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CSJOURNAL

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GENERAL COUNCIL

SUMMARY

LIFE IN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY

Sr. Elisa Fátima Zuanazzi, CSJ

General Council



In the month of September, the Temporary Professed Sisters of the Congregation of Saint Joseph of Chambéry gathered for an online formation meeting with the theme: "Life in Missionary Community in the Light of the First Communities." The meeting was led by Sr. Kátia Rejane Sassi from the Province of Brazil.

The main aim of this meeting was to bring the Sisters' hearts closer together

and strengthen the bonds of belonging, regardless of the countries where each one is serving in mission. The meeting also sought to promote reflection on the values of human relationships in missionary community life, revisiting the essential elements that identify religious consecration in light of the message of Jesus Christ and the experience of the first Christian communities.

Sr. Kátia began by

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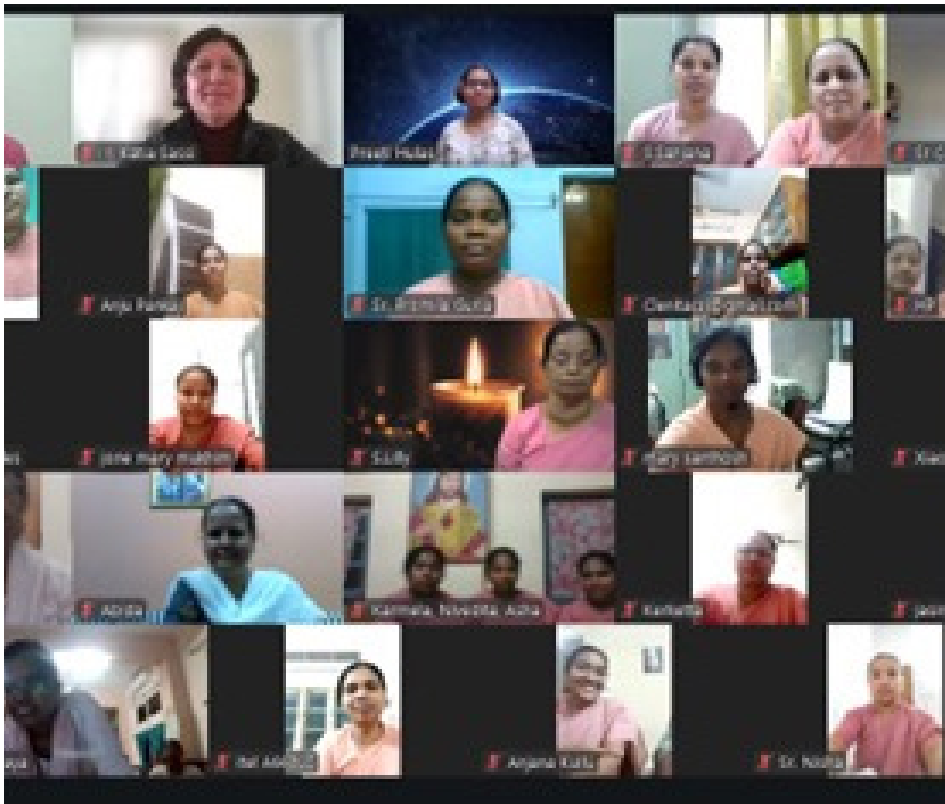
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speaking about the challenging times in which we live—times of cultural, political, social, and technological change. The culture of individualism and indifference, secularism, and the fragmentation of human relationships directly influence community life. Consecrated Religious Life is currently experiencing a time of profound transition and reconfiguration, marked by: a reduction in the number of members in various regions, leading to the reorganization of communities and a reorientation of mission; the aging of communities in some countries and vocational growth in others. In light of this reality, we are invited to live “Life in Missionary Community in the Light of the First Communities.” First, we are called to ask ourselves:

what does it mean for me to “live in community”? In what sense can a community be considered “missionary”?

