

December
2018

That life may flow...

pour que la vie circule...



para que la vida circule

Congregation Website: <http://www.stjosephlyon.org>

94

EDITORIAL

During the last quarter of the year 2018, God has called us many times: it is good to reread these calls so as not to forget "the wonders that the Lord has done for us."

I would simply like to highlight a few points that seem to concern us more.

I think particularly of the Synod on "Youth, Faith and Vocation Discernment", the JPIC session in the Congregation, the canonization of Bishop Romero, the situation of Migrants in the world, various questions regarding the climate... and many other difficult situations in our countries: cyclones, violence, various forms of poverty... **You will find some echoes in the following pages...**

These happy events or these great difficulties really invite us to deepen our mission and to renew our commitment to serve the Lord and his people, according to our situation.

The *Synod* reaffirmed that communion is really missionary. "The fruitfulness of the proposals towards young people generally comes from the quality of the relationships of communion that are lived in the animation team. »

This seems important to me where communities are present among young people: Educational establishments, Hostels, and Parish Groups... But it is also about communion in the Community! In the homily at the closing Mass, Pope Francis offered 3 attitudes for young people, which can also challenge us: **to listen, to be a neighbor and to bear witness.**

From the *JPIC session*, we can retain the words: to raise awareness, to communicate, to commit ourselves at the local level... and even to "gradually become a 'green' Congregation..."

The Lord has repeatedly told us how much He is counting on us to manifest His presence and love to the men and women of today, to console, encourage and build a world where each person finds his/her place. The participants left confident that God is ever present with us to respond to his call, through our Congregation. Yes, "The Lord can do, in us and with us, far beyond what we can ask or imagine!" (Eph. 3:20)

To witness *the suffering of people* affected by cyclones, violence, migration, and poverty can't but lead us to make changes in our ordinary lives, to also simplify our lifestyle, so as to listen, be close to and make a commitment to share with others, fight against the scandal of poverty and injustice.

Martin MAIER, S.J., a German theologian, engaged for several years in pastoral work in El Salvador and a professor, presently at the Jesuit Social Centre in Brussels, speaks of 3 meanings of the word "poverty": material poverty (evil to be fought against), spiritual poverty (cf. the Beatitudes) and voluntary poverty.

These last two aspects are a call from the Lord to fight poverty and misery and an urgency today in the mission of the Church and therefore in religious life. This is what we decided to live during the General Chapter, then in the Chapters of our Provinces/Regions/Sectors.

To nourish this commitment, during this Christmas season, we could meditate, on the Exhortation on the Call to Holiness (Gaudete and Exultate) beginning with the chapter "In the Light of the Master" N°63 and following.

Celebrating Christ's coming in our humanity renews us in the gift of our lives in following Christ. "Let us allow Christ to shock us with his words, to provoke us, to challenge us to real change in our

lives, writes the Pope, "for the person who is faithful to God and who lives his Word achieves true happiness in the gift of self. ».

Happy New Year 2019, peace, joy, justice, to each of you and to each community
for the life of the world!

Sr. Catherine Barange

Our Mission in The Czech Republic

After 3 years of dialogue to prepare the guidelines, the General Councils of Lyon, Annecy and Chambéry (L.A.C.), opened, in January 2008, a "L.A.C." community in the Czech Republic where a community of Chambéry had already existed for about ten years.

Eastern Europe, after a long period of being underground under the yoke of communism, needed a religious presence to live the renewal of Vatican II. Karlovy Vary, 2 hours by bus from Prague, was the chosen city.

On September 13, 2008, after a few months of preparation for the language, the community was inaugurated: 2 sisters from Chambéry: Mary (Indian) and Angela (German), 1 sister from Lyon, Jasleen (Indian). Annecy participates in another way.

This community wants to live the culture of the Sisters of St. Joseph and be a sign of unity, hope and love, live relationships of reconciliation and preferably reach those who are excluded and marginalized.

In 2009 Mary returned to her country, then Angela in 2010. Following a new invitation in the Congregations, Rathy, (Lyon) arrived from India in December 2010. Then two sisters from Chambéry came in 2014 and remained for one year.

In 2015, Annecy and Chambéry could no longer send sisters for this mission, so the General Councils of Annecy and Chambéry decided to stop the L.A.C. community. Lyon remained to carry on the Mission.

Jasleen continued a ministry for the Roma migrant population; Rathy did nursing at a Caritas home for the elderly. Both also had many commitments in the parish: catechesis of children, youth, family visits and the community was a meeting place for many people and groups of prayer, yoga etc.

Their presence encouraged greater openness in the parish and many adults and young people took on responsibilities.

During these three years, it also became more and more difficult for us to find other Sisters for this mission: climate, language, administrative difficulties for a remunerated mission, less involved in active ministry in the Congregation.

