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GENERAL COUNCIL

Build a new future as “Women immersed in the Spirit, connected to the World”

S. Ieda Maria Tomazini

General Council

unimaginable horizons. The faith that recovers the existence and value of spirituality, in turn, is capable of giving birth to the desire to build a new future.

In the current context, people seem to be weary of reasoning, complex

The evolution of the worldwide pandemic has brought situations of uncertainty, suffering and pain, but also opportunities, transformation and conversion. Every day we are being challenged to find a way that points to a future of hope: Hope capable of making our



eyes see the present reality, illuminated by faith, the faith that has always accompanied the daily life of the human journey and, without doubt, has brought about many new beginnings and unveiled

thoughts, and theories. They seem to be tired of consuming material goods, of incentives and stimuli that saturate the mind. People want to feel, experience and live happily, to feel that behind

SUMMARY

GENERAL COUNCIL

Build a new future as “Women immersed in the Spirit, connected to the World”

COVER

J P I C

Brazil: Listen to the cry of the earth, Listen to the cry of the poor

2

Norway: Plastic waste polluting the world’s oceans

3

PROVINCE/REGION/MISSION

France: Taking the next step

4

New Saints

4

Denmark: World Day of Prayer

5

Tanmaya: Farm Bills and Farmers in India

6

Italy: The Pandemic and Solidarity

7

Ireland: Putting A Spring in Our Steps

8

Nagpur: Transforming Health for a Better World

9

USA: Leadership grounded in self-knowledge

10

Tanmaya: Offering comfort to transgenders

11

Nagpur: Young sisters of Europe meet on ZOOM

12

everything and the entire universe there is a powerful and loving Presence that transcends human understanding. This presence cannot be explained, but can be experienced through the exercise of a faith that is concretized in attitudes of love, solidarity, compassion, peaceful coexistence with others, beauty and admiration in this great universe. The cultivation of these values would eliminate enmity, discrimination on the basis of race, colour or social class and prevent wars between peoples.

One opening which points to a future of hope is to cultivate values of a biblical spirituality, rooted in the founding mysteries of our charism of communion: Incarnation, Eucharist and Trinity. This spirituality is capable of perceiving earthly realities as the privileged place to meet God and to allow oneself to be transformed by God and contribute to changing the emerging existential reality. It is a spirituality which adheres to faith in Jesus Christ revealed in Sacred Scripture. The God who, in Christ incarnated in history, becomes human is the God who

becomes food and who walks among the people, prompting relations of friendship, cordiality and service. This God is Trinity and makes us community. Such a spirituality overflows with love for life and has the passion to live without excluding the passage through pain, suffering and death to reach the resurrection and fullness of life. The values of a spirituality cultivated in our daily life help us not to deny life, nor to be indifferent to the pain and suffering of others, or neglect the care of the environment and related crises which hurt and harm humanity. An incarnated spirituality causes us to see and recognize God present in the realities of life. Eucharistic Spirituality makes us capable not only to be moved by the pain and sufferings of the others, but to bend down and offer our compassion and friendship to nourish others. Trinitarian Spirituality makes us understand that alone we do not save ourselves and others. We are relational beings and we save ourselves in community. The cultivation of the values of an incarnated, Eucharistic and

Trinitarian spirituality, gives the person the ability to make decisions in favour of life, affirming that, in community, we improve our relational skills and become more compassionate and able to show solidarity.

In this world, where things are becoming increasingly complex, it is ever more difficult to read and interpret the signs of the times. We can contribute to the construction of a new future by appropriating our spirituality based on the mysteries of the Trinity, the Incarnation and the Eucharist, providing spaces, means and resources for more people to experience living it in their daily lives. Thus, the sisters, associates and the people with whom we work, immersed in the Spirit and connected with the world, are encouraged to develop more and more the capacity to “see God in all things and all things in God”, contemplating the loving presence and solidarity that accompanies us always and, like Jesus, embrace our history in its beauty and drama with hope for a new future.

J P I C

Listen to the cry of the earth, Listen to the cry of the poor

S. Iraci de Fatima Cirino dos Santos

Brazil

Listening to the cry of the earth and the poor permeates the entire history of salvation. Keeping this in mind, we suggest that the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry



was born, because they listened to this cry, a cry that depends on the circumstances; sometimes it is intense, other times it is weak.