The missionary community life that we have chosen to embrace as Sisters of Saint Joseph finds its deepest inspiration in the way Jesus called, lived with, and sent out his disciples. Jesus’ personal call is the foundation of discipleship and community life. Jesus did not live his mission alone. At the very beginning of his public life, he formed a community.

Therefore, the community of disciples was not formed based on social, religious, or academic criteria. Jesus called simple, humble, ordinary, real people, namely fishermen, tax collectors, anonymous women, people with strong temperaments, diverse stories,

and deep longings. They were not the best by society’s standards. This choice challenges our communities to live with different people, with unique stories, limitations, gifts, and potential. We do not choose with whom we will live.

Today, we in Consecrated Religious Life are the continuation of that original community of disciples. We were brought together not by affinity or personal choice, but by a call of love. And, like the first followers of Jesus, we too are different, fragile, human beings—yet profoundly called to live and proclaim the Gospel together. We are gathered by the Spirit in the name of a common mission entrusted to us by Fr. Médaille: the Little Design of the great love of God.

Every religious community is, by its very nature, a missionary community. Therefore, a missionary community is not defined by the number of projects, but by the quality of its witness. There is no retirement from prophetic mission and witness. There is prophecy in youth, in old age, in health, in illness, in failure, in success—in every circumstance and at every stage of life. In times of indifference, in the midst of a divided and wounded world, the missionary community silently cries out: “Communion is possible!”

(Part of the text prepared by Sr. Kátia Rejane Sassi)

PEACE BEGINS WITH DIGNITY

Sr. Maria Cristina Gavazzi, CSJ

General Council



On the occasion of the XII World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking, S. Abby Avelino, the coordinator of the international network “Talitha Kum,” invited a serious reflection on what is one of the most serious violations of human rights, calling all persons of good

will to move to action and together build peace.

S. Abby recently stated on Vatican News: “Peace begins with dignity and dignity when every person is protected, respected and loved. Trafficking is one of the most serious and tragic violations of human dignity.” In fact this year the theme

of the International Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking is: “Peace begins with dignity: a global call to end trafficking in persons.”

Trafficking remains a painful reality in our world, violating human dignity and disrupting the peace of our society, especially in a world marked by conflict, war and forced migration. Women and girls continue to bear the brunt of this. Global data shows that cases of trafficking have risen significantly in the last years, having increased by 25%. Poverty, conflicts, climate crises and unsafe migration make many vulnerable. Women and girls today represent about 61% of victims identified at the global level, many who are trafficked for exploitative labor or caught up in online criminal activity, such as pornography.



Placing peace and dignity at the center of this world day, the Talitha Kum network invites all persons of good will to go beyond knowing and move to action. From February 4 to February 8 the 12th International day of prayer and reflection against Human Trafficking united hundreds of millions of persons and

communities in Rome and across the world together with Pope Leo XIV. Prayers, survivors' testimonies, youth-led initiatives and advocacy activities remind us that peace is something that we choose and build together. Peace begins with each of us and grows when we build it together.

This day is important

because it reminds us that peace is the responsibility of everyone. Each of us is called to become an ambassador of peace by simple daily choices: choosing compassion instead of indifference, truth instead of silence, silence instead of comfort. When we protect the dignity of every person, we plant seeds of peace.

18 YEARS OF PROPHECY, ARTICULATION, AND HOPE IN CARING FOR THREATENED LIFE

Sr. Rosane Steffenon, CSJ

Brazil



A Cry for Life Network (Rede Um Grito Pela Vida) was born 18 years ago within Consecrated Religious Life in Brazil as an evangelical and prophetic response to the many forms of violence that wound human dignity, particularly human trafficking. Inspired by the cry of the victims and sustained by fidelity to the God of Life, the network

has, throughout its journey, become a concrete expression of the Gospel option for the most vulnerable. It embraces the defence of life as the central axis of its mission.

The emergence of the Network is deeply connected to the historic commitment of the Conference of Religious of Brazil to social causes and to a careful reading of the signs of the times.