After a period of discernment and reflection with the two Sisters, the General Council decided, with regret, to leave this mission in Czech Republic.

Over these last 6 months, the Sisters have been instrumental in preparing for their departure by initiating other people to continue certain ministries.

The thanksgiving celebration was celebrated on December 9, during Sunday Mass, followed by a social time during which many people were able to thank Jasleen and Rathy, before they departed for India on December 11.



We thank the Lord for what the Congregation was able to bring in the course of these past years and for what we have received in living the Mission in this region that we grew to know and love.

Sr. Catherine Barange

SESSION for Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Our meeting with the JPIC delegates from the Provinces/Regions/Sectors took place at the International Centre in Le Puy, France, from the 2nd to the 8th of November.

In welcoming us, Catherine Barange expressed her wishes: "May these days be enriched by each one's sharing and by our commitment, so that the culture of our Congregation in matters of justice, peace and environmental protection may be a source of life for the world".

Together, we remembered our membership in the St. Joseph Congregations' NGO, which is present at the United Nations, as well as its structure. (csj-unngo.org)

As Sisters reported on their country's reality and the actions they have taken, it was confirmed that we live in an interconnected and globalized world. It is painful to hear that, in whatever area we are, there is an increase of extreme poverty, migration, unemployment, sexual abuse, lack of quality

education, divided families, the plight of women and children, trafficking of persons, economic crisis, pollution and a lack of caring for creation.

The participants felt that this reality was a challenge that prompted them to take urgent action in face of all of this: a respectful reception of refugees and migrants, quality education and integration of children and adults from different backgrounds (physical, social,confessional), deepening the culture of encounter, reaction to the political and economic system that is beyond the human being, promotion of gender equality, family pastoral care with particular attention to children and the empowerment of women, reconstruction of the social fabric, call for non-violence and attention to new situations of poverty. This requires us to move forward in a lifestyle of poverty, mutual relationship, solidarity and ecology. At times, some experience risky situations in their own countries.

Reactions following the reports from each Province/Region/Sector:

"Each one's sharing is very concrete and affects daily life, especially that of the poor"

- "Good collaboration with people and other structures in our countries."
- "Inter-congregational communities are places where justice and peace are actualized."
- "We must ensure the integrity of creation, care for our common home."
- "The zeal and enthusiasm of our Sisters in England-Ireland and the Province of Europe: in spite of their age are admirable and that encourages me to carry on the mission".
- Called to "let ourselves be touched and moved by reality."
- "Environmental protection is mentioned in all reports."
- "Something that has not been expressed: what is our lifestyle?"
- Sister Odile Coirier, Franciscan Missionary of Mary, enlightened our path through her contributions. On the first day, we deepened the encyclical "Laudato Si". Odile invited us to share, using photos, the memories and links we have with the "mother land" of our childhood. We have seen how the land has deteriorated: it is no longer the one we admired in our childhood. In this encyclical, Pope Francis invites us to action, everyone has a responsibility to share; we can all be part of the solution, change our habits, but also our perception of life!

Then we looked at the role of the UN. This organization was created on October 24, 1945, after the Second World War which caused the death of 70 million people: there had never been a massacre like this one! Currently, 193 countries are members of the United Nations.

The role of the UN:

- Maintenance of international peace and security,
- Protection of human rights,
- Provision of humanitarian assistance,
- Promotion of sustainable development,

The UN offers us many opportunities for action. Odile invited us to make an intellectual effort to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the UN website: to learn about its action and, through the St Joseph NGO, transmit to the UN the reality of our countries. As members of the United Nations, they have undertaken to respect, protect and promote the fundamental human rights contained in

the various treaties, for example: racial discrimination, discrimination against women, torture, the rights of children, migrant workers and their families, forced disappearance, etc.



Every 4 years, the UN Member States are reviewed, for which 3 reports are prepared: one from the State, one from NGOs and one from civil society of the country concerned. A UN Committee visits the country to verify what has been reported; this Committee makes recommendations and monitors them to ensure that they are respected.

This "periodic review" is an opportunity for us; therefore, we need to be attentive to the date on which our country will be visited. Through the St Joseph NGO, we can send our report on the various violations in our countries. (The UN website indicates how to report.)

Sister Odile invited us to act in networks and to look on the Internet for NGOs in our countries that work in the same line, because one NGO alone does not have a sufficient voice, we must act with many others. She stressed the importance of working at the local level and, if it is not possible to achieve our objectives, to move on to the international level.

With Sr. Odile, we covered:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, translated into more than 500 languages.
- The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth
- The Millennium Development Goals

She gave us orientations to live the mission of a JPIC Facilitation Team:

- Expand our spiritual adventure
- Sensitize, raise awareness,
- Explore new possibilities.

