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# CSJOURNAL

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry

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## GENERAL COUNCIL

## SUMMARY

### MOVE TOWARDS LIFE

**Sr. Elisa Fátima Zuanazzi**

*General Council*



Life has surprises, delights and disappointments, changes and standstills, flavors, colors, and loves. And it is in this mix of realities that the dance of life, enlivened by the Divine Trinity, makes itself present, involving our entire being. In this dance of life lies the essence of God, characterized by an eternal movement toward us, through the redeeming love of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of God is a vital breath present in us and moves us to discern internal movements in the light of sacred scripture and the daily realities of life. This discernment is conducted through ongoing formation. Through it, a

person is able to find, ever anew, their own place in the Church at the service of humanity. This search is intrinsic to the dynamism of fidelity to our vocation, in the different stages of life. It helps us to respond to personal and global concerns in an ever new way. Therefore, "ongoing formation must be transformative and lead to an integration of the spiritual, intellectual, affective, sexual, psychological and apostolic dimensions". (Formation Manual p.53)

Since formation is a process that allows the person to make a journey of radical identification with Jesus Christ and to recognize

#### GENERAL COUNCIL

Move towards life

COVER

#### JPIC

*Pakistan:* SEASON OF CREATION: "Be a companion of Mother Earth"

3

New Saints

4

#### PROVINCE/REGION/MISSION

*Italy:* 50 Years of Thankfulness

5

*Brazil:* Elections in Brazil

6

*India:* Life-Giving Experiences in the U.S.

8

*Bolivia:* The Church Accepts but also Corrects because it Seeks Our Salvation

9

*Brazil:* A journey to the origin of the Congregation

11



the gift of one's vocation, it is necessary to take up within the heart a movement of detachment, trust, and joyful surrender to the Lord. "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Gal 2:20). Therefore, to live as a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, who loved us to the end, implies letting ourselves be found by Him like the disciples on the road to Emmaus: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32). The disciples returned to Jerusalem and announced that Jesus is truly risen.

For us, consecrated women, Sisters of St. Joseph, to live the charism of communion in daily life, in our mission, in words, gestures, and attitudes is to make visible to what we are called to be. It is an invitation to live as disciples of Jesus, teacher.

Allowing oneself to be

found by Jesus, on the path of discipleship, implies not being content with superficiality or the mediocrity of customs paralyzed by time. It implies being able to seek new horizons and be open to the constant changes in the world. It also implies delving deep into our own interiority, breaking with prejudices and judgments that we learned in our social, religious and family life and are established in us. This process of change requires time, silence, a personal encounter with the Lord, and a deep knowledge of oneself in all dimensions.

To be aware of our own vulnerabilities, our shadows and lights, is a grace from God because it makes us more human and integrated. Breaking through resistance, fears, taboos, and vanities is a necessary process to find oneself and the Creator. However, this journey requires

faithfulness and a daily personal encounter with Jesus, because God is not aloneness. God is presence, love, joy and fullness of life.

The movement of the Spirit in us, the dance of life, invites us to risk and reach out to the untouchable in our journey. It invites us to divest ourselves of all our security and entrust our lives to the shadow of God's presence. The invitation is to live in the solitude of the heart as part of the discipleship of Jesus. This does not mean being alone, because the experience of feeling loved by God makes a person free and capable of taking up their vocation with joy and passion, putting all their potential at the service of the reign of God. In this way, forming communities of communion, with people committed to the life of their dear neighbor, especially the most vulnerable.

# SEASON OF CREATION:

## “Be a companion of Mother Earth”

**Sr. Shakila Bhatti**

*Pakistan*



Taking the lead from the prayer on the season of creation, which was shared by JPIC commission, the Josephite family in Pakistan held various programs in schools, with associates and with the CSJ youth group,

In Christ the King Girls High School, Jamilabad, Multan, a one-day awareness program was held with students demonstrating how we can be the companions of Mother Earth. The main focus of the demonstration was to make students aware of how to reuse & recycle plastic, paper and cardboard, often by reshaping it.

Students prepared various projects on recycling as a sustainable practice. It is important because recycling can hinder the emissions of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants... Both reusing and

the recycling of the waste play a significant role in sustainability.

A meaningful Tableau was performed by students, which aroused many feelings and emotions, leaving many in tears, as they portrayed the cutting of the trees and how we are demolishing our sacred planet.

The chief Guest, Fr.Yousaf Sohan, Vicar General of the Multan Diocese, and Fr.Patrick Patras appreciated the efforts of students along with teachers to bring awareness as a first step in being a companion of Mother Earth.

In Don Bosco High School,





Lahore, under the guidance of Sr. Shakila CSJ, school principal, a prayer was conducted with the staff, having as theme the “burning bush”. This focused on the presence of God with taking off one’s shoes symbolizing the holiness of the ground.

The novices gave a beautiful performance of a song, which enriched the experience by engaging more senses on the topic of the holy ground.

On 29th September 2022, Sr. Kiran organized a prayer activity with the associates. The Prayer started with a hymn and a meditative exercise. One of the participants shared her

insight that sometimes we become blind and don’t see the work of Holy Spirit around and within us. This planet is our home. We are responsible and must be caretakers of our habitat.

The theme of the international JPIC commission touched us deeply, particularly in this time of flooding in Pakistan. We experienced and have been forced to observe and hear the needs of our time, and how God is calling each one of us to participate in the deliverance of God, to play the role of Moses.

This common theme has

brought us closer to each other. It has also matured our faith and reinforced the group to rise to a higher level, living and reaching out as bread broken to meet people in their vulnerabilities, as people of God in need with a single heart. Removing our shoes and the sharing by different participants moved our hearts. Our tears were experienced with a thankful heart and a desire to be the “More”.

We deeply appreciate how the JPIC commission has been active and shared with us beautiful reflections on how to be more sensitive towards Planet Earth and towards each other.

## NEW SAINTS

Sr. Jeanne Michel	96	France/Belgium	24.08.2022
Sr. Dorvalina Carbonera	83	Brazil	04.09.2022
Sr. Yvonne Raiwet	96	USA	08.09.2022
Sr. Dorothy Coulter	86	USA	17.09.2022
Sr. Maria Jacinta	91	Brazil	22.09.2022
Sr. Nayr Joanna Smiderle	85	Brazil	29.09.2022
Sr. Delia Maria Croccoli	95	Brazil	08.10.2022
Sr. Anne Dean	98	USA	24.10.2022
Sr. Georgina Kannenkeril	85	Tanmaya	26.10.2022
Sr. Odile Pauline Marie	88	France/Belgium	28.10.2022

## 50 YEARS OF THANKFULNESS

**Sr. Clementina Copia**

*Italy*



**S**r. Clementina Copia, provincial of Italy, and Sr. Gemma Valero visited the Brazilian delegation of the province. Here is a brief report of their trip.

Our journey began on May 26. This beautiful, immense and endless Brazilian land awaited us with its green incredibly intense in the winter season. During the entire time of our stay in the northeast it rained incessantly, making the countryside beautiful and fascinating with its features and its lush vegetation.

Our first stop was Cicero Dantas in Bahia where Sisters Gabriella, Angleina and Jacqueline did as much as they could to have us enter into their mission. Every day there was a very detailed program so that we might meet everyone. So many faces we saw, so many stories we heard, such excitement and joy to see how the seed that had been sown by our sisters 50 years ago had grown and was now a flourishing tree with many leaves and branches: nursery school, educational assistance, work with

the landless, with women, with rural families, with teachers, with the indigenous . . . and on it goes. So much life and hope sown during these past years has made the good grow and be visible. This is due also thanks to the support

is the only real way to eliminate so much poverty in the world.

The second place was Joaquin Gomes, in the state of Alagoas. With open arms and open hearts Sisters Rizomar, Myriam and Rosa welcomed us



*Kiriri Indians of Bahia*

of Italian benefactors in the Piedmont region who year after year have never failed to give support. Thus was created a real network of charity between Brazil and Italy, in view of sharing which

for about 10 days. We prayed with them, visited some little schools and educational centers and spent one day meeting with the laity of the Little Design. So much life, so much love, so much

gratitude. And the people of this city, after having truly met our sisters, no longer remained as they had been before. In this city our sisters are a real point of reference especially for the most poor and marginalized. This was a great gift of God, built up day by day with so much humility and dedication.

