



• ROMA • JUNE 2026 • ISSUE 13

ENCOUNTER

Know... Grow... Flow into fullness

Called to Communion and Peace



VENERABLE MARY GLOWREY
(Mary of the Sacred Heart)



Declaration of
VENERABLE MARY GLOWREY
(Mary of the Sacred Heart)

CELEBRATION IN GHANA



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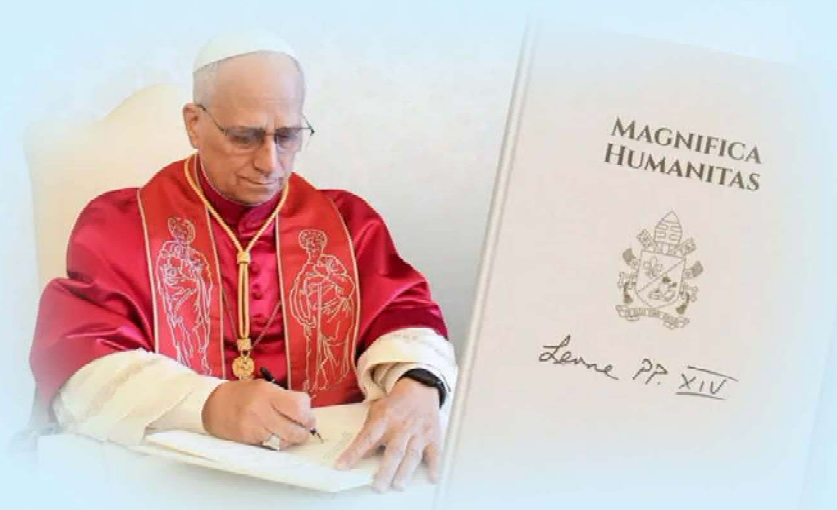
from the

EDITOR

We live in a time marked by profound contrasts. While technology has connected and transformed the world in unprecedented ways, many people experience loneliness and uncertainty. At this significant moment, ***Magnifica Humanitas*** (**Magnificent Humanity**) Pope Leo XIV's landmark encyclical on safeguarding human dignity, in the age of artificial intelligence *released on 25 May 2026*, invites humanity to rediscover the sacred dignity of every person and to build a world rooted in compassion, justice, fraternity and hope. Leo warns against *"the search for ready-made answers"* and the ability of modern technology to *"weaken personal creativity and judgment."* Its core message is that human dignity, created in the image of God, must always take precedence over technological advancement, corporate profit, and algorithmic efficiency. AI can imitate human behaviour, but it fundamentally lacks the conscience, empathy, feelings, affective, relational, emotional, and spiritual dimensions through which human beings grow in wisdom and that makes us human. The encyclical warns against a technocratic world and calls for AI to be disarmed. This "disarming" is not a rejection of technology, but a call to prevent its misuse and domination over human life. In a time marked by war, technological dominance and ecological concerns the encyclical calls for a renewed commitment to human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity and care for creation.

For religious men and women, it is a summons to witness God's love through a life of communion, simplicity, service and prophetic courage. It calls us to be the builders of peace, promoters of human dignity and signs of hope among those who suffer, especially to those on the margins.

For the contemporary world, the encyclical reminds us that authentic progress is not measured merely by economic or technological advancement, but by the extent to which we uphold human dignity, care for creation and foster a culture of encounter and mutual responsibility. It calls for placing the human person at the center of all decisions social, political and economic, thereby contributing to a more just, peaceful and compassionate world.



Religious life, too facing new realities. Aging communities, fewer vocations, cultural shifts, and changing apostolic needs invites us to rethink how we live our consecration relevantly. Yet these challenges are not signs of decline but opportunities for transformation. They call us to rediscover the freshness of our charism, deepen our communion and renew our missionary zeal. As JMJ Sisters, we are called to embody our charism with ever-greater adoptable apostolic availability.

Within our Congregation, we are journeying through a significant period of spiritual renewal as we strive to emulate the heroic virtues and selfless dedication of the Venerable Mary Glowrey. Her life challenges us to deepen our faith in God, to live in constant communion with Him and to embrace a spirit of sacrifice and wholehearted commitment to His will. Inspired by her example, we are called to witness to God's love through generous service, unwavering faith and compassionate outreach.