She encouraged us to use the Social Doctrine of the Church: it is an essential element for evangelization.

The participants then expressed what caught their attention following Sister Odile's sharing:

- "I hadn't realized the amount of information available at the UN, or the scope of its work."
- "I have learned to be sensitive to the cry of nature and the poor, I want to be more sensitive to the integral ecology."
- "At the United Nations, men and women work behind the scenes to make a difference in the world, in my country; I was taking advantage of it without knowing it."
- "I, myself, must review the words and expressions to better integrate the reality of "Laudato Si" and make the connection with our Constitutions and our Charism."
- "I have hope in young people who are already changing the way they live and consume."
- "Spend more time reading to catch up and learn a lot of things on the Internet that will help me work better. »
- We exchanged on the basis of an ecumenical approach in view of a "Green Church": to analyze various points of our way of functioning: use of water, electricity, certain materials etc. for a better protection of creation.
- Each one is concerned in advancing in this reflection and seeing how to act in their country.
- Finally, we looked at how the Team will be able to function in living this Congregational mission.

The General Council appointed:

- Sister Arul Vinarassi ANTONISAMY, from St. Joseph Province - India - as the Congregation's Representative to the St. Joseph International JPIC Commission "IJPIC".
- Heidi AGUIRRE (Province of Mexico/Honduras/El Paso, TX), and Gracie SASCO (Province of Europe), to work with Arul to coordinate the JPIC mission in the Congregation
- These 3 Sisters form the "**JPIC LYON**" Team, in collaboration with the General Council.
- At the end of January 2019, each Delegate of the Provinces/Regions/Sectors will send her action plan to Rosa María Oviedo. Each one has committed to:
 - ✓ Deepen, in her Province/Region/Sector, the encyclical "Laudato Si" and the social doctrine of the Church.
 - ✓ Work towards the Development Goals,
 - ✓ Encourage the sisters to get involved in the JPIC apostolic community project,
 - ✓ Send short reports for the Congregation's website.

At the end of this formation session, Catherine re-commissioned us:

"May the Lord confirm in us that which was offered to us this week and what we have received from one another. »

We can remember the words: sensitize, communicate, commit ourselves at the local level... and even become, little by little, a "green" Congregation.

The Lord is counting on us to show his presence and love to the men and women of today, to console, encourage and build a world where each person has his/her place.

Thank you to each of you for your commitment!"

Sr. Rosa Marie OVIEDO

International Community

We take this occasion to express our gratitude to each one of you for your kind and loving support. We have appreciated the visits of Sisters Maria del Pilar from Mexico/Lebanon, Jasleen and Rathy from Czech Republic, Heidi from Mexico/Maine, Arul Vinarassi, Kirty Baxla, Mr. Selvaraj, Mrs. Mary Kutty, Sr. Cecily from India and Sr. Edith from Sénégal. These visits allow us to share on an international level. We continue to invite you all to drop in for a visit.

We have already been living together for five months and are becoming more familiar with our environment and clearer about our presence here in this multicultural area. As an international community, it is certain that our very presence as an Egyptian, Indian, French and American Sister of St. Joseph, reveals the possibility of living together in harmony. It surely does not just happen but we must consciously work at respecting our differences and being enriched by one another's gifts and talents. We believe strongly that our call to unity is what our Charism is all about and we are striving to put that in practice within our own local community.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Josette, Rita, Siham and Syria

Choose Life!

(Deuteronomy 30: 19)

Encouraged by our 2017 General Chapter Orientation: « *Deepen our common mission with the laity, discerning together the needs of our time and our responses* », and by our desire, as the Lebanese Sector, to share our charism even more with the laity and to accompany persons searching for their vocation (2017 Sector Orientation), we continue, with enthusiasm and hope, our mission of accompaniment in pastoral ministry at the Lebanese Public University and at St. Joseph Jesuit University.



Each year, the head Chaplain of the University's Pastoral ministry convokes the General Secretariat, formed by representatives from several congregations, laity and coordinators of each university, to reflect together on the theme, which serves as the guiding thread woven throughout all the year's activities. We want to help young people to seek, discern and choose

what makes them happy and leads them to be committed in the Church and in society.

This year, inspired by the Synod of Bishops on ‘Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment’ which recently ended, the chosen theme was discernment and was launched with this title: “Choose Life” (Deuteronomy 30: 19), tied in with the Principle and Foundation of Ignatian spirituality.

After having chosen the theme, a small committee was formed to elaborate the plan, program weekly activities and the important liturgical feasts. Several proposals at the theological, biblical, moral, ethical, human and spiritual levels were discussed, as well as audio-visual aids (songs, videos, photos, films, etc.) to help each university to weave, concretize its personal journey, with creativity, based on their reality.