In the history of the congregation, the “Little Design” emerged from hearing the cry of the post-war reality. Being Sisters of St. Joseph means hearing the cry and prophetically setting out on the way to respond to the cries of the suffering people.

Vatican Council II listened attentively to the cry of the poor as the voice of God. Evangelization must be done in relation to the signs of the times, and manifested above all in the society, seeing it theologically as the place of God’s call. Direct contact with the poor and their different realities of deprivation lead to the emergence of new practices.

Listening the cries of the world awakens in us an understanding and experience of Christian baptism: to be prophets of the reign of God. This prophetic mission calls us sometimes to announce, other times to denounce. Listening to the cries awakens in us the spirituality of liberation.

Choosing life is the starting point for a new journey on the path of following Jesus, which requires a profound conversion. It also requires openness to integrate and make our own the experience that the poor have of God and God’s will for their life. It is here that we encounter Christ, live a life in the Spirit and see the path to the Father. Trinity is witness to community and sharing which is contrary to individualism and the voracity of having

more with its multiple forms of exclusion. The challenge is to be in tune with God’s designs, listen to the calls and read the signs of the times which God makes known in ever new ways.

The Pope’s encyclical Fratelli Tutti proposes a way of loving that goes beyond the boundaries of space and culture. It shows Jesus’ way of educating his community, that is, to look at reality. We must open our eyes and hearts to realize that in the reality experienced by humanity with the tragedy of the pandemic, there is an urgent need to rebuild a new universal solidarity together. Let this be the prospect that animates each consecrated person, each Sister of St. Joseph, to live “a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel” (N. 1).

Plastic waste polluting the world’s oceans

Helga Haass-Männle,
Associate

Norway

Plastic is an ingenious material, used nearly everywhere. Its basis is oil and gas, which are used mainly to drive ovens and motors. Energy and heat are produced, oil and gas are turned to water and CO₂. Carbon dioxide is now known to be responsible for climate change. While less than 10% of the world’s oil and gas production goes to plastic manufacturing, when plastic waste is burned, its residue also consists of water and CO₂.

When working on the JPIC-topic of recycling last autumn, I discovered that there were a lot of major difficulties in this area which our politicians have



Plastic waste littering a beach

not yet solved. CO₂ production is problematic. Problematic is also the export of plastic waste from Europe and other countries around the globe to countries in Southeast Asia which cannot handle the plastic waste properly, countries like Vietnam, the Philippines,

Indonesia and Thailand. These four countries are directly responsible for a third of the plastic waste circulating in our oceans. Plastic is a resistant material which cannot be degraded easily if it is not burned.

Interpol, the international criminal

police organization, has published a new report in August 2020 on criminal trends in the global plastic waste market. Until January 2018 China had received most of the world's plastic waste. But then China closed its doors. What to do with the plastic waste then? Plastic waste that we consumers sort at source and expect to be recycled and reused, ends up with criminals who dump or burn it. The results are polluted shores and water.

What can we do? We can diminish single-use plastic. We can get our politicians to do something to deal with this problem. We can work to make our governments label plastic packaging and other plastic waste so that it can be tracked. Each country must take responsibility for handling its own plastic waste, it must not be spread around in nature. We can support political parties which are willing to stop the export of

plastic waste and support research on how to handle the waste, finding sustainable processes for a precious material which we all use and need in everyday life.

A big step is taken when our awareness around this problem is heightened. How many of us know where the plastic in the oceans comes from? Let us work together to stop spreading plastic waste!

PROVINCE/ REGION/ MISSION

Taking the next step

S. Christiane Roger

France

For years, one of our sisters, Marie-Renée Ract-Mugnerot, had been salvaging and giving new life to postcards that had already been used, to offer them to the inmates of a penitentiary.

Marie-Renée left us last October, and while sorting through her belongings I recovered all the material she used to rehabilitate the cards, thinking of asking other sisters to take over.

As the confinement of the pandemic restricted outdoor activities, several sisters offered to continue

Marie-Renée's mission.

Several afternoons in a row, the volunteers set to work: sorting, putting the postcards on white paper or colored cardboard to reinforce the card and make it more attractive, and finding an envelope for each card.

We also collected new cards, and when the prison chaplain came to collect them he was surprised to find 6 boxes full of cards. He told us how happy the inmates were to have the cards and be able to choose some to send or decorate their cells.