From its beginning, A Cry for Life Network has been organized as a space of inter-congregational and inter-institutional collaboration, bringing together religious sisters and brothers from different charisms, lay women and men, as well as partners from civil society. This diversity strengthens common action and expands the reach of initiatives in prevention,



formation, political advocacy, and the accompaniment of situations involving violations of rights.

On the international level, collaboration with the Talitha Kum Network represents a significant step in the maturation of the mission. As a global network of Consecrated Life in the fight against human trafficking, Talitha Kum broadens spaces of communion, sharing of experiences, and the building of joint strategies—overcoming geographic and institutional borders to affirm, with evangelical clarity, that human life cannot be reduced to a commodity.

Current challenges

remain complex and demanding. The emergence of new forms of exploitation, the growing invisibility of victims, the use of technology for recruitment and grooming, along with contexts marked by social inequality, forced migration, and the weakening of public policies, require ongoing discernment and prophetic courage.

Despite the difficulties, there are signs of hope. The growth of awareness in communities, the involvement of young women and men religious, dialogue with national and international organizations, and the increasing presence of this issue in Church

settings indicate that the cry for life is being heard. The Network continues to be a space of listening, care, and proclamation, where the suffering of victims becomes a call to personal, communal, and structural conversion.

After 18 years of fidelity to the Gospel of Life, A Cry for Life Network stands as a prophetic sign of Religious Life in the present time: a consecrated life that allows itself to be touched by the suffering of the world, that organizes itself in networks, that denounces structures of death, and that proclaims—through words and concrete actions—that life is a sacred gift and must be defended in all its forms.

PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN PERSON: AN EVANGELICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

Sr. Eliana Aparecida dos Santos, CSJ

Brazil



On December 13, the Sisters of the Province of Brazil took part in an online formation meeting on the Policy for the Protection of the Human Person, led by Brother João Ferreira Junior, OFM Cap, Executive Secretary of the Núcleo Lux Mundi of the Conference of Religious of Brazil. The meeting marked a significant moment of awareness, institutional growth, and commitment to the care and dignity of every person.

Brother João emphasized that the protection policy does not arise from fear or mistrust, but from fidelity to the Gospel and ecclesial responsibility. Inspired by the guidance of Pope Francis, especially in the Letter to the

People of God (2018) and the motu proprio *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* (2019), the policy represents a profound shift in how the Church confronts the reality of abuse, placing at the center the suffering of victims and the prevention of further violence.

The speaker warned against reductionist views that associate abuse only with paedophilia or with extreme cases widely publicized by the media. Abuse, he explained, is a broader and more structural phenomenon that includes sexual abuse, abuse of power, and abuse of conscience. It can affect children, adolescents, adults, and people in vulnerable situations, including within contexts of religious and community life.

In this sense, the Protection Policy is not a surveillance tool nor a mechanism to protect the institution's image, but rather a document focused on care and prevention, aimed at creating safer environments. It is put into practice through accessible protection services dedicated to welcoming, listening to, and accompanying individuals, while respecting the confidentiality and dignity of those who seek help.

Brother João stressed that the implementation of the policy, scheduled to take effect in the Province next year, requires attention to three fundamental dimensions: safe spaces, safe processes, and safe relationships. More than structural or regulatory



changes, it calls for promoting relationships marked by respect, transparency, shared responsibility, and trust—especially in community life, initial formation, governance, and apostolic works.

Finally, the Provincial Superior, Sr. Maria da Consolação Rocha Coelho, introduced the members of the Province’s Protection

Service Group, responsible for coordinating the sharing of the Protection Policy document with the Sisters, as well as planning and carrying out the mission of the service at the Province level.

Throughout the formation, the Protection Policy was presented as a path of personal, communal, provincial, and congregational conversion.

Its implementation requires care, ongoing formation, and the participation of the entire Province. More than a formal document, it is a living process that challenges daily life and reaffirms the Congregation’s commitment to life, justice, and the dignity of every person, in the light of the Gospel.