During the year, we have activities gathering the students from all the Lebanese universities, whether public or private. These are powerful, moving moments of formation, cordial and ecclesial encounters ... that help to deepen the year’s theme. The various committees (spiritual, theater, music, etc.) are responsible in preparing these activities.

Here is a chart that summarizes our progress for this year in terms of common activities for young University students. The Principle and Foundation text is organized into several **axes of reflection to support both the theme and activity.**

It should be noted that youth committees, accompanied by a chaplain, prepare all these activities.

Activities of the University’s Pastoral Ministry	
Event	Text on the Principle and Foundation
November 22: Feast of the University’s Pastoral Ministry	Launching of the year and its theme
Christmas Recollection:	Creation: God gives life. The Christmas recollection is preceded by a novena, including nine daily Ignatian meditations, shared on social networks (Facebook, Anghami, Whatsapp...).
One weekend	‘God created human beings to praise, reverence and serve God’
Easter Recollection :	Death, a path leading to life. It is preceded by a meditation every Friday until the day of the Resurrection. These meditations are shared on social networks (Facebook, Anghami, WhatsApp...).

Sports Day	‘From this it follows that we are to use the things of this world only to the extent that they help us to this end and we ought to rid ourselves of the things of this world, to the extent that they get in the way of this end.’
Marian Procession	Choose the best with Joseph and Mary.
Hiking (Walk in nature.)	God created all other things on the face of the earth to help fulfill this purpose.
Summer Camp (4 days: Ignatian retreat and 10 days: formation and mission)	We desire and choose uniquely that which leads us more to the end for which we are created.

As Pope Francis says: « Young people now call us to join them in facing the present with greater commitment and to work against whatever prevents their lives from growing in a dignified way. They ask us and demand of us a creative dedication, a dynamism that is intelligent, enthusiastic and full of hope. They ask us *not to leave them alone* in the hands of so many pedlars of death who oppress their lives and darken their vision." (Opening Mass of the XVth General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops). **It is our continual desire: to choose with them, life!**



Lebanon Sector

Tears Mingled With the Flood Went Unnoticed

The natural calamity of the flood has taken a toll on peoples’ lives, and there is a sense of gloom on the faces of the victims as they waited in the floodwaters for more than twenty to thirty hours. Many lost their lives and several have fungal infections. Their homes are flooded; furniture can be seen submerged in water. It is a horrifying sight and we did not notice that as our tears rolled down on our cheeks, they

Flooded area of Kainagihri, Kutanaad



mingled with the floodwaters. That was the pain of our hearts at the sight of the people of Kerala floating on the water. Many stories of rescues tell us that most of them escaped in a fishing boat or canoe right in the midst of the raging currents of water. Together the villagers who probably didn’t even know each other stretched out their hands for safety of one another, what remarkable

courage in the face of adversity! It is unfortunate to see the disaster, which caused so much homelessness.

It was a journey through the flood with the flowing tears in our eyes that added many more drops to the ocean. Early dawn on August 27, we entered the border of Kerala. We woke up expecting to hear the chirping of birds with melodious music, the touch of a gentle breeze, the cooling air, the beautiful sunrise and the green nature. But when we opened our eyes, we experienced a heart breaking silence and sadness. The land was drowned in water, the green grass had turned yellowish, nature was lifeless, and people had faces filled with disappointment. There were no smiles and most of

them were anxious about their future.

We reached Alleppey, a beautiful

land surrounded by the Pumba River to join the bands of many volunteers who rendered their service to the flood affected victims. The IMS Fathers at the Dhyna Bhavan campus welcomed us, as we were to extend our service to the six hundred people who had lost everything and were in the flood relief camp. We found so much oneness among them. There was no division of caste, creed, colour or race. All lived under the same roof, ate the same food without any discrimination of the rich and the poor.



This was an emergency response providing relief materials to the flood affected by Kerala Flood relief work, sponsored by BREAD (Board for Research Education and Development) an NGO run by IMS fathers and supported by Scotland.

In the camp, volunteers rendered different services. Some distributed food and assisted the sick. Others packed the kits, cleaned the houses, visited families and did counselling, assessment and updated the data of two Panchayats(local Government body) so as to continue the relief work.