Continuing the mission by giving life to cards that might have gone to



waste is not only a way to participate in the protection of the environment, but above all to be united with the inmates, and to allow them to keep the links with their families.

NEW SAINTS

S. Marie Aline Perrot-Minnot	88	France	28.01.2021
S. Blandina Rossi	100	Italy	29.01.2021
S. Frances Borgia Kunnathan	91	Nirmala	31.01.2021
S. Maria Gabriela Nogueira	99	Brazil	01.02.2021
S. Marie Bernadette Richel	96	France	01.02.2021

World Day of Prayer

S. Marianne Bode

Denmark

Everyone knows about International Women's Day, March 8, and this is indeed an important day, where women draw attention to injustice and the oppression of women around the world. Another important day, the World Day of Prayer, celebrated on the first Friday of March, is much more hidden, without visible results. On the World Day of Prayer, which is directed by women and related to the ecumenical movement, women unite and talk about their lives in their respective countries. Every year, on this day, women gather in different places around the globe to support each other in prayer. This has been going on since 1887, with women joining together across different continents.

This World Day of Prayer was begun by Christian women of the United States and Canada, as a way to support of women's involvement in mission at home and other parts of the world. In spite of resistance by men, the women organized themselves on their mission boards, recognizing the importance of both personal and prayer services conducted during their meetings.

For these women in the 19th century, it was most important to support each other in their mission through prayer and it was after World

War I that women incorporated the conviction that world peace was intrinsically tied to world mission. With this realization women renewed their efforts for unity.

The first Friday of Lent was established as a joint day of prayer for mission, with the call to prayer issued for a World Day of Prayer in 1927. In 1930 Helen Kim of Korea was the first woman outside of the United States to write the order of worship for the World Day of Prayer. and it is from these roots that World Day of Prayer has taken its present shape.

This year, 2021, the women of the island Vanuatu in the South Pacific Ocean prepared the prayer on the theme: "Build on a strong foundation." Through this prayer they let us share their lives, their joys, and sorrows.

The sisters in Denmark participate every year and join other women in prayer for themselves and all around the world. This year, because of the Corona pandemic, we could not meet physically so, the community at Stella Matutina had their own "prayer day" with the readings prepared by the women of Vanuatu.

We always become aware of International Women's Day on March

8 and this is important as we fight for women's rights. For me, the World Day of Prayer arranged by women throughout the world is as important, as this will help us, through prayer, to create a solid foundation for our fight against oppression. This is especially true when we remember that the idea for this day was to create unity between countries



and different populations. In our common prayer with women from all over the world, we can live our charism of unity.

Next year, on Friday March 4, 2022, women all over the world will gather and with them, we can unite ourselves with the women of England, Wales & Northern Ireland, who will prepare the prayer on the theme: "I know the plans I have for you."

Maybe we as women of the Congregation of Sisters of Saint Joseph can pay as much attention to these prayers for better living conditions for women as we do to the fight against the oppression of women.

NEW SAINTS

S. Rosa Sambuloski Tulcheski	89	Brazil	20.02.2021
S. Theresinha de Oliveira Cardoso	86	Brazil	23.02.2021
S. Ursulina Maria Iasi	96	Brazil	23.02.2021
S. Marie Gabrielle Gougaud	100	France	28.02.2021