“Called to Communion and Peace” is the guiding theme of the **13th issue** of ***The Encounter***, offers a rich collection of inspiring articles, reflections and poems that beautifully reflect the spirit and mission of our Congregation. The sections **Wolff’s Vision Radiates, Mission, JPIC and Safeguarding Initiatives** present diverse yet interconnected perspectives on our charism, spirituality and apostolic commitment. **Youth Echoes** presents insightful reflections and inspiring poetry, giving voice to the creativity, enthusiasm and spiritual journey of our young sisters. **Wisdom’s Whispers** and **Myriads of Missions** bring together moving real-life experiences and mission narratives that touch the heart, deepening our faith in everyday life and ministry.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of our sisters, whose reflections inspire us to renew our commitment and live the Gospel with courage, compassion, and hope, becoming instruments of communion and peace in our world.

- Sr. Sushila Kerketta



“I loved that most wonderful sister of yours, I am so proud of that great Australian lady. One day she will be elevated to the Altars where the virtues of her life will radiate all around the world particularly for the benefit of doctors, who labour under the many temptations and false approaches today.”

(On Letter of Don Anscar OSB to Mrs. Lucy Connellan, dated 24 October 1967)

FOREWORD

Sr. MARY KARICKAKUNNEL
Superior General, Cong. JMJ



It is with profound joy and gratitude that I present the 13th issue of *The Encounter*, centered on the theme: **“Called to Communion and Peace.”** This theme touches the very heart of our Christian vocation and reminds us that every human person is created for communion — communion with God and communion with one another.

The source and perfect model of all communion is the Holy Trinity itself. In the mystery of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we contemplate a unity rooted in self-giving love, harmony, and perfect peace. As consecrated women living in community, we are called to mirror this Trinitarian communion (cf. Const. #38) through prayer, mutual respect, understanding, forgiveness, and joyful service.

We also find a beautiful image of communion in the Holy Family of Nazareth – Jesus, Mary and Joseph – the patrons of our Congregation. In their hidden life, we see relationships marked by trust in God, humility, sacrifice, patience, and peace. At the heart of this communion stands the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus — the source of infinite mercy and compassion. Through Jesus Christ, God’s call to communion reaches its fullness. We encounter Him in prayer, in the Word of God, and most especially in the Eucharist, the deepest sign of communion. Sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ, we become one body in Him and receive the grace to live as witnesses of unity and peace.

The present situation of the world makes this theme especially relevant and urgent. We witness nations at war, communities divided, families broken, and countless people living in fear, suffering, and uncertainty. In such a context, the call to communion and peace becomes a mission entrusted to each one of us. We are challenged to become instruments of reconciliation and bridge-builders in our communities, apostolates, and society. Today, more than ever, there is a deep need to pray earnestly for peace — peace in our hearts, peace in our communities, peace in the Church, and peace in the world at large.

In his encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that authentic peace can never be built apart from a profound respect for the dignity of every human person. He calls the Church and the world to foster a “culture of encounter,” where individuals are valued not for their usefulness, achievements, or social status, but for their inherent worth as children of God. In a time when technological progress, social polarization, and individualism often threaten genuine human relationships, the Holy Father invites us to safeguard the sacredness of every person and to become



witnesses of fraternity, solidarity, and compassionate presence. This vision resonates deeply with our call to communion. Every community that welcomes, listens, forgives, and accompanies others becomes a living sign of God's dream for humanity — a family united in love, justice, and peace.

This month also offers us the grace-filled opportunity to remember Venerable Mary Glowrey, whose birth anniversary falls on 23 June. Her life was a living testimony of communion expressed through compassionate service. By dedicating herself to the care of the poor and the suffering, she became a channel of God's healing love and peace.

As Pope Leo XIV reminds us in *Magnifica Humanitas*, the future of humanity depends on our capacity to remain deeply rooted in relationships of love, communion, and responsibility toward one another. May this issue of *The Encounter* inspire each one of us to become builders of that civilization of love, where every person is welcomed, and every life is cherished.

May the Holy Trinity remain our model, the Holy Family our guide, the Sacred Heart of Jesus our source of strength and peace, and Venerable Mary Glowrey our inspiration in loving service.

Let us continue to pray fervently and work courageously for communion and peace in our communities and throughout the world.



"Sr. Mary lead a common life but in an extraordinary way. She will intercede for all of us with God."
(Letter of Mother Assumptia van Ray JMJ to Mrs. Lucy Connellan, dated 15 June 1958)

A historic Day of Grace



Congregational Celebration of the Declaration of Venerable Mary Glowrey

Sr. Vijaya Udumala & Council
Guntur Province

The Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph witnessed a sacred and historic moment on 11 February 2026, at St. Joseph's Convent, Guntur. Sisters, clergy, and faithful gathered in great numbers to celebrate the declaration of Mary Glowrey as *Venerable*. It was a day radiant with gratitude, unity and deep spiritual joy.