We had the chance of visiting and listening to many families who shared their painful stories of their sleepless nights and fearful past. They spent helpless moments as the water surrounded them and they were surrounded by plenty of water. The well, septic tanks, rivers, and lakes were mingled and the decayed body of animals, plants created a very bad odour. The poisonous snakes found shelters in their

People waiting in queue to receive relief materials



animals and even the life of their dear ones. Their They longed for a drop of clean drinking water as houses, which created a fearful atmosphere. Amidst this reality, we stood silently...not knowing where to begin and how to proceed. There were no answers for so many of our questions but we worked silently and brought a ray of hope. Still we hear the silent cry and deep sighs rise in the hearts of many will there ever be an end to these tears? Will there be rebirth to this beautiful land Kerala? Maybe it was nature's tears due to the heaviness of human sins. Today the Pumba River flows peacefully as though nothing happened, whether it knows the pain and destruction it caused to so many. We salute everyone who gave a helping hand to save the many lives and we stand holding our

hands together with our people in Kerala for a better tomorrow and journey with them into the unknown future with hope.

Our sincere thanks to our Provincial Sr. Nilmani Tigga and her council, to all our sisters in our Province for their prayerful support and encouragement to reach out to the people in Kerala.

Sr. Rani Paulose & Sr. Sindhu George
Nava Jeevan Province, India

Formation of Youth by Shanthi Nilaya Hostel Community

In the Synod that ended on 28th October,2018, Pope Francis said in the closing mass that the fundamental steps on the journey of faith is: To listen, to be a neighbour and to bear witness. Shanthi Nilaya Community, embedded with five members (four sisters and an associate member) are involved in this privileged God Given task of living the faith journey in each of the small and major decisions, concerning the youth of today. Shanthi Nilaya caters to the youth who live inside of the hostel of Fatima College, Madurai. The Spirit searches everything even the Depths of God. Shanthi Nilaya had been guided by the arm of God in its journey of faith synchronising with the Synod's call.

To Listen

In imitation of the God most High, who never stops listening, to His children, Shanthi Nilaya plays a Key role in active listening to the young minds. Students' voices are listened to, in and through the functioning of various committees, working through student volunteers. Volunteers act as a liaison. There is students' participation in management. Food for example, is charted out by the students, which then is communicated to the committee who in turn brings to the management.

To be a neighbour

Spiritual and psychological satisfaction forms the bases for healthy life. The community shows evangelical solidarity by being available to the young minds, especially from those who come from broken disintegrated families. They are understood and are pruned with gentle but firm ways. They are led to the glorious thought that all is well in their world. Leadership programmes, counselling sessions and inputs on the manner of handling life are conducted from time to time.

To bear witness

Young women are taught to live a life of truth, honesty and simplicity coupled with humility by word and example. Programmes such as street theatres, competitions on building fraternal community namely, verse writing, story writing and essay writing are organised to make students more effective and dynamic. The individual personal development is well taken care of by the hostel management, through group activities and management games. Overall development of the young ones is fostered here.



Thus Shanthi Nilaya is on the path of building a synod church. Young women thus are built by accompaniment and discernment. Concrete on its decision of the development of young minds, Shanthi Nilaya forges ahead to listen, to be a neighbor, and to bear witness. It is on fire here!

St. Joseph Province, India

Pilgrimage to France

It is a great joy for me to share with you my experience in France. I came for the session on the Charism in June 2018: 'The Lace is not yet Finished.' We were 27 participants.

On the first day of the meeting, I was surprised to know that I was the only Francophone in the entire group. I begin by quoting a story that touched me: "A boy and an elderly woman sat on a park bench every day in silence. One day, they shared their meal in silence. Upon returning home, each one shared that they had had their meal with God. » I pray and hope that each of us will meet God in others and in the Charism we share.

In the group, there was a wonderful ambiance; it seemed that we had already known each other for some time. I was very happy because I acquired knowledge and each person's sharing was very enriching. I was very happy to walk in the streets of Le Puy and visit Saint-Michael, Notre Dame de France, and the Cathedral... I was happy to see the reality of cooking because I always saw it on a map. Yes, it is a historical place, a place where our first sisters gathered to be warm, to have a meal, to be in community. It is a place sanctified by women who gathered there with the ardent desire to be united to God and to be a compassionate presence for the people of their time. This session allowed me to deepen my knowledge of the Charism of the Congregation: to be with my dear neighbor without exclusion, to work to better discover Christ present in each person.

Then, my "pilgrimage to Lyon" began with a visit to the heritage room, the Loyasse cemetery and the Basilica of Fourvière, and the "Vieux Lyon." I was able to meet several communities and see Sisters known in Africa: in Saint-Etienne, Francheville, Lyon, rue Bony, Paris (with Marie Jo I participated in a concert and was able to talk about Africa to her catechetical group: I was impressed by their different questions). I admired the beautiful mountain scenery on my way to Gap and continued the visit to N. Dame du Laus.

In Bourg, I visited les Vennes, rue du Lycée and Jasseron where I was able to answer many questions and give some news of Africa. In Messimy, I shared with the students who had contributed for the repair of the Zaba school pump and responded to many of their questions. What a joy to meet each other and to get to know other Sisters! Sisters Nicole and Jeanne Françoise showed me around Ars. There too, my joy was overflowing because the Curé d'Ars loved Saint Philomena, my patron saint.