Farm Bills and Farmers in India

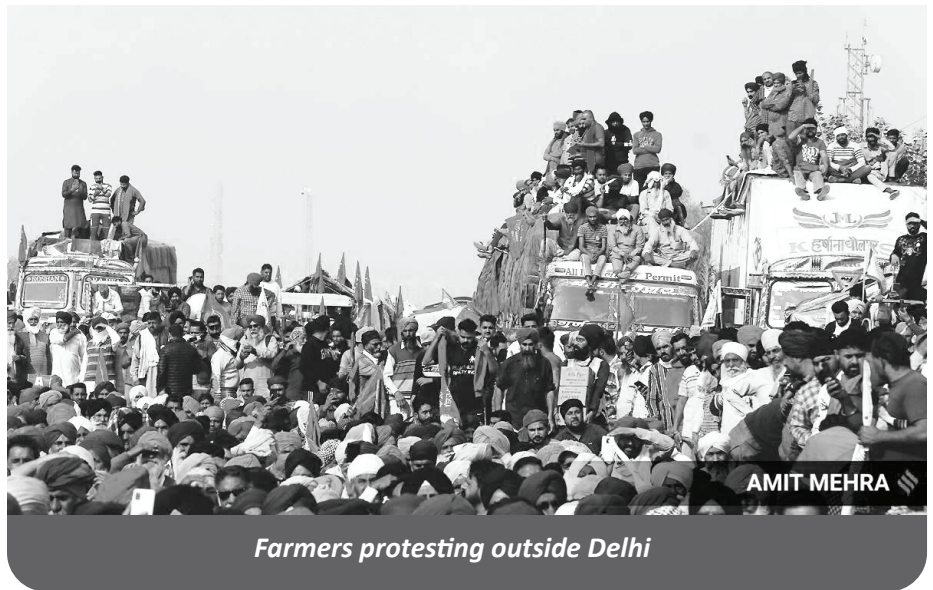
S. Laveena D'Souza

Province of Tanmaya - India

Farmers are the backbone of Indian Economy. Till 2018 India ranked second in worldwide farm outputs. Agriculture is one of the largest sectors, accounting for about 50% of employment. Then why are thousands of Indian farmers protesting? According to the police of Haryana, a state bordering the national capitol territory of Delhi, as of March 21, there are 40,000 farmers sitting at the Delhi Border protesting three farm bills.

Since the protest began on August 09, 2020, 248 farmers have died. In vain, the farmers have tried to talk with the government, asking that the three recent farm laws be repealed, since they believe these laws favour big business. The farmers are fighting for every Indian because these laws in fact disabled the right to legal recourse for all citizens.

The government is not ready to understand the plea of farmers. Instead, it has accused the protesting farmers saying that the farmers are misled and their protests are instigated by leftists and Naxalites. While the farmers are protesting, people of goodwill come forward to help them by providing them with necessary essentials. During the past few months the farmers have faced cold winter nights and were often harassed by the police who sprayed tear gas, fired water cannons and charged using lathi (a type of police club). But nothing breaks the spirit of these farmers.



Farmers protesting outside Delhi

The first law abolishes the Agricultural Produce Market Committees and enables the farmers to sell their product anywhere in the country to anyone, even without a license to sell. This law might help the farmers sell their products directly to consumers by eliminating middlemen who currently get enormous profits from the customers. But nowhere does this law mention the Minimum Support Price which has protected them. Farmers are worried that without this, the corporate players will take advantage of them and they may have to sell their products for less.

The second law permits a contract between the farmers and corporations. If this act is regulated properly by the government, the profit and loss will be borne equally by the farmers and the corporates, creating a healthy state of affairs for both. However, if this is not regulated properly, the contracts can be in favour of corporations, making the farmers their slaves.

The third law removes cereals, pulses and other food items from the essential commodities list, thus allowing foreign investments within

the agricultural sector. This threatens to push agriculture from the small farmers into the hands of the wealthy and making the farmers puppets in their own fields.

The last 2 laws can lead to big business taking over agriculture. Without any amendments to these proposed laws the corporations will make a huge profit to the detriment of the farmers. The government needs to have strict regulations to uphold the rights of farmers. The present government shows no interest in doing this.

Most of the airports, railways and transport systems and tele communications have already been sold to business interests. While the ruling party waives the loans of two main corporate owners, Ambani and Adani in India, it has no heart for the common man. The farmers, small scale industries, and the working-class people bear the burden of taxes. Since 2014, the Indian democracy is in danger. Media is controlled by the ruling party and the voice of the voiceless remains hidden, while the billionaire business men are supported.

The Pandemic and Solidarity

S. Loredana Camusi

Italy

This exceptional historical period that we are experiencing has upset all normal life and everything seems to be going from bad to worse. As a religious community, here in Foligno (PG), quite isolated from the other communities of the province, we have been looking around for some time to share moments of prayer and fraternal serenity with the other religious communities in the area. With the Monastery of St. Lucy, a small but beautiful mission of sharing material goods was born, goods which arrive from la Providenza (a nearby house of hospitality). This allows us to reach out



Sisters Ermelinda, Cecilia, Eleonora, Teresa Antonietta and Loredana

importance of respecting the human dignity of all. Thus was born the need to reach out gently to these people. Every week, la Providenza arrives at the Monastery and when the phone in our community rings and a voice says:

the circle has increased a little.