NEW SAINTS

Sr. Antenesca Michelin	85	Brazil	30.12.2025
Sr. Mary Lawrence	98	Nirmala	31.12.2025
Sr. Anselmina	92	Italy	05.01.2026
Sr. Joan Kuzhively	89	Ireland	05.01.2026
Sr. Maria Belan	87	Brazil	08.01.2026
Sr. Antonella	82	Italy	09.01.2026
Sr. Elisabeth Da Trindade	91	Brazil	15.01.2026
Sr. Dolores Bannister	95	France/Belgium	16.01.2026
Sr. Rosa Antônia Furlanetto	91	Brazil	17.01.2026
Sr. Délcia Sofiatti	95	Brazil	23.01.2026
Sr. Germaine-Marie Oster	102	France/Belgium	30.01.2026
Sr. Katherine Baker	90	USA	05.02.2026
Sr. Rosa Celeste	95	Brazil	06.02.2026

ROSE MISSION: BUILDING DIGNITY AND SELF-RELIANCE IN RURAL INDIA

Sr. Anita Lakra, CSJ

Tanmaya/India



In Gulabganj, Madhya Pradesh, Rose Mission has been quietly transforming lives since its establishment in 2019 under the Diocese of Sagar. Operating across 15 villages in the districts

of Vidisha and Raizen, the Mission has become a force for social change, working with marginalized, tribal, and poor communities to promote empowerment, education, and sustainable livelihoods.

Directed and monitored under the guidance of Sr. Dorothy Beck and Sr. Anita Lakra, Rose Mission is inspired by a vision of a society where everyone is accepted, respected, receives equal opportunities in every sphere of life, and obtains justice to lead a dignified life. Its mission is to uphold human dignity and create sustainable livelihoods through grassroots organizations, capacity building, advocacy, and information sharing.

One of its most impactful initiatives has been the formation of 40 Self-Help Groups, bringing together 480 women who have launched income-generating activities such as tailoring, animal husbandry, petty





shops, and grocery units. A sanitary pad re-packing unit, supported by LEJ France, has become a model of rural entrepreneurship, teamwork, and dignity. Agriculture, the backbone of rural life, has been strengthened through land levelling, pond deepening, and irrigation projects. More than 30 farmers have reclaimed previously unproductive land, increasing crop yields by nearly 50 percent. Grain Banks in 12 villages and Seed Banks for small farmers now provide food security to 260 families, ensuring resilience during lean seasons.

Education and child development are central to the Mission's work. Six Garima Kendra centers

provide academic support and rights-based education to 210 children, while the Pre-School Nutrition Programme reaches 80 malnourished children daily, combining nutrition with early learning. Civic awareness is fostered through the Human Justice Fellowship, where villagers learn about constitutional rights and responsibilities, and 15 Samvidhan Yoddhas (constitutional warriors) now lead awareness campaigns promoting accountability and informed citizenship.

The Mission also organizes health camps, mental health drives, tree plantations, leadership seminars, and celebrations of Girl Child Day, Children's Day, Women's Day, and

International Tribal Day, strengthening community bonds. Looking ahead, Rose Mission aims to expand sanitary pad initiatives, promote organic farming, improve schools and ICDS functioning, strengthen income programmes and marketing, advance legal awareness, improve health and hygiene, continue de-addiction programmes, and reinforce constitutional literacy. Through dedication, partnerships, and community participation, Rose Mission in Gulabganj continues to empower the most vulnerable, offering dignity, equality, and self-reliance as a model of grassroots transformation with lessons for communities worldwide.

MISSION OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE IN DALLAS, TEXAS

Sr. Justina Mathew, CSJ

Nagpur/India



I am Sr. Justina Mathew, CSJ, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry, Nagpur Province, and I am blessed to carry out my mission in Dallas–Fort Worth, Texas. My mission here is deeply rooted in faith, service, and love for the dear neighbor, as inspired by the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

I serve as a Mother and Baby Nurse at Texas Health, Arlington Memorial Hospital, where I accompany new mothers and newborns during one of the most sacred and vulnerable moments of their lives. Through my nursing ministry, I educate and support families in newborn care, breastfeeding, maternal recovery, and emotional well-being. Each interaction is an opportunity to offer reassurance, dignity, and



compassionate presence to parents as they begin their journey into parenthood.