I participated in two sessions at the Chatelard: one on spiritual discernment and the other on praying with the psalms, which I appreciated. Really the Lord is great for, at the end of each session at Le Châtelard in Lyon, I, an African woman found a "good Samaritan" who led me to la Croix-Rousse. It was also a joy to meet the Provincial Council members. I was very touched by the availability and simplicity of the Sisters to accompany me to the station during my travels.

The Generalate was "Pied à Terre" and I was very happy with my stay. When I would return from my travels, I would share how it went. Community prayer edified me. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you all.

May God grant you abundant graces!

Philo TOE - Burkina Faso

Mission Effectiveness



The Mission Effectiveness session was held at the International Center of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, between September 22 and 29, 2018 in Le Puy-en-Velay, France. The session was guided by Sr. Dolores Clerico. In all there were 17 participants from six different countries: 6 Brazilians, 2 Canadians, 1 French, 2 Indians, 4 Italians and 2 from United States of America. Mrs. Marykutty, from Kozhicode, Kerala, and I, (Mr. Tharigopala

Selvaraj), from Bengaluru, were the participants from India and we represented St. Joseph Province. Each participant was connected in some way with the Sisters of Saint Joseph as partners in the mission/ministries; either as Board members, Administrators, Employees (Teachers), Associates or Collaborators.

Three Translators assisted in the session: Sr. Ivani Maria Gandini (Portuguese), Sr. Maria Christina Gavazzi (Italian) and Sr. Simone Saugues (French). Sr. Eluiza de Andrada (Brazil) and Sr. Rita Bujold provided us with timely, delicious and sumptuous meals. The arrangements for our stay were excellent; thanks to the efforts of Sr. Eluiza de Andrade and Ms. Olga Bonfiglio, who decided to attend the session with us. So, Sr. Rita Bujold, who had come to be a translator in place of Sr. Simone Saugues, ended up in the kitchen.

As part of our preparation we were asked to share, "CSSJ History and Presence in Your Locale" and also on, "What are your hopes, expectations, fears or questions as you come for this session?" Each day of the session began with Prayer and reflection, followed by in-pur and interactive sessions; and it included visits to the historical sites in Le Puy and Lyon. The session covered several topics on history, charism and spirituality and our shared mission. The sessions were designed to provide learning; deepen the understanding; nurture imagination, hopes and dreams; and to strengthen our conviction in participating in the world wide movement, that aims in fostering union with God, with ourselves, with each other and with the Universe and in drawing all into one. The session turned out to be a pilgrimage as well. We walked in the very places our Founders and the Sisters of the "Little Design" once walked by totally immersing ourselves in their true spirit and simplicity; and, overwhelmed by the global dimension of the charism and spirituality of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Sr. Dolores stated that the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph was a compelling story and that the Sisters are still reflecting their mission, which was given to them in 1650, by trying to live it as best as they could. She stressed that it was not just the story of the Sisters of Saint Joseph alone. She underlined that it was our story too through our association with the sisters in the mission and that in some way everyone present in that room was part of God's plan. And that the story was still continuing to unfold. She emphasized that our shared story would have greater implications for how we live and work and for the entire society and wider world.

Sr. Dolores underscored that the spirituality and the mission of Sisters of Saint Joseph was an approach to life that finds resonance with not only those who profess belief in Jesus as Son of God but with anyone who acknowledges that there is some sacred thread or presence greater than ourselves; and also believe in the inherent dignity and oneness of all (human) beings. She went on to underline that the Sisters of Saint Joseph cannot accomplish that goal or live the mission, all by themselves. She extended an invitation to us and through us to other people, saying that the Sisters are in need of our life experiences and our vision to provide flesh to their efforts for the sake of God's people. She underscored that our part in the unfolding story was not just an appendix or addendum. She said that we were at the heart of the story and as collaborators/partners our relationship is mutual and interdependent; and that she was of the firm belief that we have something significant to offer one another. She acknowledged that all of us were endowed with the gifts, insights and ways of living the values that we had imbibed from our beloved Founders and our dearest predecessors and elders and are presently talking about; though we may not be conscious of them. She pointed out that somebody had already recognized the gifts that each one of us had and what it takes to be a leader. And so, she ended saying that we all have a common starting point and purpose in life. And the purpose in life was for fullness, connections and relationships within ourselves, so that we feel integrated; and also with God and with others.