The sisters of the Monastery thank us, because they cannot go out and they consider us a blessing for this help. We thank the Lord for allowing us to reach out and make a few more brothers

For us it is an immense joy to be able to share with you the benefits of "la Providenza", knowing that through you we can reach families in this city of ours who are in need. The Lord truly does not let us lack for anything.

And often among us in community, this question arises: why does the Lord continue to bless us with his Providence? Perhaps the experience we are living together helps us to understand that God's gifts are never only for those who receive them, but that a gift given to us is never given only to us, but calls us in turn to become God's gift to others. All gifts follow this logic. To you, dear sisters, our thanks go out with all our heart, because you allow us and help us to make this concrete. We express our thanks to you for making it possible for us to do in a hidden and silent way that which, because of our specific form of life, we are not allowed or even asked to do "on the front lines".

– The Sisters of the St Lucia Monastery of Foligno.

to some families in difficulty that are not included in the diocesan Caritas project.

The sudden poverty that was created by the pandemic did not dampen our awareness of the

"This is St. Lucia!" we answer: "This is St. Joseph!" We then set out, get the food, pack it, and depending on the quantity we reach our now friends and Charity circulates and spreads. We started with two families and slowly

and sisters smile. The Abbess confided to us that they are experiencing the beauty of Giving: the more they give, the more arrives from la Providenza.

In a world of pain we sow drops of love that are good for the heart.

Putting a Spring in Our Steps

S. Celine Duffy

Ireland

Ireland had its first victim of Covid 19 in March 2020. We had been prepared to some extent, by world news, of the rapid spread of the disease from one country to another and the dire consequences it brought with it.

The effects of lockdown and the inability of people to visit their family and friends were very



difficult times. The wearing of face masks and maintaining social distance was difficult for certain sectors of society.

Public Masses were suspended. Fortunately our National Broadcasters had Mass on television each morning. The reaction of the faithful was wonderful as it kept them united in prayer.

The closure of schools, shops, and restaurants and the reduction of travel to

a five kilometre radius was difficult for many. The cessation of team sports was also a hardship for the young.

Each one of us, in our own way, continued to meet the needs of those we could, wherever we could. We continue to be a presence where we are needed.

Having been vaccinated in recent weeks we move along with renewed hope.

On March 17, together in the Raheny Community we celebrated the Feast of Saint Patrick, our National Patron, which put a spring in our steps. On the Feast of Saint Joseph we came together again. On both occasions we were united in prayer and had wonderful festivities.

NEW SAINTS

S. Oliva Camatti	97	Brazil	09.03.2021
S. Giovanna Teresa Marcelli	85	Italy	21.03.2021
S. Winifred Kundukulangara	86	Tanmaya	24.03.2021
S. Rita de Cássia Nogueira	81	Brazil	27.03.2021

Transforming Health for a Better World

S. Lorraine Marie Delaney

Province of Nagpur - India

In October 2019 I received a mail from Mr. Dougal Hewitt, the Executive Vice President and Chief Mission Officer at Providence St. Joseph Health, California, USA, inviting me to be on their team as Head of Mission, Hyderabad, India. For me it was a brand-new concept. It is all about Mission Effectiveness which I had heard about earlier but had never explored.

In January 2020, I participated in the Conference for Mission Leaders held in California and got to meet and hear about the roles and responsibilities of Mission Leaders. It was mind-boggling as I met scores of them, listened to their stories and returned with much printed material, which I devoured and studied.

In early February 2020, Dougal Hewitt and Sr. Sharon Becker, CSJ, Orange, California, who is Vice Chair of the Sponsor Council, visited Nagpur, met our Leadership and explained my role. Together we visited the offices and newly employed caregivers (they are not referred to as employees), in Hyderabad. This visit was providential, because soon

after, Covid struck, locking us all in and preventing any mobility either within or outside the country.

After regular conversations, virtual meetings and phone calls, on 1 March 2021, I was finally onboard, initiated into Providence Global Centre, Hyderabad. My role as Mission Leader is to help the Staff make the connection to the values and heritage of Providence Health Care and how they inform the ministry today and for the future. Certainly, there are other dimensions but this is the core.