Beyond my work at the hospital, my mission extends to those who are most in need. In collaboration with the Missionaries of Charity, I help support needy mothers and families by providing essential

items such as diapers, wipes, and basic newborn necessities. These small acts of service make a meaningful difference for families facing financial hardship and bring comfort during challenging times.

I am also involved in volunteering at shelter homes supported by the Missionaries of Charity. Through this service, I strive to meet immediate needs while affirming the dignity and worth of each person. My presence in these spaces is guided by a commitment to compassion, respect, and solidarity with the poor and marginalized.

My mission in Dallas allows me to integrate my professional nursing vocation with my consecrated religious life. Whether I am caring for a new mother at the bedside,

educating first-time parents, or serving families in shelters, I seek to live out the spirit of unity, service, and love that defines the Sisters of St. Joseph.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve God's people in this mission land and continue to entrust my work to God's guidance, praying that my service may bring healing, hope, and peace to all whom I encounter.



A SIMPLE “YES” THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Sr. Jemma Silvanus Kerketta, CSJ

Tanzania



When I arrived in Tanzania on 6 September 2025, I never imagined that I would one day be living as a missionary here. In India, I had been working as non teaching staff in a school, and missionary life was far from my thoughts. Yet when my Provincial asked

me to serve in Tanzania for two years, I found myself saying “yes” without hesitation. One of my most beautiful memories is my arrival, when the sisters, novices, postulants, and candidates welcomed me with song and dance. Although the language was unfamiliar, their warmth made me feel

immediately at home. From the very beginning, I sensed how deeply Tanzania welcomes missionaries. The people's openness, their hunger for education, and their strong faith touched me and made it clear that this land needs more sisters—more hearts ready to serve. That realization



confirmed for me that God had brought me here with purpose.

Living in an intercultural community has been one of the most enriching aspects of my mission. Sharing daily life with sisters from different cultures widens the mind and deepens compassion. Through food, language, customs, and conversation, we learn to appreciate one another's differences and to respect each other's perspectives. Tanzania has taught me many things, but above all, it has taught me patience and openness of heart.

Our mission includes running a hostel for 84 students, offering them food, shelter, tuition, and

moral guidance. Being with them—working in the garden, playing, helping with studies, serving meals, and taking night duty—brings me deep joy and reminds me daily why I am here. In our small community of three sisters, we begin each day with the Eucharist and then move into our ministries. We handle our community tasks ourselves and support one another with simplicity and dedication, keeping our mission rooted in humility and service. Tanzanian Catholics pray with deep faith and joyful expression. Churches are full on Sundays, and even daily Mass is well attended. Their singing and dancing during prayer reveal a faith lived with the whole heart.

A hopeful sign for the future is the growing interest in religious life. At present, we accompany two novices, five postulants, two candidates, and four pre candidates. Their enthusiasm encourages us and strengthens our commitment to nurturing local vocations so that our charism may take root in Tanzania.

As I complete five months and move toward my sixth, I look back with gratitude. What began as an unexpected invitation has become a journey of discovery—of God, of others, and of myself. Tanzania continues to shape me, teach me, and call me forward, and I remain grateful for the privilege of serving in this land.

RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Sr. Sumaira, CSJ

Pakistan



Every year on February 8, the world observes the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. The date honors Saint Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped and sold into slavery as a child and later became a powerful symbol of hope, resilience, and freedom. We express our sincere gratitude to the JPIC Commission for their valuable support in sharing materials for the prayer service held on 8th February in observance of the day against human trafficking.

On this significant day, the Region of Pakistan CSJ, together with sisters from various communities, in collaboration with the CSJ Youth Group and CSJ Associates, organized awareness-raising activities

both in the community and at a local school. The purpose of these initiatives was to foster an environment that respects the dignity and worth of every human person. Sr. Sumaira initiated an insightful

brainstorming session with the students, encouraging them to critically analyze how individuals in our society become victims of human trafficking and how such situations can be prevented.