My sharing will be incomplete if I exclude my experiences with the General Superior and her Councilors, our Sisters from our Province, who are now in France, the International community at Priest and others. We had the privilege of staying at the Generalate and it provided us an opportunity to interact with all of them very closely over meals and at other times. I am still pinching myself unable to distinguish whether it was just a pleasant dream or an inconceivable reality. For the first time in life, I had the privilege of witnessing closely authority being lived in humility and service. I was overwhelmed by the love, simplicity, genuine concern and care of the General Council, of the Sisters at the Community International, of the Provincial Council of Europe and the happy and joyful presence of Srs. Ignatius and Jeyapradha. Each and every interaction has impacted us and has left an indelible mark.

All the above wouldn't have been possible without the support and backing of the St. Joseph Province. At every step we were assisted, guided and encouraged by Provincial Superior Sr. Cecily Savariar and the members of the Provincial Council. I am personally indebted to Sr. Mary Francis Karakunnel and Sr. Soosai Vedamuthu, who frequented my home when they were in Anudhavana and planted a seed in me through their subtle approach and prayers. And we are greatly indebted to the prayers, best wishes, guidance of each and every sister and Associates of our Province. May God be their reward!

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God, our Blessed Mother, Our dearest Patron, Saint Joseph, beloved Founders and all the predecessors and elders.

Mr. Tharigopala Selvaraj
Associate St. Joseph Province

What We Have Lived In Regards To The Synod On Youth

Since Pope Francis announced the Synod and World Youth Days to be held in Panama in January 2019, in our Province of Mexico-Honduras-El Paso, we have been asking ourselves: how can we motivate young people to follow these events and get involved?

In his message, Pope Francis speaks of a sign of hope, which was also given to us towards the end of our Provincial Chapter, because we have made a commitment to accompany young people who seek to clarify their vocation, not only with a desire to have vocations but also to accompany those who are searching for greater meaning in their lives, at this historical moment in which we live.

We have scheduled six meetings ("Life Encounters") with small groups of young women, and we have used the preparatory document for the Synod on "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment".

With great joy, the young people shared the reality of their lives and their surroundings: their responses were very enriching. In their search, youth wish to be accompanied by the Church, by religious and by the elderly, but without prejudice, because they often feel that adults judge them because of the way they live and see life. Sometimes, they do not feel that the Church takes them into account because adults decide everything and do not give them their place. Amelia, a young woman in the group told us : "If the Church



asked our opinion on Catechesis and the Social Teachings of the Church, children and adolescents would grow up with a stronger faith and more in tune with the current reality. »

Young people believe that better and greater communication with adults is needed. They want to learn to be true disciples of Jesus, to act by faith and not money, to serve without seeking power, to be free to express what they think or want. This challenges our way of approaching today's youth.

In the Province, we want to accompany them by being close to them, by opening our homes and our mission projects. Our desires are made concrete according to the needs of the youth and the situation of each community.

The community of Cosmul, Honduras, accompanies young people in youth ministry.

The community of Tierra Blanca, Veracruz, hosts young volunteers who participate both in the life of the community and in the migrant shelter project.

In Soteapan, the community welcomes young women who wish to learn about religious life and work with Jesuit volunteers who are part of the pastoral team.

The senior sisters offer their prayers and lives for the young people.

At the end of the Synod, the Synod Fathers sent a letter to the young people in which they expressed their feelings as a Church: "It is to you, the young people of the world, that we want to turn and address you with words of hope, trust and consolation. During these days, we have gathered to listen to Jesus, "the eternally young Christ", whose voice reveals your own voices, your cries of exultation, your complaints... your silences too! »

Isaura, a young woman from Soteapan, Veracruz, shares her feelings about the Synod and this synodal letter: "In general, the Synod and this text give me joy and assure me that, as a Church, we want to walk together, share what we live as young people and recognize God's steps in the world. This space of openness within the Church, which does not hide fears, is a great message of hope that invites me to step outside myself and forget what is superficial in order to go to the essential.

As a Province, we have not yet reflected on the conclusions of the Synod. However, we wish to open not only our homes and projects but also our hearts to know how to listen, accompany and witness to God's love, so that our life and our word may be credible for young people.

Youth and Vocation Ministry Team

Mexico Province

Province of Europe

The 2017 session with the St. Joseph of Lyon network of School Directors had as its theme "Pastoral Care: Christian Identity in Dialogue" that allowed participants to re-read and reinterpret pastoral orientations for the school system.

This collective reflection on pastoral orientations benefited from the inspiration of the General Chapter and the Provincial Chapter 2017 "Rooted in Christ, with compassion and creativity, for the life of the world." In taking up, on the one hand, the applications for the Province of Europe with the common orientations of Sisters/Laity, and on the other hand, the new pastoral orientations for schools, we notice a mirror effect that we can translate simply through six dominant ones. In a modern society in search of meaning but certainly more in search of humanity, the pastoral

dimension in our schools is an essential vector in accompanying the youth by elaborating their life projects, life at the heart of which human relationship must find its place.