Our Mission is that "As expressions of God's healing love, witnessed through the ministry of Jesus, we are steadfast in serving all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable." This Mission is lived in and through the concretization of five biblical values: compassion (Mt 4:24), dignity (Gen 1:27), justice (Mic 6:8), excellence (Col 3:23) and integrity (1 Jn 3:18). These are the foundation of our vision: Health for a Better World.

In the US, Providence St. Joseph Health serves in several states, with 51 hospitals, 1085 clinics, 20 thousand caregivers, 38 thousand nurses, 25 thousand physicians. In Hyderabad, India, the focus is on research,



S. Lorraine Marie with S. Sharon CSJ Orange and Dougal Hewitt

innovation and transformation to assist USA in offering better health services. All our caregivers are highly professional software engineers with vast international experience.

In March, I began working from home, having received the latest equipment directly from Hyderabad to make it possible for me to participate in Board meetings, meetings with some persons in California, and personal interviews, which are referred to as handshake meetings. These are most enjoyable as I come to know the caregivers personally.

Soon I hope to relocate to Hyderabad, so as to minister more effectively on site.

NEW SAINTS

S. Antonia Cesta	99	Brazil	01.04.2021
S. Enedina Pierdoná	83	Brazil	05.04.2021
S. Mirian de Lourdes Marin	80	Brazil	11.04.2021
S. Aloysius Kachapallil	84	Pachmarhi	13.04.2021
S. Zenaide Bernardi	96	Brazil	14.04.2021
S. Isabel Valiyaveetil	92	Tanmaya	17.04.2021

Leadership grounded in self-knowledge

S. Barbara Bozak

USA

Every Sister of St. Joseph is called to be a leader, wherever she lives and works, whatever her ministry. Every teacher, social worker, nurse, pastoral minister, lawyer, treasurer, . . . , is called to leadership whether or not she is given the title of “leader” or holds authority. A leader is one who is collaborative, listens respectfully and inspires others to become their best selves. If it is true that a person does not need a position of authority to be a leader, it is also true that not everyone who is in authority is a leader. Not every superior, be she local superior, provincial or superior general is a leader, even if we give her that title.

A true leader is one who has developed interpersonal skills and is concerned that others grow and develop their gifts and talents. She is a good listener, able to really hear the words of another and what is behind those words. She is compassionate and empathetic, not commanding others but walking with those she serves. Yet compassion, empathy and the ability to really listen to another are gifts we are not born with, but abilities we can learn and which we never stop developing.

As humans, we are emotional and rational as well as spiritual beings and it is important to develop every aspect of who we are. In religious life our time in formation concentrates on the spiritual and throughout our lives ongoing formation is also focused on the spiritual. Each of us is also given opportunities to develop our intellectual abilities and have

professional training. But interestingly, we are often encouraged to suppress our emotions, under the guise of maintaining control. Yet emotions are an essential and important component of our humanity. We cannot deny them; we need to value them, recognize them and learn to manage them. And this is a life-long process.

Our interactions are shaped by our own family, our own childhood, our own experiences growing up and in religious life, with each person’s experiences being unique. As humans we have learned to react to people and situations through these experiences and our immediate responses are often unconscious. When we do not recognize what emotions drive our automatic responses we become defensive and act thoughtlessly, without considering how our actions affect the other person. It is important to respond with awareness, to move from

unconscious to conscious response. Since the best leaders are those who know how to listen and be sensitive to what motivates another, to be a good leader we must first know ourselves and what motivates us, what situations threaten our ego or identity. Becoming aware of how we react and how our behavior affects those around us, both positively and negatively is an important step in this process. To accomplish this, we need to want to know ourselves and be willing to make the effort to do this. It may mean taking the time each day to examine how I interacted with others, what my feelings were in those interactions and why I felt that way; only then might I be able to improve the way I interact with others.

Developing our leadership ability is not something that happens automatically when we come to have responsibility but a process that each of us needs to work on every day.



Offering Comfort to Transgenders

**S. Pauline Pookoden and
S. Sangeeta Ambackattu**

Province of Tanmaya - India

Transgenders, commonly known as the Hijras, are a marginalized, abused, scorned and callously neglected community in India. They are part of our society and all share in the rights enjoyed by every other citizen of our country. The various types of discrimination based on their class and gender disorder make the community one of the most stigmatized and disempowered group in Indian society.