Students actively participated in the observance by expressing their solidarity in the fight against human trafficking. Through impactful slogans and the sharing of real-life stories, they highlighted the deep suffering experienced by victims of trafficking. Their messages strongly emphasized that exploitation in any form is unacceptable and that every individual has the right to live a life of dignity and freedom. Children bravely shared their life experiences—stories filled with pain, courage, and hope. Their voices remind us that

human trafficking is not just a crime; it is violence against humanity.

It is our shared responsibility to raise our voices against this injustice and take a strong stand. Silence allows exploitation to continue. Speaking up creates change. Human trafficking exists in many forms: child trafficking, forced labor, sexual exploitation, child marriage, forced begging, organ trafficking, domestic servitude.

Sr. Shakila, CSJ, spearheaded the observance, guiding the CSJ Associates

in promoting awareness and encouraging collective action toward building a society that upholds and protects human dignity. We are using our voice to stop violence against humanity and stand together to protect the vulnerable.

We will not be silent but be the voice for those who are silenced. We will continue to work to Stop Human Trafficking. No one is for sale. Everyone has the right to live a dignified life. We pray for Saint Josephine Bakhita to intercede for suffering humanity.

MUSIC, SOUL, AND MISSION: AN INNER SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

Sr. Marina Gulati, CSJ

Nirmala/India



Over the years, I have discovered that music has a unique power to connect me with my inner self and to lead me into Mission. Music lifts the heart beyond self-centeredness and opens it to serve others with freedom and hope. When we listen deeply, music becomes a divine medium that awakens the soul, helping us move forward despite criticism, rejection, or lack of support.

During my early years in Music Ministry, the piano's simple black and white keys were my world. Soon, however, I realized that music carried a deeper spiritual strength. It drew me into silence, consciousness, and a profound experience of God. This inner grounding

gave me the courage to serve without counting the cost.

Neuroscience shows that music stimulates the brain, awakens emotions, and gives meaning to human experience. Once I understood this, I began linking music with my Mission—serving prisoners, visiting their families, educating their children, conducting charity concerts, offering healing sessions in juvenile homes, and supporting the work of the local Church.

Alongside my role as Directress of St. Cecelia's School of Music, I now serve as the Pune Diocesan Secretary and Parish Coordinator of the Women's Commission, and also remain committed to Prison Ministry

at local and national levels. Looking back, I often wonder how I manage it all—but grace flows through music.

Carl Jung believed music connects the conscious and unconscious, giving expression to what words cannot say. This resonates deeply with my own experience. Over the past fifteen years, music has nurtured my creativity in contemplation, writing, and ministry. My contributions to Prison Voice magazine, my poems published in *Wings of Prayers*, and the anthem *Fallen Humans—Grace Upon Grace* emerged from this inner creativity. My book *Inner Spiritual Journey in and Through the Prison Walls* was released on October 29th 2025.



Music also inspired my award-winning works *Beams of Hope in Hurdles* and *Ray of Hope Is the Grace in PMI*, which received first prize at the national Synodal Jubilee celebrations. My journey was also recognized by *Wingless Dreamer* through an interview on music and mission.

Through all challenges, music has helped form a deep inner silence within me. Even in painful or confusing times, the art of music has taught me calmness and trust. During retreats in 2024 and 2025, this silence inspired me to write the upcoming album *Core Grace*, to be released in 2026.

Each day, when I play the piano, I am reminded that both white and black keys

are needed for harmony—just as both light and darkness shape spiritual life. If we embrace both, we come closer to the Divine. Music connects us not only with God but also with the cosmic harmony that vibrates through all creation.

On 18 August 2025, during a gathering of Trinity College London’s Western Music teachers, I was felicitated for my contribution to music education in India. Though it was a joyful moment, my true joy remains the same: music brings me to God.

St. Augustine said, “He who sings prays twice.” May we all discover the Divine through music and allow it to give meaning to our life and Mission.

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