In the middle of our visit we celebrated, with all the sisters of the Northeast, three days of assembly. These were days of being one family, of sharing, but also of joint reflection and sharing in view of the future. At the end of the assembly we celebrated, in the parish church of Maceiò, the

50th anniversary of our sisters' presence in the Northeast. In Maceiò, the capital of the state of Alagoas, Sisters Teresa and Dominga awaited us. Here the presence of women religious in the region is very important. It is true that there is a great need to have at least one community of three sisters because the pastoral work is expanding as is service to the most poor.

The last leg of our visit was Cristinapolis in the state of Sergipe. Sisters Helen, Vanda and Elenice made it possible for us to enter into the heart of their mission lived among the people of this region, in a simple way, appropriate to our charism.

Here also, pastoral work, visits to the base communities in remote villages, catechesis, meetings with the youth.

For us, the visit to Brazil was a gift of God but also a great challenge, with questions about the real future of these communities in the Northeast. We are certain that God will show us the way, perhaps not immediately, but certainly show us what will be the path to integration into the Brazilian province. For now, as the Italian province, we welcome with gratitude the gift of being present in this part of Brazil and to be able to serve the poor with such dedication and love.

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## ELECTIONS IN BRAZIL

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### Sr. Paula of Saint Joseph Gobbi

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#### *Brazil*



In the recent election, the electoral power of the fascist ultra-right showed its face in Brazil, as it has been doing in other parts of the world, and surprised us with the unimagined strength of so much support. For better or worse, Bolsonarism is greater than it appears in the data from the Research Institutes.

A reality that defies understanding. We can measure the achievements of the

government in the office as if on a scale. On one hand, the election was done on the basis of hate and fake news, the disastrous way of dealing with the crisis of the pandemic, cuts in funds for health and education, the use of militias, liberalized sale and use of weapons, increase in homicides, return of extreme poverty and 33 people million going hungry, mining in indigenous lands, dismantling of Petrobras and

privatizations without criteria. An endless list of follies, culminating in the systematic and persistent destruction of the Amazon. On the other hand, all the advantages migrated to the sectors of agribusiness, the market, and the rent-seeking financial system. And the population was abandoned to their fate, crumbs: the "Brazil Aid" program and recent palliative measures, all measures to help the electoral outcome. The level of



social deterioration seems quite irrational.

The world looks apprehensively at the outcome of this first round. The elections in Brazil have a global impact. The Amazon is vital for the survival of humanity, and for the stability of the climate and rainfall on the planet. The incumbent government has facilitated its systematic and irresponsible destruction as much as possible.

Gilberto Freyre in his 1933 work "Casa Grande & Senzala", gave hints of the Brazilian reality based on slavery, with white masters (Casa Grande) and black slaves (Senzala), just as the abolitionist Joaquim Nabuco (1849-1910) prophesied: "Slavery had so perverted and contaminated Brazilian society that it would shape it for a long time to come.... It would not be enough to free slaves, but we would have to re-educate society". Slavery was abolished in 1888 but equal rights never arrived. To the people, carnival and football/soccer are like bread and circuses to the ancient Romans.

The slavery that contaminated and perverted Brazilian society continues unabated. Brazil is one of the leaders of the world in social and income inequality. The monthly income of the richest 1% of the country is almost 34



*Brazilian family in Rio de Janeiro – João Batista Debret - 1839*

times greater than the income of the poorest half of the population. The income of the poorest 5% fell by 3%, whereas that of the richest 1% increased by 8%; According to recent statistics, the 6 richest

of the Casa Grande (Big House) to remain in control and guarantee its privileges. The self-interested elite, subordinate to the United States, keeps a president in office, after nearly 150 requests for impeachment filed in the House of Representatives. The same elite condemned an innocent former president based on the Controlling of Fact Theory.

On October 30th, we will have the second round of elections. Brazilians will decide which government project will continue on the agenda in Brazil. On the one hand is the perpetuation of an oppressive, sexist, violent, homophobic regime and on the other hand, a proposal for more life for people: housing, food, education, health, decent wages... It seems simple to choose a side, but

the power of the "Big House" is strong and its tricks cannot be ignored. Like never before, the destiny of our country is in our hands.



*Brazil in our hands*

people in the country have wealth equivalent to 100 million of the poorest Brazilians.

A glaring reality, suffocated by the strength and organization

# LIFE-GIVING EXPERIENCES IN THE U.S.

**Sr. Lorraine Marie Delaney**

*Province of Nagpur - India*



Participation at the Assembly of the Catholic Health Association (CHA) of the US was one of the most educative and life-giving experiences I've had in recent years. Gathered at a Marriott hotel in Indiana, 5 - 7, June 2022, I met some of the most brilliant and experienced medical personnel, attended enlightening sessions, interacted with diverse persons at break-out sessions and gathered as much information as was possible.

One of the highlights of my participation was the meeting of several persons whom I had often seen only on Zoom. Meeting them in the flesh was truly exciting!

I briefly shared my mission with Rod Hochman, M.D, President, CEO of Providence St. Joseph Health, Member of the CHA Board of Directors, and expressed my appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Assembly.

My itinerary for seventeen days in the US was meticulously and well planned, offering me the possibility of meeting as many Mission leaders as possible. It was a delight sharing the ministry

and delving deeper into strategies, options, methodologies, adapting them to the scenario in Hyderabad, which certainly is very different from what our Mission leaders live in the US. They have a ministry with patients, their families, doctors, nurses, etc. whereas we, in Hyderabad are

purely an IT office, offering high profile technology for research, upgrading and innovation of the infrastructure at Providence St Joseph Health.

Meeting and interacting with Mission leaders and visiting Providence offices in Seattle, Washington, Portland, Oregon and Irvine, California broadened my vision, giving me a deep insight on how the ministry is lived across Alaska, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas and Washington. Providence St Joseph Health, operating as a non-profit organization, provides healthcare services, and operates hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospice and home health programs, housing units, and physician clinics.

Since it was not possible to meet with every Mission leader in person, I did meet 11 Mission leaders of Southern California on Zoom. The hour





spent with them was very profitable while giving me the opportunity to get to know them more closely.,

I daresay this whirlwind period packed with travels, visits, meetings, listening for hours, was very challenging and demanding especially as I am no longer a spring-chicken! However, it was a fulfilling, wonderfully exciting learning

experience. I discovered what more needs to be done to qualify our own presence and ministry here, and to make Providence Global Centre, Hyderabad, an integral component of Providence St Joseph Health, with its Catholic identity.

While I was there the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, celebrated the

centennial of their arrival in Orange County, California. It was a time to celebrate the present, look to the future, and recall their many achievements. I treasure the book I received from S. Madeleva, a compilation of all her artwork, and other precious moments with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, whom I have known for over two decades.

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## THE CHURCH ACCEPTS BUT ALSO CORRECTS BECAUSE IT SEEKS OUR SALVATION

**Sr. Antonia Mandro**

*Bolivia*



**W**ith the aim of raising awareness about the problem: abuses of power, sex, and conscience in ecclesial environments, the Commission for Prevention of the Conference of Religious of Bolivia conducted the second Seminar on Prevention Protocols and Policies, the code of conduct, the prevention of abuse of minors and vulnerable people. It was attended by 100 participants. Among them were priests, religious and lay people. The event was held from August 29 to 31, in the city of Cochabamba.

The three resource persons: Marie Inés Frank, an Argentinian laywoman, a canon lawyer, civil lawyer, and psychologist, member of the Commission for Prevention of the Gregorian University, and Ceprome; Fr. Álvaro Rocabado, a specialist in Canon Law and member of the Salesian Society of Bolivia; Susana Inch, legal advisor and member of the Commission for Prevention of the Bolivian Episcopal Conference, emphasized the legal, canonical, and criminal areas. They highlighted the importance of implementing prevention policies

and protocols for implementation in the activities of the church and congregations based on the legal and penal laws of each country, as well as on updated canonical regulations.

In addition, we must take seriously the updating of the aspects of crimes, the sanctions and obligations that are the responsibility of the authorities and the ecclesiastical congregations in the face of a crime committed, and the prevention policies that the whole Church, social works of congregations, schools, and

others, must take.

Bolivian legislation on criminal offenses in situations of abuse, civil liability, and administrative procedures in the country's institutions, the Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, as well as International Agreements on the protection and radicalization of child violence, compel us to denounce any type of violence against minors.

The State, through various public institutions, monitors, protects, follows, and penalizes abuse crimes in the civil penal code. Unfortunately, what is observed is bureaucracy and re-victimization in criminal cases, leaving most cases unpunished, both within the Church and civil society.

Despite being an uncommon topic, we have to face prevention with skill, co-responsibility, and competence and become apostles of prevention and promoters of the culture of care. It is urgent that ecclesial and religious institutions must



have the protocols to respond clearly and immediately to cases of abuse, disclosing and bringing to the attention of the employed staff and those who will be hired,

as well as volunteers who work or collaborate in the institutions responsible for children, adolescents, and vulnerable people.





# A JOURNEY TO THE ORIGIN OF THE CONGREGATION

**Sr. Marlete Francisca da Silva**

*Brazil*



**O**n September 10, 2022, I left Brazil, heading to France, for the course "The Lace is not yet Finished ..." at the Spirituality Center of the

Congregations of Saint Joseph in the city of Le Puy en Velay. I left a good deal of space in my baggage to welcome the experiences which would come from both

the resource person for the course, Sr. Jane Delisle, through her historical background of the origins, and through visits to the places of our origin - the sacred



*Sr. Marlete with the group of Brazilian Sisters at Kitchen in Puy*



ground, where Fr. Jean Pierre Médaille and our first Sisters walked and were, such as the kitchen.

As I arrived at Lyon airport and traveled to the city of Le Puy, I felt my heartbeat increasing. When I saw the church of St. Michel from afar at the top of the volcanic outcrop, I sensed an emotion that words cannot describe. Even now, I feel as if a new air is entering my nostrils and purifying my life and vocation as a Sister of Saint Joseph. I renewed my commitment to remain open to the Spirit and to experience and savor all that was to come. The days of the course were intense and each day brought its own beauty.

On September 19, it was time to take a few more steps on the pilgrimage and travel to Chambéry for from there the first group of Sisters of Saint Joseph left for Itu, Brazil, in 1858. As we passed by the mountains of

the city, our eyes longed to see the traces that would tell us: here are the footprints of the Sisters who boldly set out to refound the Congregation and with courage and a daring spirit crossed oceans and continents to sow the small seed "of the great love of God".

When we reached the city of Chambéry, where our Sisters reside, we felt immense joy. We sensed that we were diving deeper into the origins of the Congregation. I can say that I felt the same joy that I have when I go to my mother's house. We received a warm welcome from the women who take care for life there (the garden, the orchard and those in the house), with their tender looks, charming smiles, hands outstretched, and readiness to open up a space and welcome us to continue our experience.

We visited the different sacred places of Chambéry: the Mother House; the

Cathedral; the Church of Our Lady where Mother Theodore was baptized; the Hall of Memories; the cemetery and tombs of our Sisters, especially Sr. Benedicte de Vaublanc. We also visited the city of Moutiers with its museum, the Sisters' house, the Cathedral and the cemetery (where we could listen to Jean Paul, a layman, who lovingly presented us with a small book with the history of the congregation and a record of some groups that visited the museum in recent years). On the way to Le Bauche, we visited the church where our beloved Mother Marcoux prayed and we prayed in the cemetery where she is buried.

The Sisters in Belcombette shared with us about their life and mission in the Province of France and about the Intercultural project of the Bois Joli community.

Words fall short when the experience of the mission is done with the heart!

The mission continues...

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