We, the sisters of St. Joseph, Bathalapalli, Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with the Rural Development Trust, conducted a medical camp for the Transgenders of Guntakal on March 03, 2021. The purpose of the camp was to identify the medical and psychological issues and needs of this group. The team, consisting of doctors, nurses, councillors and lab technicians, organized this in a rural area called Valmiki Circle where 50 transgenders are living. We interacted with 43 of them who were present at the camp.

While collecting necessary data about them, we realised that the majority of them faced several health problems, problems related to harassment, unlawful penalties, sexual and mental abuse, violence and deprivation of human rights among others. These persons are usually rejected from their families and other social organizations and face varied forms of social exclusion. Being denied of proper education, health care and means to employment, they are

Editor's note: In India "transgender" refers to eunuchs, be they eunuchs from birth or males who were castrated, often in outdoor rituals.



Sisters Pauline and Sangeeta with Transgenders – Group Photo

most commonly forced into forms of ritualized begging. Ostracized by loved ones and harassed constantly by the police, they form small groups for their own protection. These groups are led by a "guru" or mother figure. At their best, the groups support, nurture and provide a family-like security to their



S. Sangeeta giving medical assistance

members. Out of the need to protect themselves, they even developed their own language — a mixture of Hindi, Farsi, Urdu and a little Arabic. Most of them are uneducated and, combined with the discrimination they face, gaining mainstream employment is almost impossible.

At the inaugural session of the

camp, we had the local Judge Tangamani give an awareness program regarding welfare schemes and legal rights. She urged them to actively participate in the betterment of their lives. Moreover, she assured them that if they face any issues with the police department, such as not attending to their cases, the

transgenders can directly approach the local court and seek justice. This message gave them great relief and hope for their future.

As we concluded the camp, we realised that what we have done is just sowing a seed of hope

in the hearts of these underprivileged ones and we hope to build on it to make a difference in the life of these people. Change will not come too soon for these people. A positive approach to their lives is required. As for the future plan, we will visit this area every month to provide medical aid, nutritional supplies and to offer them basic education.

Young sisters of Europe meet on ZOOM

S. Nirmal

Province of Nagpur - India

There had been a plan that all the young sisters in Europe would go on a pilgrimage to Le Puy together in 2020. However, the plan fell through as Covid-19 struck the entire globe. But this did not discourage the group from meeting.

The solution was meeting online on ZOOM! Our first meeting took place on July 25th 2020 with 13 younger members, living in France, Norway and Italy, meeting to share their views and reflections. At the beginning, with the use of symbols, each one introduced herself. Thus they came to know one other better and appreciate the unique gifts of each one.

During this virtual meeting, Sr. Cristina Gavazzi guided the group through the history of the Congregation, beginning with a virtual pilgrimage to Le Puy, the cradle of the congregation. Looking at pictures, all the participants could imagine the sacred ground where the first sisters gathered in the small kitchen and ministered to the people around. This challenged the group to reflect on the comfort zones in their



The second meeting took place on October 15th, the very foundation day of the congregation. After the opening prayer, Sr. Maria Giovanna from the Italian province shared about the celebration of her

own lives.

A powerful sentence which exemplifies our founder touched all: "A guide who puts his whole trust in the possible ways of God." Fr. Médaille was gifted with both spiritual and organizational qualities, receiving strength and insight from God to organize and guide the Congregation.

Reflecting on the lives of Mother St. Jean Fontbonne and Mother St Jean Marcoux, the young sisters learned from these strong pillars to face challenges with hope and courage, to be strong in their vocation and to have a deep desire and passionate zeal for mission. This was evident in the life of Mother St. Jean Fontbonne who was not afraid to confront even the revolutionaries.

Having concluded this virtual pilgrimage, the group decided to continue their virtual meetings every second month on a specific topic.

first vows on September 12th 2020, after which the group shared their mission experiences, especially the three sisters from India who were ministering in France.

The third Zoom meeting took place on December 17th 2020. After a common prayer each one shared Christmas traditions from different countries and cultures: the Norwegian, Vietnamese, Italian, French and Indian cultures.

During the virtual meeting on March 7th, 2021, the three young sisters who had been on mission in France and returned to India shared the experiences of their European mission. Important topics were the preparations for the year dedicated to St. Joseph and the Patronal Feast on March 19th. Since it was the day before International Women's Day, that topic was also discussed.

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