Pastoral Orientation for the School Population	Applications for the Province of Europe Common Orientations for Sisters/Laity
The Charism of St. Joseph	The Charism of St. Joseph
Pastoral care is rooted in the Gospel and in the charism of the St. Joseph Congregation of Lyon, characterized as “to receive the love of God, to work at what brings about the unity of all people with God and with each other, in simplicity and cordiality. »	Return to the sources to deepen the mystical and prophetic dimensions of our spirituality and allow ourselves to be seized by our charism.
The bond of love	The bond of love
To work for the union of persons with God and living and fostering the bond of love that unites God and humanity.	In tending towards the double union, weave true and right relationships with the 'we' who welcomes the 'I', the 'I' who gives a place to the 'we', in a creative tension, source of joy. The 'I' can be God or the person created in the image of the Father.
Diversity	Diversity
Welcome diversity with kindness.	Look anew at the other, "the dear neighbor" A look that contemplates in the manner of Christ in his encounters without staring down, but being attentive to reciprocity.
Fraternity	Fraternity
Make the educational communities more fraternal.	Have a renewed look at one another to grow in fraternity.
Humanity	Humanity
Guide members of the educational communities to move forward in a humane way.	Our Mission, rooted and nourished by the Double Union, calls us to live in humanity. Pay attention to aesthetics as a path to humanity. Awaken relationships with others so that everyone can grow as human beings.
Relationship	Relationship
Pastoral care manifests openness to all, promotes relationship, listening and dialogue in truth.	Respond to the needs of listening and speaking creates relationship, places us at the heart of the charism and commits us to live it.

	To stimulate the relationship with the other and to privilege the quality of this one through daily acts but also in organizing the structures.
--	---

The charism of St. Joseph is a gift, a legacy we receive, which sheds light on our Mission to provide tailored responses to the needs of time, that we must share in the context of any relationship and that we must transmit to future generations. Through our pastoral orientations, we must dare to share this charism, dare to assert our Christian identity, dare to go from the implicit to the explicit.

Mr. Philippe Antony

Participation in the Youth Forum – Egypt

The Franciscan Fathers prepared a forum for youth from all the Catholic dioceses of Egypt from October 11-15 2018. Its purpose was to awaken vocations.

Sr Madiha, member of the formation team, participated with the 2 young aspirants, Gihan and Marina, who are staying with the community to continue their high school education.

The topics that were discussed:

- Faith and vocational discernment
- Young people in today's world/ what does it mean to be young?
- Body and affectivity
- The call to follow Jesus Christ
- Spiritual accompaniment
- The call to holiness
- Sharing some of your experiences

Summary: we are called to be young people living in the heart of the Church.

- We are called to live our Christianity with pride, joy, and without fear.
- Our vocation in life is to give ourselves joyfully, to be witnesses, to be present to one another through service.
- Young people are the heart of the Church. God created us for others, to be life giving. "The Son of Man came to serve and not to be served."
- Let's try to live the culture of love, not to be turned in towards ourselves.
- Everyone is responsible for everyone
- Through listening, sharing, openness to the Holy Spirit, and through joy, we will bear fruit.
- My body is a gift, a grace from God; I receive it with joy because it is through my body that I strive for holiness.

- The Christian view of the body gives it its true value, for Christ became incarnate, "EMMANUEL."
- The danger of technology is that we can become enslaved when we can't do without it.
- Every vocation, every path raises questions....
- Great or small, young or older, each person has a mission, which says that we leave a mark where we've been.

Let us be happy with our choices in life; let us be faithful to them, happy with the present because God is the guardian of the future.

Other Information

50th Anniversary

Congratulations and God's Blessings Sr.Ana Rosa

Kindly excuse us for not including the name of Sr.Ana Rosa AGUILAR in the list of the Jubilarians last year.

Ana Rosa AGUILAR.	20.11.2018	La Margarita, Mexico
-------------------	------------	----------------------

New Address of Sisters at Dublin

Nazareth House Nursing Home

Malahide Ride, Clontarf, Dublin-3

DO3 KWO8, IRELAND

Telephone Number Sr.Yvonne Aziz.

00 20 127 311 2225

With much affection and gratitude, we prayerfully remember our deceased sisters.

"I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

30.09 2018	ESPINOSA Maria Auxilio	Bethania- Mexico
06.10.2018	GRANOTTIER Marie Stephane	Vernaison, France

07.10.2018	SABY Jeanette	Vernaison, France
11.12.2018	CHAGNON Cecile	15,Frawley St., Maine Sector

Joyeux Noël et Bonne année!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

¡Feliz Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo!