whole being was not capable of assimilating what was happening. She sat on the floor next to her little son. We approached her to talk and she only repeated *"I have nothing and no one who can help me"*. She asked for a plate of food and it seemed that she had not eaten for a long time. After a while we encouraged her to stay in the migrant's house and in the midst of her fears she accepted.

Later we spoke with another mother; who cried and repeated that they were already at the United States Border and had surrendered to immigration (to pass with their children). They told them that they were going to take them to the United States and took all their things from them and threw



them in the trash. *"That hurt us but as we were going there, we didn't pay much attention,"* said the lady. Without being given any information they were put on a plane, then a bus. To their surprise, they were returned to Guatemala and could not believe what was happening. These life stories reflect the reality of many other deported families.

Days later this changed, now everyone including the team from the Migrant House Belen are being taken to the Corinto border, and are kept inside the buses for long hours. We wait many hours for them to enter so as to share with them food, water and a word of encouragement. This act must be done in a matter of seconds.

God is good and allows us to recognize him, listen to him and feel him in each of these faces. It is not easy to feel this harshness of life but God invites us to listen to him and let the Word of Mary our Good Mother **"Do whatever he tells you"**, allowing all to resonate within and impels us to immerse ourselves in this reality and share what we are and have. At the same time receiving a word of encouragement that gives life and continues to awaken a passion for God and his Kingdom. *"God bless you and repay you for what you do for us today". 'Thank you for thinking of us, we need it"*.

We experience fatigue and helplessness including changes in the project. We believe that God's dream of a full life for all passes through the dynamism of the historical moment allowing for a creativity to shine. A creativity that so many men and women desire and fight for in life.

Following the example of Saint Emilia, our Foundress we also say, "We shall continue to devote our strength, our fortunes, our future, even our life if necessary to the relief of suffering humanity." Feeling united with the people and institutions that today receive and accompany these brothers and sisters, we can say that the 'Will of God' is woven and interwoven creating networks of solidarity.

Sisters of the Community of Petén, Guatemala



For more photos click the link: https://youtu.be/HsvcaL9_p0o



SJA Mission in Peru

"AFTER ME, THE SISTERS WILL PERPETUATE THE SPIRIT THAT GOD GAVE ME"

S.E.V.

In the midst of the social reality that we live today, we as Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition continue to follow the example of Jesus, by carrying out the mission in the midst of 'the people of God'. It is here that we have been 'called and sent' as a result of being 'Consecrated by God for the spread of his Kingdom and the service to our neighbor.'

Following the example of Saint Emilie, we try to live our mission by caring for and protecting life. The pandemic has exposed a very harsh reality, which has awakened in our 'being' a sense of greater sensitivity. As we experience our smallness and vulnerability we identify with the whole world. We are facing a disease that knows no borders, no social conditions and creed.

Today more than ever, we seek to be aware that our life and vocation is a gift of God for the Church. A visible sign of the Kingdom. As disciples and missionaries, we live an attitude of closeness, solidarity and dedication towards the people around us. From our house in Lima we continue to accompany many people – those who need to be listened to and provided with comfort - through telephone calls.

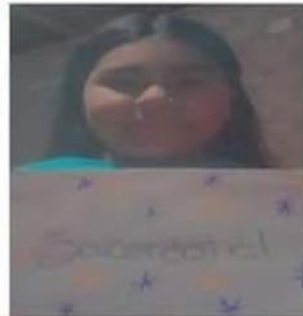
A mother with a sick daughter, requiring medical treatment, stayed at our house. God allowed us to be part of this reality and, taking risks, we accompanied them to the hospital. Due to a tumor in the head, she was admitted, dying shortly after. For us, this time implies 'being awake' and attentive to the needs of the poorest in our midst and of the possibilities so as to respond to their need. We have located an area of our house so as to continue to receive and care for people who need to move to the city for various procedures.

In keeping with the prevention standards, we have started again, to do pastoral work in the peripheral areas of Zapallal, where poverty is becoming more and more acute due to the pandemic. This is causing a lack of essential services for families. We are reorganizing ourselves with great enthusiasm and hope, to give formation to the leaders of catechesis for the First Communion and Confirmation. At the same time, we accompany the youth ministry and the health ministry of this Parish.

Faithful to the call of God we give of ourselves and trust that He will continue to sustain us. At the moment, due to the intensity of the pandemic in this country, there is still nothing in person as everything is done virtually. Currently we visit the neediest families and the sick. Thanks to the solidarity of several people, we can provide them with some food, masks, medicines, etc. With a look of faith and open to the signs of the times, we try to be a living and significant presence of God with us, in the midst of this historical context. We feel that the Lord calls us to be a silent and prophetic presence in the midst of the people in the manner of Saint Joseph.

Our greatest desire is to make Jesus and his Kingdom the center of our life.

By Sisters Graciela, Nimia, Gladis, Ofelia and Rosa



Pilgrimage in the footsteps of our sisters in Bulgaria:

Sofia-Plovdiv-Burgas

July 27-30, 2021



For some years, we have wanted to transform our community outing into a pilgrimage in the footsteps of our sisters, who first went to Bulgaria in October 1866. The years passed but we were never able to decide on this undertaking until the propitious opportunity presented itself. This year, Sr. Ramona's mother came to visit us from Romania for the first time so Sr. Ana Gloria had the brilliant idea of taking advantage of this opportunity to propose our much-desired pilgrimage and at the same time contemplate the beauties of Bulgaria. After the intense summer activities with both children and the elderly, we took a few days of well-deserved vacation, and we got in the car and left ...

SOFIA, today

After traveling 220 km from Belene, our first stop was in the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia, the largest and most populated city in the country, located at the foot of the Vitosha mountain range. We went to pray and remember our sisters in the Catholic co-cathedral St. Joseph, rebuilt in 2006. It is run by the Capuchin fathers, whose monastery is close to the church.



SOFIA, yesterday

In August 1879 the Capuchin Father Timothy Strona bought land in the central part of Sofia together with a house in which he intended to open a Catholic school. The sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition were invited for this and opened the first Catholic girls' school in January 14, 1880. By 1883, 6 sisters taught 112 girls in the girls' school, of which 29 were Bulgarian Orthodox, 34 foreign Catholics and 49 Jews. "Sister Marie-Ange Durand,

was sent to Sofia in June 1909. In Bulgaria she discovers a country in disarray: it was the war in the Balkans and she had to endure the hardships generated by this conflict. Then it was the First World War. Sister Marie-Ange taught older girls. She knew how to make herself



loved, esteemed, leading some of subsequently, to consecrated life. mission in Bulgaria were fruitful, one of her sisters in her community: **Mother Marie-Ange Durand in this community. She was such a could resist her charms. Our other than Mgr. Roncalli! She had when he had to deal with the**



them to baptism and also, For this sister, the years of judging by the testimony of **“I had the joy of living with house of the Sofia pleasant person that no one apostolic nuncio, was none the ability to cheer him up disagreement between**

Princess Yohanna of Savoy and King Boris, about the renunciation of the promises made about religion. Mother Marie-Ange consoled him as best she could. One day she said to him: “You will be Pope!” I thought she was going a bit too far! ” (see <http://courrier-francais.com/region-eo/une-religieuse-vendeenne-en-bulgarie/>)

The college was housed in a complex of buildings next to the Catholic Cathedral of St. Joseph, which was burned and destroyed by bombing during the First World War. The college was closed and the buildings were used by the military. After the bombing, two buildings were preserved - the main building of the college and the building where the teaching sisters lived. Later, with the arrival of the Communist regime in Bulgaria in 1948, foreign sisters and priests were expelled from the country and all their works and properties were nationalized.



A parenthesis of monastic spirituality: the Rila monastery

Before reaching our second stop, we made a small detour to Rila Monastery, the most famous Orthodox monastery in the country. It was started in the 10th century by the hermit Saint John of Rila (876 - 946), a truly spiritual father for the Bulgarian people. We found a masterpiece of architecture, painting and spirituality, in a wild and isolated mountain context, the Rila mountain range. We quenched our thirst at the pure spring of this sacred place, thanking the Lord for the gift of this holy monk. Here are some thoughts on the will of St. John of Rila:

“I, John, the humble and sinful, who has never done anything good on earth, when I came into this wilderness of Rila, I found no man over here, but only wild animals and impenetrable thickets. I settled alone in it, among the wild but the sky was my shelter and the earth However, the good Lord, for the love of and endured hunger and thirst, frost, nakedness, did not abandon me, but like lavishly satisfied all my needs. What all he has given me? Many are his



animals, without food nor shelter, my bed and the herbs my food. whom I disregarded everything the heat of the sun, and corporal a merciful and child-loving father shall I contribute to the Lord for blessings, for he looked from his

holy height at my humbleness (cf. Luke 1:48) and lent his support to me to go through everything—not I, but the might of Christ, which is in me—because every good gift and every perfect gift comes from him.” (see” Testament of St. John of Rila”)

PLOVDIV, today

And here we are again on our journey, this time to Plovdiv, a large city in southern Bulgaria, designated as the European Capital of Culture in 2019. Our stop was at the city's Catholic cemetery where we prayed over the graves of our sisters buried there.



See you in heaven, dear sisters!

PLOVDIV, yesterday

“The foundation dates back to 12 October 1866, when, in response to a call, Sr. Emilie Julien sends Sr. Eugenie Laurez, who will leave Trebizond for Philippopolis (now Plovdiv, in southern Bulgaria).

“We opened a school, but not knowing the language of the country, we hired a young woman from the city to help us and we tried to make ourselves understood by gestures. The following year, two other sisters came to take part in our work”. (Taken from the book: "Emilia de Vialar", A. Cavasino)



On the eve of the Liberation of Bulgaria from the yoke of the Ottoman Empire, in 1878 about fifty girls studied in this school, where, in addition to general education, they also



received excellent training in French. In 1899 the sisters founded the female boarding school “St. Joseph”, later recognized



by the Ministry of Education and its educational activities were characterized by the same advantages as the male boarding school. Both during the Balkan War and during the First World War, the college housed a military hospital and the

sisters, for 26 months, carried out a nursing service. In 1928 the college admitted up to 400 students a year, most of them being housed in the boarding, until 1948, when everything was nationalized. Over the years the building was used by the Section of the Technical University.



On January 20, 2009, at the Ethnographic Museum in Plovdiv, the French ambassador to Bulgaria presented the French award "Knight of the Legion of Honour" by decree of the French president to Sister Mariana Karakoleva (Sr. Nicole), for her peaceful struggle, risking her life in favour of religious tolerance during the years of communist oppression. On 25 June 2012 in "St. Joseph" Church in Plovdiv, the friends of Sister Nicole

performed a musical concert in her honour, followed by the Eucharist, with the participation of 10 priests. Father Mladen Plachkov, rector of the church, described the life of Sister Nicole with the words "Love for love". Sister Nicole returned to France to the community of Plougenast, where she died on July 1, 2021.

BURGAS, today

After leaving the very hot city of Plovdiv, we headed towards Black Sea in Burgas, 250 km away, where we were welcomed by Fr. Mihail Slahtziak, a Polish priest of the Resurrectionist order. He is the parish priest of the Byzantine rite Catholic parish church, which was the former chapel of the college of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. In 2013-2014, the building was completely renovated, preserving the facade with its ancient appearance and ornaments.



BURGAS, yesterday



In 1891, the sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition also opened a Catholic school for girls in Burgas, a city on the Black Sea. In 1918, a boarding house and the Catholic chapel "St. Joseph" were built. In 1931, schooling reached the sixth grade. The Primary school took in pupils of both sexes but the middle school and high school were for girls only. There were 106 students in total, 57 of them of Bulgarian nationality, and the rest were Armenian, Greek, French, Russian and

Turkish.

The college was closed in 1948, after the nationalization of the building and the sisters were forced to leave Bulgaria, donating their chapel to the Catholic church of the Byzantine rite. Over the years, the college building became a hospital, dispensary and polyclinic.



BELENE, yesterday



Many years later, after the Communist regime fell in 1996, the sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition (two sisters of the then Province of Greece, Sr. Luisa and the current Provincial Sr. Agnes and a Bulgarian sister of the Province of Israel, Sr. Benedicta) returned to Bulgaria, to a small town called Belene, located on the Danube, close to the northern border with Romania. They answered an appeal by the bishop of the Catholic diocese

of the Latin rite, Msgr. Petko Hristov who urgently asked the sisters to take care of the catechesis of children and the pastoral care of young people. These were the first years of freedom from the communist regime, the years of youthful

enthusiasm, of the thirst for novelty, of the fullness of the heart in giving oneself for the mission in the Kingdom of God.



BELENE, today

It has already been 25 years since that day and all the sisters who have lived and worked here over the years have written a piece of the history of this mission, for which we give thanks to God. The life of a mission is like that of a man and a woman, who after 25 years of life together, stop to take stock of the road travelled and looking at reality, wonder about the future.

We pray the sisters, who have left their mark in this land, that from heaven they intercede for us with the Lord, so that we can take the right path to get to the high mountains.



Sr. Ana Gloria Deras and Sr. Ramona Cordos
Belene, 21 November 2021
The Solemnity of Christ, the King



Emilie Learning Center Poor project during Pandemic

The year 2020 was a difficult period for everyone around the Globe. At St Emilie's Learning Centre in the Philippines, it was no exception. The School is affected by the decreased enrolments of Elementary and Pre-school children. By the grace of God, the Sisters were provided for. However, hearing and seeing the needs of the people around them was a painful experience. Having discussed the issue, they decided to take action.

It started as a small project in 2021 with the sharing of basic needs for some poor families. The Delegation assisted with (Euro 500) and the total budgeted for a year is (Euro 1350). The project chosen involved targeting six families who were in most need and especially families with many children or aged people. Each family is provided with ten kilos of rice and one tray of eggs once a month. The wish of the Sisters was to share with more families but the funds are limited so they left everything in the hands of God whilst commencing with the six families selected families.

On 1 March after Sunday Mass a lady approached one of the Sisters and expressed her desire to share her blessings with the Sisters. The Sister explained what they were doing for the selected families. The lady was very happy about it and added goodies and basic needs for another six families. She continues to do this on a monthly basis. Hence, a total of 12 families are now being assisted from our Convent Community every third week of the month. Yes, Divine Providence has aided our work. It is with great joy we say, "**How good God is**", for blessing us with the poor people in the midst of this pandemic.

by: Sr. Patricia San San
Philippines Delegation





**Good
Work**

Sharing our Experience

We give thanks to God, whom we serve, for he has been with us enabling us to feel his grace and love in all things. We are Sr. Alphonsa Aye Aye Mar, Sr. Angela Saung Win and Sr. Mary Tin Zar Naing from the Province of Myanmar and are on our first mission in the Lebanon/Syria Delegation. Sr. Alphonsa Aye Aye Mar, following her studies in Rome has come to accompany us. We are in the Kleat Community.



Since our arrival in Lebanon, we have encountered many experiences. One of the most inspiring experiences was a chance to participate in the ceremony of honoring the relic of the Blessed Carlo Acutis at our school in Deir EL Qamar community. It was very impressive to see the enthusiasm of the students, as well as the simplicity and hospitality of the people. By the grace of God, we were invited to carry the relic of the Blessed, and in doing so we were inspired to imitate his way of life in the call to holiness.

In carrying the relic, we felt the presence of God within us and were reminded of the One to whom we have consecrated our lives. Moreover, the Sisters who accompanied us were so touched they were in tears. Through the intercession of Blessed Carlo, we treasure the grace God has revealed - that of zeal and strength for the mission.

“The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy.” (*Blessed Carlo Acutis*).

I am delighted and eager to share my experience of being in my first mission place. First and foremost, the cheerfulness and the welcoming spirit of the Sisters makes me feel at home even though I am far away from my country. The presence of Sr Alphonsa is a great support to me and includes the understanding of language and adjusting myself and adapting to another culture.

On arriving in Lebanon, I have got an infection in my neck which I had had before. As the pain was severe, I was admitted in LAU hospital. Due to the restrictions at the hospital, no one was allowed to be with me except for a daily visit. I felt helpless, lonely and fearful in facing these challenging moments. Nevertheless, the love, support and concern of the Sisters, and the kindness and gentleness of the doctors and nurses allowed me to feel the presence of God during these difficult moments.



Sr. Angela Saung Win
Date of professn: 17th Jue, 2021.

It affirmed for me the ‘Word of God’:

" Don't be afraid, for I am with you.... I am the Lord your God" (Isaiah 41:10).

In pondering this comforting experience, I give thanks to God who has healed me and keeps me in good health at this time Thank you so much dear Sr. Martha Bou Rjaili and the Sisters of the Kleat Community, as well as each Sister for your prayers. They strengthened me and have been a great support for me in my ongoing journey.

Sisters please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for the mission in Aleppo.



Srs. Maximiliana, Delia, Veronica, Ofelia, Carmelina

Leadership change in the Province of
Latin America
Congratulations to Sr. Delia and her team
Thanks to Sr. Catalina and her team
15th August 2021



Srs Rosa, Catalina, Carolina, Genoveva, Delia



Handover Ceremony of SJA Leadership Team, Myanmar

On the 8th October 2021 at 10.00 am, the handover ceremony of the SJA Governance in Myanmar took place at the Provincialate, Sanchaung Yangon. Sisters from the three communities in the Yangon Diocese as well as the Pre-Postulants and Postulants participated.

The ceremony commenced with an opening prayer lead by Sr. Flora Kong. The Pre-Postulants and Postulants sang a Congratulatory greeting. Sr. Magdalene Lim, Sr. Gabriel and Sr. Rosy Tin Myint (outgoing Government) gave some farewell remarks to the audience. Relevant Biblical passages, words of St. Emilie and from the Constitutions were read by two Sisters. Sr. Rita Khin San Aye, General Councilor, gave the Obedience Letter to each newly elected Government member and the outgoing members handed over the Seal of the Congregation to the new Government. The new members being Sr. Marie Therese Phe Ling Yah (Provincial), Sr. Julie Zawng Gan (the First Councilor), Sr. Margarita (Councilor and Secretary), Sr. Delphina Kyaw (Councilor), Sr. Anna Cing (Councilor) and Sr. Elizabeth Chit Pon (Councilor and Bursar). They were presented with flowers and brooches, and welcomed by the Sisters who were present.

At 11:30 am the Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Peter Sein Hlaing Oo, the Executive Secretary of Catholic Bishop Conference of Myanmar (CBCM). Following the homily, the new Government committed themselves to their new assignment by renewing their Vows.

After dinner the Pre- Postulants and Postulants performed a small concert in honour of the occasion. During this celebration, the new Government members shared their expectations and feelings on their new Mission as Provincial and Councilors. The outgoing and incoming members were all presented with tokens of love (gifts) by members from the Myanmar Province and the Sanchaung Community.

At the conclusion of the evening celebration a word of 'Thanks' was given by Sr. Elizabeth Chit Pon on behalf of Myanmar Province/ Philippines Delegation and Singapore mission.

The Celebration closed with the singing of the "Magnificat".



Sr Rita gives the Obedience to the new Provincial and Councilors



Sr. Rita conveying words from the Generalate

Handing over of the Seal of the Congregation



Sr Marie Therese receives the Seal of the Congregation.



Outgoing and Incoming Teams



Being congratulated by Pre-Postulant and Postulants with a song



Participants at Mass

Deo Gracias!

Myanmar Province



Change of Leadership in the Province of Europe

THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2021



START-UP MEETING OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL COUNCIL EUROPEAN

The General Council, the outgoing Provincial Council of Europe and the Newly nominated Provincial Council of Europe met together **on Zoom** to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new.

The meeting opened with a Hymn as follows:



HYMN: TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (prepared by Sr. Petronilla)

This was followed by a short presentation of each one of us so as to get to know each other better to create a stronger fraternal spirit among us.

Sr. Cecilia then shared with all of us part of the circular letter sister had sent to all on 20-10-21 pointing out that there are still new challenges to be faced but **to remain in hope** which requires

- **Energy** to continue to move forward despite what others say;
- **Commitment** even when things seem difficult;
- **Faith** when things seem obscure.

- Then Sister read out also just a short part from the report of the past three years which was sent to the General Council.

Sr. Monika Duellmann, our Superior General, then thanked the outgoing Provincial European Council.

This was followed by a **hymn of Thanksgiving** prepared once more by Sr. Petronilla.

At the end of the hymn Sr. Cecilia finally presented the **MISSIONARY APOSTOLIC PROJECT OF EUROPE TO THE NEW PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF EUROPE.**

We now come to the most important step of this meeting. Sr. Monika presented the new members of the Provincial Council of Europe with their obedience and mission. Thanks to the use of modern technology this was easily done through the use of WhatsApp on Mobile. It was quite a touching and emotional moment followed by five minutes of silent prayer.

We then had a prayer to the Holy Spirit (here attached). Each one of us, old and new participated, by sharing in turn the invocations given.

With Mary, our Mother, we then gave thanks to God by singing the **MAGNIFICAT**

OUR FATHER, (PRAYED TOGETHER)

THE FINAL PRAYER WAS READ OUT BY SR. MONIKA (HERE ATTACHED)



- Holy Spirit, light of the Holy Trinity, through Mary, we consecrate ourselves to you.
- We deliver our intelligence to you, come and fill us with your Light and your Word of Science.
- We give you our imagination and our memory, come and transfigure them with your pacifying presence.
- Spirit of love, we consecrate our heart to you so that you can change it with the merciful heart of our Saviour.
- Spirit of fire, constantly rekindles the sacred fire in us and in the brothers and sisters we meet: Spirit of strength, we dedicate our will to you so that, through our smallest actions, Jesus continues to accomplish all healings and all miracles which he wishes to accomplish in his people.
- Spirit of power, we give you our mouth so that you speak through us, that our words have the power of the Word of God to propagate the Good News, to multiply conversions and to shine the Glory of our Father in heaven.

- Spirit of holiness, we dedicate our hands to you so that, at every moment, they repeat Jesus' gestures of goodness and compassion in this troubled world.
- Creative Spirit, we consecrate our whole body to you with its fatigue and illnesses, create new energies in us through your breath of Resurrection.
- Spirit of wisdom, we consecrate our whole being to you, make us savour the presence of God so that Jesus, Eternal Wisdom, can shine through my whole being and reign over the universe. Amen

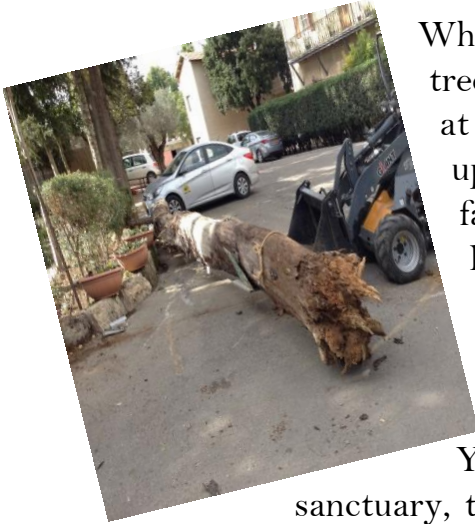
FINAL PRAYER BY SISTER MONIKA

Lord Jesus, You chose us to work on your vineyard to make it more alive. You called us to live in charity with our sisters. Open our eyes to the needs and aspirations of the little ones, the most wounded. Open our minds to Your word so that it may be our light. Open our hearts to love so that a new ardor, a new fire may be born in us all. We are counting on You Lord, to live this mission at the service of the Province of Europe in fraternity and with mutual respect. We entrust this mission and the apostolic and missionary project of our Province to the Holy Spirit. May he guide and advise us along our way. Lord, we want to be authentic witnesses of your message and of your love, builders of a new world. This mission that we entrust to you today (we want to live it in humility with Saint Joseph and Saint Emilie de Vialar following the example of Mary our mother . Accompany us Spirit of love and tenderness!.



Changeover of the Leadership team in the Province of Israel/Palestine

At the heart of our lives



When you just miss two steps from being crashed by a fallen tree, and nobody gets hurt... when you organize your day, at every moment, then news arrives to turn everything upside down... how do we read such events in the light of faith? Do we touch God's presence: I am giving you new life, do you realize that? Anything can happen any time, are you ready?

These two incidents happened when we were coming together from all our different communities to Kyriat Yearim. A huge tree fell suddenly at the entrance of the sanctuary, thank God nobody got hurt especially that we were all

arriving at that moment. Also one of our sisters received the news that her brother passed away while they were getting ready to come to the assembly. This is how God is present in our lives, and how He sometimes speaks to us...Do we listen? Do we discern His presence "at the heart of our lives?"



In spite of all that, the center of our assembly this Sunday the 5th of December was a prayerful celebration followed by a festive lunch at Kyriat Yearim after the nomination of our new provincial and her councilors. It was such a profound celebration marked by a grateful heart thanking the Lord for all what



He gave them to accomplish during this mandate. Sister Frida Nasser, who was finishing her mandate, expressed her prayer with the words of St. Paul to the Philippians: *"I thank my God every time I remember you.... I always pray with joy... I have you in my heart... all of you share in God's grace with me. May your love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ..."*

Then, the second part of prayer was for invoking the power of the Holy Spirit to descend on the new team in order to continue fulfilling His mission with the Church on the footsteps of Saint Emilie. Sister Valentina Sala, the new Provincial, implored God with the prayer of Solomon when the Lord appeared to Him and told him to ask for whatever he wanted God to give him, Solomon answered: "...Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong." And as the Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this, we implored our God with our new provincial to shower her and her team with His numerous blessings and give her the grace of deep discernment.

Thank you dear sister Frida...

We pray with you and for you dear sister Valentina.



→ Elisabeth Phyu Hnin, Muna Totah, Valentina Sala, Valerie Borg, In'am Sheto

For more Photos click: <https://youtu.be/nlSITHbPa74>

Welcoming three Candidates to Postulants

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Mt, 16: 24)

For almost two years the Candidates have been with the sisters in the Bangkok Community. Together they have been able to learn about the life of the Sisters, by praying and working and taking up various responsibilities.

The Congregation also offers them work outside the community:

- Firstly, working for a year, from Monday to Friday at St Louis Suksa School which belongs to the Bangkok Diocese and run by St Paul de Chartres sisters. On the weekends they help with the pastoral work at St. Louis Church. For this mission they stay with the sisters in the community.
- Secondly, working at Camilian Social Center, Sampran (Elderly home) for six months. As this place is far from the community, and during the pandemic was so bad they were not allowed to come back to the community. Some of the elderly in this home were infected with Covid-19. From this experience the Candidates have experienced the love of God, and learned how to be calm and except the will of God by placing their lives in God's hands.

The experience of being part of the SJA family as Candidates provides an experience, offered by the Congregation to enable them to discover their true vocation.

The call that the Candidates feel most is:

- A passion for the children and the elderly
- Following Jesus in religious life in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition with its mission.
- A desire to following Jesus in a vocation of giving their lives to God.

The Candidates Response:

Ketsurin

- From the different situations I have learned how to do the things that I have not done before. This has helped me to grow and know how to be independent and trust in God.
- I feel like being in a true family with the sisters, and I have learned a lot from the elderly sisters which I have been with.
- I have learned how to live with the sisters with different characters and how to accept and understand each sister in their differences.
- In times of my sickness and difficulties I have a deep relationship with God and I have received love and care from the sisters.

- Most importantly is that I am aware of the presence of God and His accompaniment in my life.

“Love endure forever “

Benjawan

- I have learned how to be more patient, and to try to do my best in everything even though at times I do not want to
- I have learned learnt how to leave my comfort zone
- Through my time of difficulties my relationship with God is deeper and I just feel like God is my refuge which I always can go to.

“I am nothing without you”

Kunlaphan

- I have learned how to be responsible and how to do things that I have never done before. Sometimes I really have to put a lot of effort for it.
- I have learned how to be with other people in society and how to be calm and humble
- I have gone to a deeper relationship with God during my difficult moments, going deeper into myself, and I always have strength in God.

“My Grace in sufficient for you”





Initiation into the Novitiate, **“You did not choose me, but I chose you.”** *John 15: 16*



On 17th October 2021, six young vibrant postulants were initiated into the Novitiate at Ranchi, with the ‘Call for Transformation and Self-surrender’.

As the initiation ceremony began, the six postulants were led to St. Emilie’s room by Sr. Thaddeus, Provincial Superior and Sr. Satyawati, Novice Mistress. The ceremony began with a hymn. During the initiation rite, Sr. Thaddeus called each one by name and asked them of their choice to follow the Lord, for which each responded together saying, “Yes, Lord, here I am.”

In entering the Novitiate, they pledged to follow Jesus and to live the gospel way of life by following the Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. Rev. Fr. Sylverius Chermako S.J. prayed and blessed the prayer books, Constitutions and the medals which were then offered to the Novices by the Provincial. The Scripture reading on the Call of Samuel was read by Sr. Rita to which the Novices responded in one chorus by chanting the hymn –

“Here I am Lord, is it I Lord,
I have heard you calling in the night,
I will go Lord, if you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart...”

The Assembly proceeded to the chapel with the entrance hymn for the Eucharist.

The Liturgy was lively with meaningful hymns, prayers and reflections. In his homily Fr. Sylverius Chermako S.J. highlighted the aspects of prayer, faithfulness and commitment. He challenged the Novices to remain ever faithful to the commitment they were making to God. Nothing should separate them or distract them from following the Lord in total surrender.

At the end of the Homily, Father also narrated a beautiful and inspiring story. The story goes like this:

There was an elderly woman who was very much devoted to her spiritual life. She went every day to the Church. She participated in every spiritual activity. And there were lots of cooperation on her part for the growth of the parish. She was so faithful in her parish activity. A young boy was very observant, of this lady who would go to the Church every day without fail. One day he asked the gentle woman - 'Aunty, what do you gain by going to the Church every day?' The elderly lady kept quiet. The young boy continued to ask her - 'Why don't you tell me?' The woman answered: 'My dear Son, before I tell you what I have gained I will tell you what I have lost. And she narrated: I have lost my prejudices, I have lost my self-centeredness, I have lost my jealousy and so on. I have lost all these by going to the Church and being faithful to the spiritual duties. By losing this I have gained deeper Communion with the Lord. I have experienced reconciliation and forgiveness for oneself and one another.

The Celebrant enlightened us with this story to let go of our negativity and grow in our positive energy through our communion with the Lord.

After the solemn ceremony, the assembly gathered in the Juniorate Dining hall to felicitate the new novices.

By Sr. Kiran Xalxo, SJA



Ceremony of Initiation into Religious Life

Province of Myanmar

On 1st November 2021 at 6.30 am in the Chapel at Sanchaung Yangon, we had Mass, celebrated by Fr. Bruno Delorme (MEP) for the entrance in to the Novitiate of four Postulants, Barbara Mya Aye, Rosy Paul Meetrie, Mary Hawng Nan, and Justina Ja Ring Awng.

After Mass, there was a short ceremony lead by Sister Marie Therese Phe Ling Yah, Provincial Superior. She asked each Postulant about their desire to become a Sister of St Joseph of the Apparition. Receiving a joyful and positive response, Sister Marie Therese accepted their request to begin their Novitiate on behalf of Sr. Monika Duellmann, Superior General. Each were presented with a copy of the Constitutions in which they will find the Charism, Spirituality and Mission of the Congregation according to the spirit of St Emilie, all of which has been entrusted to the Congregation by the Church.



First Professions in Ranchi, India

*“God has done so much for me,
What shall I not do for Him”*

St. Emilie de Vialar



A pleasant day dawned despite a shower of rain later in the day. Thanks be to God for all His blessings on this great occasion. It was indeed a happy event for the entire Congregation. On October 18th, 2021, Seven Novices made their First Profession: Sr. Amrita Back, Sr. Cathrina Kujur, Sr. Joylin Josph Ekka, Sr. Joyti Biti Suni Baskey, Sr. Rosa Tudu {Sonali} Sr. Biti Sony Soren, and Sr. Stella Hansdak.

The Sisters were led to the altar of the Lord in procession with a beautiful entrance dance by Candidates who were prepared by the Candidate Mistresses -Srs. Amita & Kiran. The Provincial Superior and the Novice Mistress- Sr. Satya accompanied the Sisters to

the Table of the Lord. The Sisters walked to the Sacred Throne with lit lamps symbolizing the light of Christ and placed them on the altar as a sign of their willingness to commit their entire life to God in the service of the neighbour. Rev. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi was the main celebrant along with four concelebrants.

On this Solemn occasion, the Seven Second Year Novices had the joy of pronouncing the vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience in the presence of the Provincial Superior, Sr. Thaddeus and the assembled Congregation, with great confidence and conviction. It was indeed a bringing of their whole lives, hearts and being to the Divine Master.

The ceremony of Profession was very meaningful. In the course of the homily, the celebrant emphasized the spiritual blessings saying that “God has enriched us with every spiritual blessing so that we can be one with His Son who will gather all things to Him. Abide in my Love and if you abide in me, you will keep my commandments and if you keep my commandments, and if you abide in my Love then we all will be one in Jesus Christ...” He explained the significance of religious life and why we become a Religious Sister. It is because we want to remain in God’s Love, and remaining in His Love means living by the Constitutions. He also spoke about the Vows, saying that they lack meaning if there are other motivations. Our motivation has to be to remain in His Love. When we remain in His Love, every other act of sacrifice becomes easier.

The celebration followed with the blessing of the Chain and Cross by Rev. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas. The newly professed Sisters received a blessing and the Chain and Cross from the Bishop and proceeded to the Provincial Superior who embraced the newly Professed as a sign of accepting them into the SJA family. The Obedience was given to each sister with the missionary mandate of our Congregation – “GO! And with what you have and will receive, do all the good you

can.” The Sisters received their obedience with joy and enthusiasm so as to enter into the Mission of Christ.

Srs. Amrita & Jyoti expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Congregation, General Council, Provincial Council, formators and all the members of the Institute for their prayerful support and accompaniment received in their formative years. About 70 Sisters, Novices and Candidates were present to witness this great occasion. It was a great day for the Congregation and our Province.

The Novices under the guidance and animation of Srs. Satyawati, Amita, Rita, Shiny, Kiran and musician Mr. Bipin initiated the liturgy with their melodious singing and inspiring hymns. This created a prayerful atmosphere during the Eucharistic celebration.

After the solemn ceremony, the assembly gathered in the Novitiate chapel to felicitate the newly Professed Sisters. The Vowed Life begins...

By Sr. Kiran Xalxo, SJA



Central Novitiate, Philippines/India/Myanmar

Echoes from Novice Bernadette in the Central Novitiate in the Philippines

Click the YouTube: <https://youtu.be/uBTsTaDgnKU>



Final Profession 2021 – Province of India/Haiti

To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him is the greatest adventure; to find Him is the greatest human achievement.

Having tasted the love of God and sought Him in the Religious way of life, our seven tertian's - Sr. Binita Lakra, Sr. Divya Jojo, Sr. Teresa Bara, Sr. Kamla Minj and Sr. Pushpa Kandulna found their fulfillment in Divine Love and made their final commitment in accepting Jesus as their Spouse on the 14th October, 2021. The joyful and grand celebration of Final Profession was held in Mosaboni, Jharkhand.



To add to the joy, all the family members of our sisters, religious men and women from different Congregations and our own sisters from different communities were present.



Most Rev. Bishop Felix Toppo SJ, the Archbishop of Ranchi presided over the Solemn Eucharist along with 15 concelebrants. The Bishop emphasized the missionary aspect of religious life, explained the ways of living the three evangelical counsels and wished the tertian's perseverance and dedicated service in the Lord's Vineyard. The presence of priests

and sisters filled the ambience with heavenly realm. The parishioners made the celebration colourful by their prayerful support. It was indeed a solemn occasion with the graceful presence of about 300 religious and lay faithful. The community of Ranchi - Sisters, Novices, Postulants and Candidates made the liturgical celebration lively and enabled a prayerful atmosphere by their beautiful dance and melodious singing.

The Tertian's had the gracious experience of being led to the Altar of God with the entrance dance by the Candidates. The Sisters were accompanied by their parents along with the Bishop and SJA Formators. As they approached the Altar they were welcomed according to the Indian culture. Then the biodata of each sister was read assisting the participants to feel grateful to God for the great things He has done in their lives.



The theme of the day was "Our sole ambition is to make Him known" and the Logo of the Congregation was the symbol for the day. The reflection was based on the "Call to Discipleship" and the missionary command of our Foundress St. Emilie – "Go! And with what you have and will receive, do all the good you can".

After the Eucharistic celebration, the assembled expressed their joy and happiness by song and dance. Following the celebration, the joy and delight continued at the formal meal for all invited guests.



It was a splendid moment for the Final Professed Sisters, and a memorable event for the Indian Province, to have witnessed the joyful ceremony of Religious Commitment. All Praise, Honour and Glory to God for His Gratuitous Gift of Vocation to Spread His Mission.

By Sr. Alma Kispotta SJA
Province of India/Haiti



For all India Celebrations click here: <https://youtu.be/KlkmBcrwpxc>

Juniorate at Gaillac

The Juniorate started very solemnly on 24th October 2021, on Mission Sunday at St. Michel Church, Gaillac.

THE JUNIORATE IN GAILLAC



After a slow gathering when the Junior Sisters assembled over the period of a month because of Visa and Covid difficulties, the Juniorate started very solemnly on 24th October, at St. Michel Church, Gaillac. It was Mission Sunday and all the Sisters of the Community



processed into Church before the clergy. After the Opening Prayer the Parish Priest, Père Pierre-Andrei, gave a short explanation to the Congregation. Sr. Janet then introduced herself and all the Sisters, first the Gaillac Community, Dorothy, Gracy, Helen and herself.

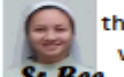


There is still one member missing because of vaccination problems.

We look forward to her coming in the New Year.



Sr. Anwar



Sr. Bee



Sr. Candle



Sr. Christina



Sr. Clara



Sr. Emilia



Sr. Fidelina



Sr. Gratia



Sr. Punita



Sr. Rwy

Then the group of Junior Sisters were introduced one by one. They joyfully walked carrying a lighted candle and their national flag. They walked down the aisle to stand in front of the altar. As Sr. Janet introduced each one they went forward and placed their flag on the altar and placed their candle in front of it. Here they were in this Parish of St.Emilie, a modern presence of our shared Spirit in Gaillac. It was a moment of mixed feelings ,happiness and challenge. The sisters felt as if St. Emilie welcoming them to her soil, to spread the Good News through their very presence and service. Sr.Monika the Superior General and one of her council, Sr.Milagros, werenpresent for the great celebration. The parishioners welcomed the Sisters with clapping hands and with broad smiles on their faces. I heard one of the parishioners say, 'now God brought you sisters to evangelize us.'

It was a memorable event in SJA History.

Walking in the Footsteps of Emilie



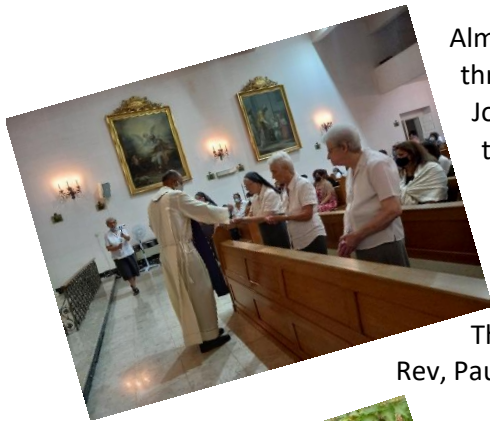
I founded in my own home town..... St. Emilie

**GOODNESS AND LOVE will follow me
EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE. (PS 23; 6)**

Jubilee!! As the word suggests, a jubilee is a feast of joy, of joy, Brother Hood,

Love, sharing and care.

This was the Jubilee celebrated in the Community of Rabat on Saturday, September 18, 2021.



Almost all the Province, was present, to share and enhance the joy of our three Jubilarians Sr. Blanche Gatt (70 years) Sr. Margaret Bonnici and Sr. Josephine Barbara (both 60 years) They, then invited their family members to join us in our praise and thanksgiving to Our Lord for trusting us human beings with His graces of Mercy, Faithfulness and Love throughout so many years spent in His service. We are almost one hundred persons between sisters, family members, nurses, and carers all eager to acclaim The Wonder of this Love Engagement.

The evening started by the Sacrifice of Holy Mass the main celebrant being Rev, Paul Gatt O.P and concelebrated by Rev Francis and Rev. Alestin.



The Theme highlighted by the three readings of that particular Sunday was: True Disciple Ship. In his homily Fr. Paul pointed out amongst other things, that Religious Life is not a career, but a faithful following of Christ, the Son of God and the true Disciple. In the gospel we meet Jesus denouncing Power

and rank, unlike his disciples who on the way were thinking of class and rank.



But Jesus had a child placed in their midst showing us thereby, that a true Disciple must be like a little child, trusting God on whom he depends. The child reaches out to others in all openness and simplicity. This is the secret of true Joy, lived day by day, in humility and holiness in the ordinary circumstances of daily life.

The Hymns Chosen by the Jubilarians added to the simplicity and joy.

As they are well known the Congregation was able to join in the singing. Thus rendering the Mass an Unending " SONG OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING".

After the Mass all of us present moved to the beautiful gardens in the Rabat Grounds, made as comfortable as possible, and arranged for the occasion by the young and able bodied members of the Rabat Community.



This last item of the programme provided a feast for the Body and Soul. It was interesting watching the inter active movements that went on. We were all busily occupied doing something,



Those who were seated all attentive to the conversations and stories told by their neighbors, listening, chatting away so happily. There was also a group serving, very careful to serve all with grace and dignity. We were also very glad to avail ourselves of the delicious cooking offered to us.





This was really an exercise in "Brotherhood", watching out for the little details to see that nothing is missing to my neighbour, the sense of sharing was at its best; very happily enjoying the presence of each an all. It must have been a noteworthy time. In fact, Ms Simone Borg, the Hd/Nurse at Rabat was so happy that she said" This is really an exceptional occasion, we have no one in bed, All the sisters are down here taking part and enjoying it too

Sr. Dorothy Vella Zarb (new Sup of the Community) went round several times near the sick sisters as she said " I must see that all is well with them. You see they are mine. I love them so much! There you are for what it means to watch and care!!!

Taking Photos family, and group photos figured continually in this gathering. Thus the Evening went on in such a relaxed and simple atmosphere; till it was time to go home.

Very glad and grateful to the Lord, who has filled our soul with so Many Blessings.



Yes, TIME TO GO!!-----and

" Tell out with Full Force

The Greatness of the Lord.

Tell out My Soul the Glories of His Word. His Mercy Sure.

TO CHILDREN'S CHILDREN and

FOREVER MORE!

AMMEN!! ALLELUIA!



JUBILEE 2021 Rabat / Malta



We celebrated our Jubilee on 18th September:

- Sr Blanche Gatt-- 70 years of religious life
- Sr Josephine Barbara-- 60 years
- Sr Margaret Bonnici-- 60 years.



The Jubilee Mass was held in our Chapel in Rabat at 5.00 p.m.

We 3 sisters entered the Chapel in single file bearing lighted candles.

Fr Paul Gatt, OP, the main celebrant followed and with him Fathers Alliston D’Souza and Fr Francis Fernandes of I.P.C.E Mission.



The singing was simple so everyone could join and feel part of the feast.

Fr Paul gave us a very meaningful homily and somehow made me aware more than ever before of the beautiful phrase “animated by his grace and fortified by his love” in our formula of vows. It meant a lot for me.



We could not invite many people because of the covid-19 restrictions – just close family members, all our sisters and helpers. It felt like a big family reunion.



After Mass we met in the garden to share refreshments and socialize. All the sisters of our community were with us in spite of wheel chairs, walking sticks etc. We were very happy to be together. A light breeze helped and also the birds singing in the trees as they prepared for the night. Everyone enjoyed the occasion.



Sr. Margaret Bonnici

Mission of Sr. Pauline Moran in Peru

"Blessed the pure in heart; they shall see God"

As Christians, we know that death is not the end of life, but rather a definitive step to the full life of God. A few days ago, our Sister Paulina took this step to return to the house of the Father. Her physical death leads us to recognize the action of God in her life and in our history.

She spent some years in exclaustation and was integrated fully into the Congregation a short time before she died, at her own request.

Sister Paulina arrived in Peru in 1981. Since her arrival she manifested her preferential love for the poorest in the highlands of Simbal, in northern Peru. At the beginning, she shared the mission with Sisters Sheila and Brenda. Following the example of Jesus, she lived a process of insertion in the periphery, manifesting with her gestures the closeness of God to us.

In January 2020, she returned from Ireland arriving at our house in Lima. She intended to stay a few days but her health was a bit delicate and she decided to undergo treatment. In those days the Pandemic had come into our lives and transformed our projects. As a result, Sister Paulina stayed with us to live the last stage of her earthly life.

Sharing our life with her has been an enriching experience. It allowed us to recognize her as an extroverted woman, with an open, cheerful and generous spirit that moved her to give herself without reservation or hesitation to those most in need. "She never hesitated to provide support to the neediest families, lovingly sharing what she received from her friends" In the time of the Pandemic her self-giving was the fruit of prayer which allowed her to see pain and the suffering in a special way in times of the Pandemic.

Her state of health suddenly became worse and the diagnosis was delicate. We as her Sisters thank God for the opportunity he gave us to accompany her in this process. We were with her in the intensive care until the end of her days. Her departure leaves a void, but it fills us with hope and shows us the face of a God who listens and attends to our deepest desires.

She now fully enjoys the presence of God and we say thank you for this experience of sisterhood and dedication she has given us. Her sudden death caused us great suffering, which we have lived with in faith. She rests in the hands of the Father and prays for the entire Congregation.

We heartedly thank our sisters from the General House, from the Province of Europe and from our Province of Latin America for so many expressions of closeness and solidarity that they have shown us during this time. We finish this sharing with the words of the General Council and those of our Province.

"Devotedness unto death" Sister Paulina loved Peru and she gave herself fully to this place. We believe that God granted her wish from her heart to "die and stay in Peru." However, God also gave her the grace to live a beautiful community experience in Peru, with her sisters, who took care of her and allowed her to feel good and happy. May our Sister Paulina rest in Peace, in the land of Peru, as she wished".

Sr. Monika Duellmann

"The sisters from Peru welcomed Sister Paulina and made her feel at home. May her faith and trust in the living God give you peace and tranquility in this time of mourning. We will pray for her at Mass

this morning. By faith we believe that she now enjoys it and she is happy, while you cry for her absence ... May she rest in peace and may she intercede for Peru and all the people she met and served “.
Sr. Anita Callaghan

“The one he loves does not die; The one who does not love is already dead”, Scripture tells us (1 Jn 3,15).



This morning, we participated in the Eucharist giving thanks for the gift of life and dedication, especially to the poorest, of our Sister Pauline. We feel the physical absence of her, but we hope that she is already enjoying being in the house of the Good Father.

That is why we confess, in the midst of pain and physical separation from Sr. Paulina, that death does not exist, there is only physical separation. She continues to live in the midst of us and in this poor town, which she loved and went out of her way for. We are confident that our dear Sister lives in a joyous and eternal dawn.

Thanks to you Sisters who cared for our Sister for whom you, surely, did everything in your power for. May God bless you and may the experience you live today, help you to grow in trust in the Father who does not abandon us “.
Sr. Genoveva

With gratitude to God from Sisters in Peru: Rosa, Nimia, Graciela, Gladis and Ofelia



A Great Anniversary

450 years of the "Glorious Naval Battle" of Lepante

A historical event of unique importance!

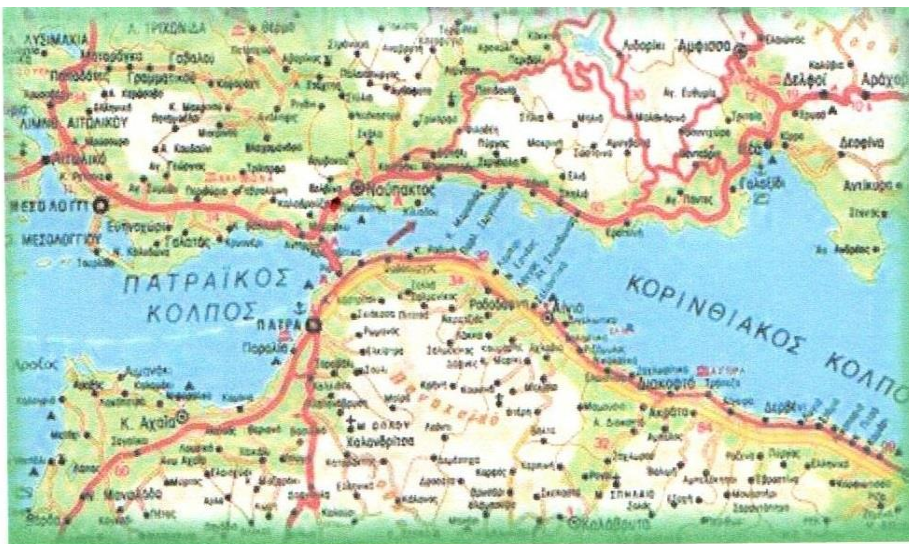
On October 7th, we celebrate with devotion of Our Lady of the Rosary! Going back to the sources helps us to be always encouraging and enriching in the History.

The Church that resides in Athens, our Diocese has seized the opportunity to help us go to the sources by starting this "glorious battle" giving it an ecumenical dimension! And what a happy initiative!

The Byzantine Museum a chosen place in its large courtyard, -covid19 obliges- in the center of Athens. The religious and civil authorities, the Orthodox Archbishop of Athens and President of the Greek hierarchy, the Minister of Education, the deputies, and others were invited! The Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See, the Catholic bishops, the Directors of the Catholic Schools, mostly Orthodoxies, and of course Religious Congregations. In 1571, 16th century... The Ottoman Empire was at its peak! Naval forces were considered invincible. The sultans formed the plan to attack Rome and eventually arrive at the Atlantic Ocean. The small kingdoms, principalities, cities of Europe felt too weak in the face of this powerful enemy... Who would dare??

It was Pope Pius V happily took the initiative to appeal and join forces... not without insistence and with confidence in prayer to the Virgin Mary! It was then that Spain, but also many small countries, principalities, cities... responded to this call of the Pope. Venice, Geneva, Sicily and other small countries of Italy but also Malta with its hipottes, Sardinia, Savoy, Austria. Thousands of Greek volunteers presented themselves, either for the fight or as galleys to the Europeans or to the Turks, as slaves... 8,000 fell there! In addition, Crete sent 29 boats, Corfu and the Ionian Islands 4-

5... Greece did not exist as a country! And the Catholic people of Europe responded to the Pope's invitation. All prayed the rosary. This is how the prayer offered victory on October 7, 1571. It was our Lady of the Rosary who stopped the Ottoman forces, who humiliated the Turks who were no longer tempted to attack Europe. This fight that



took place at the entrance to the Gulf of Patras, near Lepante, (present-day Naupacte), caused the deaths of Christian and... Ottomans!

This is a victory of unity, doubly significant for us Prov. of Europe. The challenge is clear!

By Sr. Alberta Stepanou SJA

St Joseph and The Congregation.

On pilgrimage in Nazareth some years ago we were directed to a Statute of St Joseph behind the Church of the Annunciation. A large, striking well-worn statue which conveys a strength to the observer. Further on there is the Church of St Joseph built in 1914 with a wall plaque indicating that this place may have been the site of 'The House of Joseph'. As a group of international pilgrims, we came away moved by the 'silent' atmosphere in this Church bringing to mind the 'silence and hiddenness' of Joseph in the Gospels.

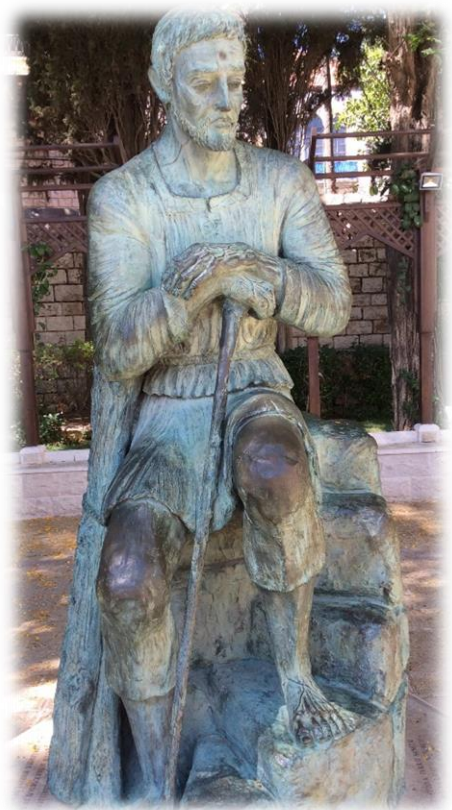
Scattered throughout Documents and writings of the Congregation we discover St Joseph firmly enfolded within the pages of our journey.

The early writings of St Emilie, the first Constitutions of 1835 and the report to Pope Gregory XV1 in 1839, clearly state that the Congregation is placed under the special protection of St Joseph. There is also the exhortation for the feast of St Joseph to be celebrated in Communities. (SPRD 1841) This is especially confirmed in the early 'History of the Houses' of different Communities that constantly refer to the way in which this Feast is prepared for and celebrated.

As early as 1847 we have the account of the experience of the first six Sisters travelling to Burma.

During the night, right in the middle of the desert, our little caravan came to a halt. One of the guides went up to our Sisters saying he wanted to see what was inside a bag and he pointed to the one with the money that was needed for their journey. The fierce appearance of this man and the tone in which he addressed them terrified them. There was nobody there to protect them. What were they to do, except to keep on repeating, "Jesus, Mary, Joseph," but they did this so loudly over and over again that the Arab appeared quite confounded and bewildered. To make matters worse and increase their fear, the horses themselves joined in. They stood up on their hind legs as though they wanted to overthrow the conveyance.

Suddenly a stranger came up, opened the carriage door and said: "Don't be afraid, I will look after you. Call me if you need my help." 'We were so taken aback,' said Sr. Philomena Bonneville, to whom we owe this account, that we didn't even think of asking him where he would be, where he had come from. Who was he? Nobody ever knew. Fortunately, there was no need for them to call for help from their generous protector. All the same, they have always believed that it was their good Father St. Joseph. (Souvenirs and Documents p 245).



During the Second World War 1942-1945, the Sisters in Burma, attributed protection to St Joseph. 'What was needed was to be found at the foot of St Joseph's statue, potatoes, a piece of coal, or a handful of beans.'

We then have the testimony in 1880 by Camille, daughter of Maximin who wrote:

I don't know if you have any knowledge of the Apparition of St Joseph to my aunt. She never spoke of it, but my mother Rosine de Bermond in whom she confided told me that at the outset of her vocation, absolutely desperate because of her father's opposition, she fell to her knees and was praying with all her heart when St Joseph appeared to her and said "do not be discouraged my daughter, you will meet obstacles, you will have much to suffer, you will be overcome with grief. Trials will be everywhere, but your work will prosper."



Pope John XXIII named St Joseph as the protector of the Second Vatican Council and directed that his name be invoked in the Canon of the Mass in 1964. The June issue of the 'Entre Nous' has a lengthy and informative article on 'Devotion to St Joseph in the Church from Pope Pius IX to

John XXIII', written by C M Gueydan, R.S.V.

Two years later, in June 1966 Sr. M. Barthelemy Vignal the Superior General, having made a pilgrimage to Ars, recalls what the Cure of Ars said to Mere Baptistine Vigouroux following the sudden death of Mother Emilie:

'Sister, be at peace; take courage all of you; the Congregation of Madame de Vialar is very dear to Jesus Christ and to St Joseph your Patron. It will not disappear. On the contrary it will spread far and wide, because dear Sisters you are called to do great good. You are poor like St Joseph who toiled all his life to earn the daily bread of the Holy Family.'



Letters from Superiors General have frequent references to St Joseph.

In a few days, we shall be celebrating the Feast of St Joseph. Let us ask our Holy Patron who was the faithful one par excellence, to help us to renew ourselves in fidelity to Our Lord, in these days which lead us to His Resurrection, (Sr. Adelaide Zantedeschi 1977)

Let us go often to Bethlehem to meditate on the perfection of those three souls so closely united. Let us ask our good St Joseph to give us his spirit of humility, obedience and abandonment to Providence; his intimacy with Jesus and Mary, his zeal for the glory of the Father, so that following his example

we shall work without ceasing to make God known, loved and served by the children of our schools and patronages, by the sick confided to our care, by all those who surround us with whom we come into contact. (Sr. Francois De Sales Le Gal, December 1935)

Every Province has stories in their tradition in relation to the inspiration, protection and guidance of St Joseph. A Sister from India wrote:

In India we have felt the presence of St Joseph every time we experience safety or some hard work is made easier by helpful people. We consider them as St Joseph

Images of St Joseph are numerous. The Liverpool Cathedral, England has a series of magnificent panels of carved wood depicting the life of Joseph.

In Australia we have a striking stained-glass window of St Joseph which originally came from France and placed in the Chapel in Fremantle and later in Beaconsfield. In recent years it was donated to a newly developing Parish in the Bunbury Diocese and placed in their new Church.

The painting from which St Emilie drew her inspiration, placing her Congregation firmly within a scriptural context is outlined by Sr. Janet Arrowsmith in her thesis, (pages 135-142). Here, Sister discusses the history and significance of this painting which lead her to conclude that:

The spirituality of the Congregation is like an open door to God's revelation down through the ages.

Several years ago, a Sister visiting Rome came across a photo in a book of a statue of the angel appearing to St Joseph. She recalls that she read that this statue was gifted to the Vatican Museum to mark a special occasion of the Congregation. At present further details are not known.

In more recent years we have the story from Aleppo in relation to the Statue of St Joseph that is on the terrace of the Hospital since its foundation in 1912.

Many years have passed and the statue has withstood the climatic changes, the cold of winter the great heat of summer It has been necessary to maintain its beauty with coats of paint from time to time. In July 2012 the war began in Aleppo, the whole town was affected by the bombs which fell at every hour of the day...we also received our share. Actually 7 bombs fell on the hospital at various times. But at the heart of the matter none of these could compete with the very strong power of



St Joseph, as one of the bombs fell near the statue and like the others did not explode. Otherwise, there would have been much damage both material and human. By the end of 2016 the war was practically over, the sound of guns and bombs had ceased. But today another terrible bomb explodes: that of poverty that strikes the Syrians in their daily life. 90% of the population live in misery because of 10 years of war, sanctions imposed by the international community, the Covid Pandemic and the economic crises, so that the garbage cans in the streets have become sources of food for the poorest. We are sure that St Joseph sees all of this from heaven and that he prays and implores help for those who have no voice of their own. His statue shaken by the blows received during the war has attracted the attention of one of the Muslim workers. In secret he wished to give us a surprise as a sign of gratitude. He took the statue down, had it repaired, painted it with colour and put it back on the Terrace. In this way he wished to make it still more visible to the eyes of those who came to the hospital. The statue continues to look on and welcome all those who come to assuage their suffering, physical and mental. His presence lives in our prayer and in our hearts always giving thanks for his protection. (A Sr. from the Aleppo community).

Across the Congregation we have Houses and works named in honour of St Joseph. What does this mean for us today? Pope Francis gives us some clues with the recent additions to the Litany of St Joseph proposing him as guardian, servant, minister, support and patron of exiles, the afflicted and the poor.

Each of us can discover in Joseph, the man who goes unnoticed, a daily discreet and hidden presence, an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. (Patris Corde)





STAINED GLASS WINDOW OF ST EMILIE

The Stained-Glass Window which adorned the Chapel in De Vialar Convent for a number of years, was blessed by Fr Moore in 1969. Present at the opening were the Sisters, two of the oldest former students of St Joseph's School, Fremantle, and other past and present pupils. It is important to note that the Sisters had moved from Fremantle to a new residence and school to a suburb called Hilton Park in 1968. The artist involved in this beautiful window was a Molly Lynch from Victoria. She was a generous benefactor of our Sisters when in Victoria. It depicts our Mother Foundress with a poor child on one side and a rich child on the other. This was to symbolize that the convent and school served both the poor and rich. With the sun peeping through the colored glass, it certainly was a beautiful sight. The past pupils donated this window to the sisters. The window is 8 feet x 12 feet.

While the beginning of the Window's journey was in Hilton Park, it has had a few journeys since. Sometime, after withdrawing from De Vialar the Window was taken to St Emilie's Kalamunda and installed in the Chapel. in a great position allowing its beauty to shine forth.

In 2009, with the closing of the Kalamunda Community, the window had another move to the new Parish at Canning Vale, which is named St Emilie's, Canning Vale. This was a very fitting move and noteworthy is the fact that it is the only Parish in the southern hemisphere named after St Emilie. We have a community there, too.