This celebration found its deepest meaning in the recognition already granted by the Church. On 21st November 2025, the Church, through an official decree of Pope Leo XIV, solemnly affirmed that the life of Mary Glowrey was marked by heroic virtue, deep holiness, moral integrity and total self-gift to God and humanity. With this declaration, the Church placed her before the world as a model of Gospel living, worthy of imitation.

The celebration began prayerfully at the Mary Glowrey Memorial Prayer Hall, where the sisters entered into a time of silent adoration and thanksgiving. Recalling her journey of faith from Australia to India, from doctor to religious missionary, the Congregation felt renewed in their own call to serve with love and compassion.

The solemn gathering at St. Joseph's School grounds was graced by the presence of distinguished Church leaders: His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Archbishop of Visakhapatnam; Most Rev. Bhagyaiah Chinnabathini, Bishop of Guntur; Most Rev. Joseph Raja Rao, Bishop of Vijayawada; and Most Rev. Gali Bali, Bishop Emeritus of Guntur. 350 JMJ sisters from across the Indian Provinces, along with priests, religious, collaborators and faithful, created a powerful expression of ecclesial communion.

Adding an international dimension to the celebration, representatives from Australia, members of the Catholic Women's League, Melbourne were present, along with the grandnieces of Venerable Mary Glowrey, whose participation brought a deeply personal and familial connection to the event. Their



presence symbolized how her life continues to unite hearts across nations. The global spirit of the Church was further reflected through the representation from Rome in the person of Rev. Sr. Mary Karickakunnel JMJ, Superior General, whose presence strengthened the bond of the Congregation with the universal mission of the Church.

The Holy Eucharist formed the heart of the celebration. In a deeply inspiring homily, the Archbishop reflected on the heroic virtues of Venerable Mary Glowrey, inviting all to imitate her unwavering faith, her courage and her compassionate service to the most vulnerable. The Eucharist became a moment of profound thanksgiving for a life that radiated the Gospel in action.

A significant and grace-filled moment was when sisters renewed their commitment to God, inspired by the life of Venerable Mary Glowrey. Their vows echoed her spirit of total self-giving, becoming a living continuation of her mission.

The celebration was further enriched by a documentary presentation that beautifully portrayed her life and legacy, from her early years to her pioneering medical mission in India and her foundational role in the Catholic Health Association of India. The film deeply moved the gathering, awakening admiration and a renewed desire to follow her path of service.

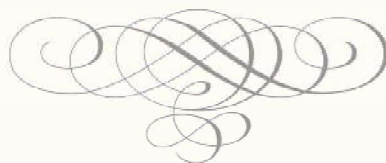
Adding colour, culture and a sense of heavenly joy, rhythmic dances performed by JMJ school children from Guntur Province, brought the celebration to life. These artistic expressions, filled with grace and devotion, reflected the joy of the Congregation and the living legacy of Mary Glowrey among the younger generation.

The welcome address and acknowledgements highlighted the tireless efforts of those who worked for the cause, reminding all that this moment was the fruit of prayer, perseverance and faith.

More than a celebration, the day became a spiritual invitation to deepen devotion to Venerable Mary Glowrey and to embrace her way of life: a life where faith meets action, and love becomes service. Her legacy continues to speak through healing hands, compassionate hearts and every act of mercy. She reminds us that holiness is lived in the ordinary, through extraordinary love.

As the gathering concluded, hearts were filled with gratitude and renewed hope. The Congregation of JMJ, along with the wider Church, now journeys forward with deeper faith praying that through her intercession, the path toward Beatification may soon unfold.

***May Venerable Mary Glowrey inspire us all
to love without measure,
to serve without counting the cost,
and to become instruments of God's healing in the world.***



Held by Grace *Living the Call*



Sr. Swetha Paresa
JMJ Prasanth Nilayam, Guntur

I feel deeply privileged to share my personal reflections on Youth Echoes, not just as an idea, but a lived experience that continues to strengthen my vocation as a JMJ sister. I am happy that the Youth Echoes gives a sacred space for the young JMJ sisters to express, listen and reflect the quiet movements of God within their hearts and inspire one another.

In today's world, despite the abundance of opportunities, there remains a deep sense of restlessness within the human heart. Many search for meaning of life, beyond success and recognition. In this context, consecrated life becomes a sign of hope. As a JMJ Sister, I am inspired by the pioneering vision of our Founder and called to witness to a deeper truth: that true fulfilment is found not in what we possess, but in the One whom we follow.

At the heart of our vocation, is a personal encounter with Christ. His invitation **"Come, follow me"** reaches into the depths of our being. This call unfolds gradually through prayer, silence, and discernment. My journey in following Him, has been marked by both attraction and resistance, moments of clarity and moments of doubt. Yet, I have come to understand that these struggles are not obstacles but part of God's transforming work within me.

The evangelical counsels shape my response to this call. Poverty teaches me to trust in God's providence, Chastity opens my heart to love beyond boundaries and Obedience invites me to surrender my will to God's greater plan. These are not mere vows, but pathways to freedom and deeper communion with God.

Community life also plays a vital role in my life journey. It challenges me to grow in patience, understanding and self-giving love. In a world where relationships are often fragile, I experience community as a space of belonging, happiness and transformation.

Every day I am reminded that my vocation is a continuous "yes". It invites me to listen deeply, to discern sincerely and to respond with courage. I am called to be a quiet yet powerful witness, carrying within me the peace and hope that come from a life rooted in Jesus.

Communion *and* Peace *in the modern age of* Technology *and* Gadgets



Sr. Sailaja Pendem

JMJ Jyothinilayam, Hyderabad.

Living in today's world of technology has deeply affected the way I see life, relationships and my vocation as a religious sister. Everywhere I look, people are constantly occupied with phones, social media and digital communication. Even very young children grow up surrounded by technology, often called the "Wi-Fi generation." We are highly connected through devices, yet many people seem disconnected from the persons sitting beside them. Families spend less time together, neighbours hardly know one another and meaningful conversations are becoming rare.

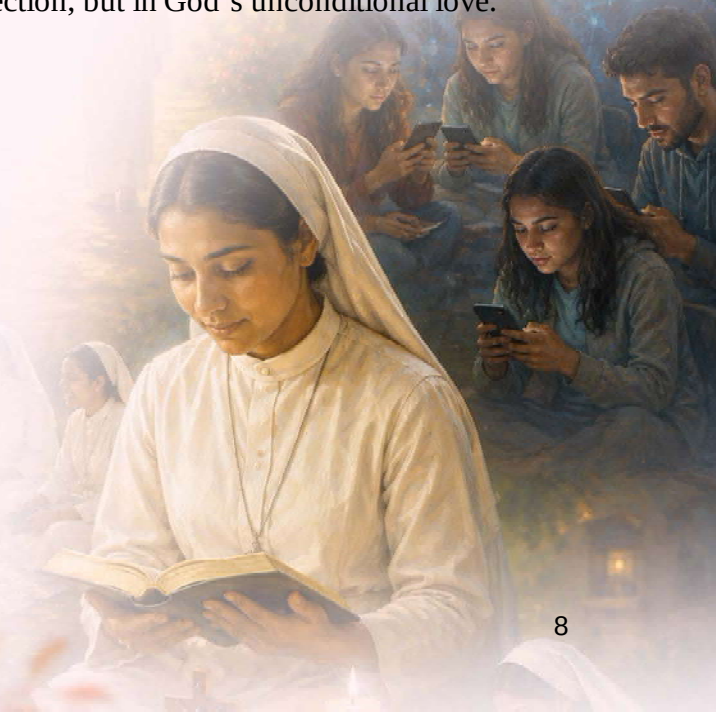
At the same time, I also recognize that technology is not entirely negative. It helps people stay connected across distances and makes communication easier within a fraction of seconds. Yet I often feel that while convenience has increased, interior silence and genuine human connection are slowly being lost. This reality has made me reflect deeply on my own life and vocation in the community living.

In this digital and noisy world there is need for silence. Silence is not emptiness; it is a sacred space where God speaks gently to the heart. In religious life, I realize how important it is to protect moments of silence, prayer and deep listening. When I become too busy or distracted, I lose touch with my inner self and with God's presence. Yet whenever I step away from constant noise and enter into silence, I rediscover peace, clarity and deeper communion with others.

As a religious these technology and gadgets challenges me personally. There are moments when I feel the temptation to become absorbed in

work, information or digital communication. But I understand that real connection in the community is not built through screens but through presence, listening, sharing, forgiveness and love. Living in the community teaches me to slow down and value the persons around me. It calls me to notice the joys and struggles of my sisters, to share life together and to remain attentive to God's presence in ordinary moments.

Community life also teaches me that happiness does not come from possessing more, but from sharing more. In a society that often values independence and personal success, religious life becomes a witness to togetherness and mutual care. I have learnt each day that love grows through sacrifice, patience, understanding and acceptance. The words, "Because we are loved, we love; and because we love, we become more worthy to be loved," have become very meaningful to me. They remind me that community life is rooted not in perfection, but in God's unconditional love.

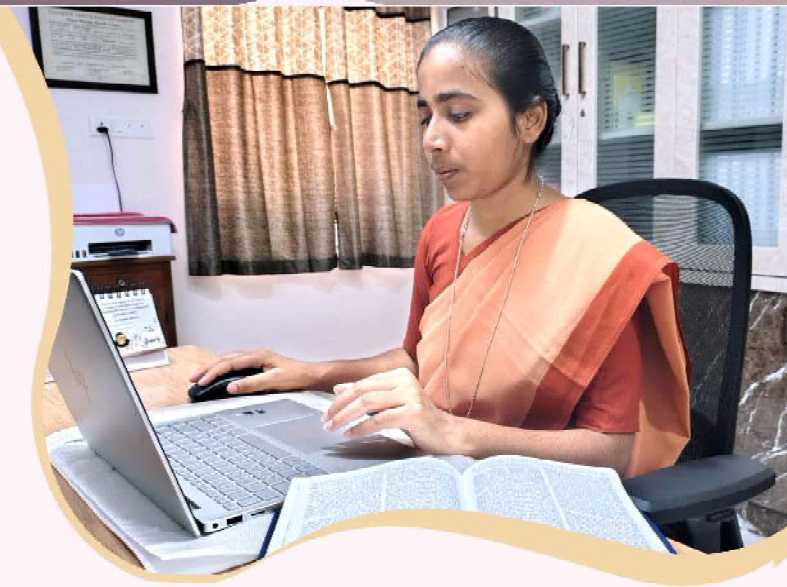


YOUTH ECHOES

Another important lesson I learnt is adaptability. The modern world keeps changing rapidly and religious life cannot remain distant from these realities. As religious, we are called to respond to the needs of the time while remaining faithful to our mission and spiritual roots. Technology can be used wisely for ministry, communication and service but it should never replace personal encounter, compassion and prayer.

Through these experiences, I understand deeply that my vocation is a call to become a sign of hope and communion in a fragmented world. While society often promotes isolation, competition and self-centeredness, religious community reminds me that unity and love are still possible. Our life may not be perfect, but it is authentic and meaningful because it is centered on faith and shared mission.

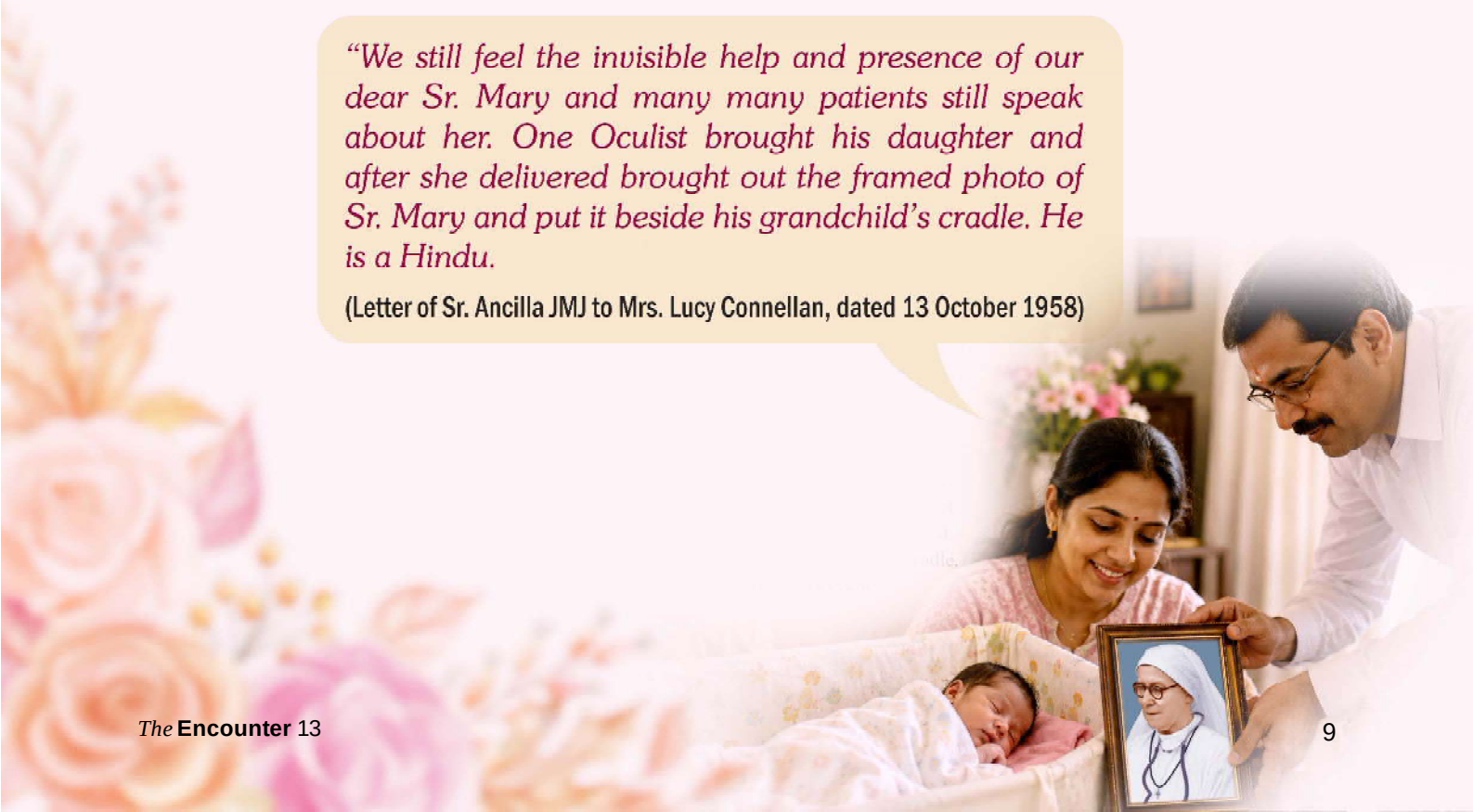
Personally, this journey teaches me to value silence, deepen relationships, remain rooted in prayer, and live with greater awareness of God's



presence. It reminds me that true fulfilment is not found in constant activity or digital connection, but in loving relationships, inner peace and faithful communion with God and others. In a noisy and divided world, religious life becomes for me a quiet but powerful witness that togetherness, simplicity, and love still lead to the fullness of life.

"We still feel the invisible help and presence of our dear Sr. Mary and many many patients still speak about her. One Oculist brought his daughter and after she delivered brought out the framed photo of Sr. Mary and put it beside his grandchild's cradle. He is a Hindu."

(Letter of Sr. Ancilla JMJ to Mrs. Lucy Connellan, dated 13 October 1958)



A Flame of Grace *Our Spirituality and Charism*



Sr. Jayamma Kottam
Hyderabad Province

In the silence where God softly speaks,
Our hearts awaken; our spirit seeks.
A gentle call, a sacred flame,
Whispering each one by name.

Not by power, nor by might,
But by His Spirit, burning bright,
We walk in faith, though paths are unknown,
Trusting in Him, we are never alone.

Our spirituality, a living stream,
Flowing from God's eternal dream,
Rooted in prayer, in love so deep,
A covenant we are called to keep.

In every breath, in every deed,
We serve the poor, respond to need,
For Christ is found in the least we see,
In broken hearts and humanity.

Our charism, a gift divine,
A sacred mission, a holy sign,
To heal, to teach, to gently guide,
With humble hearts and love as our guide.
We are the hands that comfort pain,
The voice that speaks in hope again,
The light that shines in darkest night,
Reflecting God's eternal light.

Through trials faced and crosses borne,
New strength arises every morn,
For grace sustains and love renews,
In every loss, new life ensues.

United as one, in faith we stand,
A chosen, blessed and humble band,
Bound by love, by vows we share,
A life of service, a life of prayer.

In quiet chapels, knees we bend,
Seeking strength that God will send,
In sacred silence, hearts align,
To follow His holy design.

Not for glory, nor for fame,
But to honour His holy name,
We give our lives in sacrifice,
A living gift, a love so priceless.

Our journey moves through joy and tears,
Through faithful years and silent fears,
Yet hope remains, a guiding star,
Reminding us of who we are.

Called to be vessels, pure and true,
Reflecting love in all we do,
With open hearts and willing hands,
We serve His will, His great commands.

Let our lives be a song of praise,
Echoing through all our days,
A melody of faith and grace,
Revealing God in every place.

O Lord, sustain our sacred call,
Be our strength, our all in all,
Let our charism ever shine,
A living witness of the Divine.

And when our journey finds its end,
May we in Your mercy ascend,
To dwell in peace, forever near,
With hearts made pure and souls sincere.

Whispers of the Young Heart



Sr. Priya Premi Hembrom
Bharat Mata Convent

My life as a consecrated person is far more than a path I have chosen; it is a sacred call from the Lord - gentle, tender and deeply personal - inviting me to belong completely to Him. It is an invitation to go beyond myself, to surrender my will and to enter into a life of deeper communion with God. My consecrated life is not simply a routine of prayers and duties; it is a journey of the heart, where every thought, word and action becomes an offering to God.

In the quiet of prayer, I learn to hear His voice in the stillness. In the laughter and tears of my sisters, I witness His love in the community. In simple acts of service, I experience the joy of being a channel of God's mercy.

Through this life, I have gained insights that have shaped my heart and mind. I have learned that faith is not a shield against struggles, but a light that guides me through them. Every challenge, moment of doubt and feeling of loneliness becomes an invitation to trust more deeply, to surrender more fully and to rely on God's providence.

In my life, I have learnt that true freedom is found not in clinging to the world, but in surrendering to God's love, which alone gives a peace that no hardship can take away. I have also learned that love is the foundation of every vocation. It binds prayer, service and community together.

My consecrated life nurtures values that have become the pillars of my existence. Faith sustains me, reminding me that I am never alone, even in moments of doubt. Humility teaches me to accept my limitations, welcome correction and rely completely on God's grace. Simplicity of life frees me from unnecessary distractions and helps me focus on what truly matters, a deep relationship with God and genuine communion with others.

Consecrated life is not without challenges. There are moments of doubt, times of loneliness and situations where sacrifices feel overwhelming. Yet, I have discovered that within these struggles lies God's hidden grace. Each difficulty teaches patience, resilience and trust.

Struggles are not punishments but opportunities to grow closer to God. They reveal the areas of my heart that need surrender and allow His strength to work through my weakness. I have come to understand that true peace does not come from comfort, but from trusting Him completely.

Amid struggles, I hear the gentle whisper of God's love calling me to deeper intimacy with Him. Consecration is a living relationship, a continuous dialogue between my heart and His. It is a journey of trust, surrender and love, where both joys and sorrows are shared with Him.

My vocation is not merely about duties or rituals, but about living a life of love in communion with God, with my sisters and with all those I serve. Faith is my anchor, especially when the path feels uncertain. Struggles refine me. They remove pride, teach patience and deepen my trust in God. Through faith and perseverance, I experience the peace which the world cannot give.

Witnessing Communion and Peace



Sr. Swarna Yeruva
Hyderabad

In a world increasingly marked by division, conflict, and isolation, the call to communion and peace becomes both urgent and deeply meaningful. Human beings are not created for separation, but for relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. This truth is beautifully expressed in the prayer of Jesus Christ: *“That they may all be one.”* (John 17:21). Communion, therefore, is not merely an ideal but the very purpose of our existence.

Peace, which flows from communion, is far more than the absence of conflict. It is a deep sense of wholeness and well-being. As Jesus Christ assures us, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”* (John 14:27). This peace begins within the human heart and extends outward into relationships and society. Pope Paul VI reminds us, *“If you want peace, work for justice,”* highlighting that true peace is rooted in right relationships and fairness.

As a religious sister, I have come to understand that fostering communion and peace is not about extraordinary actions, but about the quiet, faithful way I live each day. It is a lived *Spirituality of Presence*, something others experience through my presence rather than my words. Inspired by our founder, Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, I strive to carry the world in my heart, to find God in everything, and to listen more than I speak.

The *Spirituality of Presence* calls me to be attentive to the present moment, to recognize God in all things and to relate to others with compassion and openness. It is about *“being”* more than *“doing.”* In this, the words of Mother Teresa resonate deeply: *“We belong to each other.”* When I am truly present to others, listening without

judging, noticing those who are often overlooked and responding with patience, I create a space where people feel seen and valued. In such spaces, communion grows naturally.

Peace is also a daily choice. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely said, *“There is no way to peace; peace is the way.”* I am called to live peace in small, concrete ways, by choosing understanding over judgment, forgiveness over resentment and dialogue over silence. My time at Mater Dei, living with sisters of different congregations and charisms, has deepened this understanding. It has taught me to appreciate the unity in diversity, to respond rather than react, to forgive quickly and to take the first step toward reconciliation.

Prayer remains the foundation of this journey. In prayer, I bring the struggles, tensions and wounds of daily life before God, allowing His grace to transform them into opportunities for growth and healing. The prayer of Francis of Assisi becomes my own: *“Make me a channel of your peace.”*

Ultimately, the witness of life speaks louder than words. Living simply, remaining consistent, and being faithful even in challenges, gives authenticity to my mission. As Henri Nouwen reminds us, *“Community is the place where the person you least want to live with always lives.”* Yet it is precisely in such moments that communion is deepened and peace is formed.

In the end, through the spirituality of presence, prayer and love, I am called to become a humble instrument of communion and peace in the world.

A Vision of the Healing Mission Conversation Between Fr. Mathias Wolff and Sr. Mary Glowrey



Sr. Santhosh Mary Michael
Bangalore



- Fr. Mathias Wolff** : Sister Mary, our work on earth has ended, yet the mission continues. Do you see how it has grown?
- Dr. Mary Glowrey** : Yes, Father. What began as small acts of care has become a living legacy. Clinics and countless hands serving the sick—especially the poor.
- Fr. Mathias Wolff** : And still, the need remains great. India's villages cry out for compassionate care. The mission is far from complete.
- Dr. Mary Glowrey** : That is why others have been called. The JMJ sisters, the doctors, the nurses—they carry forward what we once began. But they must remember healthcare is not merely service; it is love made visible.
- Fr. Mathias Wolff** : What would you say to them now, if they could hear you?
- Dr. Mary Glowrey** : I would tell them: Do not lose the spirit of tenderness. Skills and knowledge are essential, but without compassion, they are empty.
- Fr. Mathias Wolff** : And I would remind them: See Christ in every patient. Whether rich or poor, each person is sacred.
- Dr. Mary Glowrey** : They must also be courageous. Healthcare in mission lands is not easy, resources are scarce, and the burdens are heavy. But grace is always sufficient.
- Fr. Mathias Wolff** : Yes. And they must work together religious and lay people alike. The mission belongs to all.
- Dr. Mary Glowrey** : Do you think they hear us, Father?
- Fr. Mathias Wolff** : Perhaps not with their ears, but with their hearts.
- Dr. Mary Glowrey** : Continue the healing mission. Let no one be turned away. Let love guide every decision.
- Fr. Mathias Wolff** : And trust that even the smallest act of care has eternal value.

A Fictional Dialogue Between Sr. Mary Glowrey and A JMJ Sister On Healthcare Mission in India

Sr. Santhosh Mary Michael
Bangalore



Sr. Mary Glowrey: Sister, I watched you today with those patients - your patience seems endless. How do you sustain such strength?

JMJ Sister: Sister, the strength comes from seeing Christ in each person. When a suffering mother finds relief, or a child smiles again, it renews my purpose. But I must admit, the needs here can feel overwhelming.

Sr. Mary Glowrey: Yes, India's vastness carries both beauty and deep suffering. When I first arrived, I thought preaching alone would be my mission. But soon I realized healing the body opens doors to healing the soul.

JMJ Sister: Exactly. Healthcare is not separate from mission; it is mission. Many who come to the hospital may never enter a church, but here they encounter compassion, dignity and hope.

Sr. Mary Glowrey: You speak of a holistic ministry. The Gospel lived through action. Yet, I often wonder - how do we balance limited resources with such immense demand?

JMJ Sister: We begin with what we have. A simple clinic, basic medicines and above all, presence. Even when cures are not possible, care itself becomes a powerful witness.

Sr. Mary Glowrey: That reminds me - today I met a man who walked miles just to receive treatment. His faith in this mission is profound.

JMJ Sister: People here trust deeply. That trust is sacred. It calls us to serve with integrity, humility and excellence. We must also train local nurses and doctors - the future of this mission lies with them.

Sr. Mary Glowrey: Indeed. Empowering the local community ensures the mission endures beyond us. It transforms charity into partnership.

JMJ Sister: And partnership into justice. Healthcare should not be a privilege of the few. In India, especially in rural areas, access is often the greatest challenge.

Sr. Mary Glowrey: Do you ever feel discouraged?

JMJ Sister: At times, yes. But then I remember-every life touched matters. Even if we cannot change the whole system today, we can change someone's world.

Sr. Mary Glowrey: That is the essence of mission, isn't it? Faith expressed in small, faithful acts.

JMJ Sister: Yes, Father. And perhaps one day, these small acts will inspire larger change-better hospitals, trained professionals, and a healthcare system rooted in compassion.

Sr. Mary Glowrey: May that vision come to fruition. Until then, we continue-one patient, one prayer, one act of love at a time.

JMJ Sister: Amen.



A Journey Through Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Cork, Ireland

Sr. Kavya Raikanti
Belgium



As part of my PhD programme at KU Leuven University, Belgium, I undertook an intensive course of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Cork University Hospital in Ireland. I stayed with the Presentation Sisters at North Presentation Convent who warmly welcomed me. Through them, I experienced not just hospitality, but something far deeper: acceptance, tenderness and a profound sense of being cared.

The programme began on 21st January 2026 and concluded on 2nd April 2026. Each day began early, as I would leave the house by 7 a.m., travelling by bus through cold winds, rain and often harsh weather conditions and returning only around 7 p.m. The long hours, physical fatigue and emotional engagement in the hospital environment required perseverance, discipline and inner resilience. Yet, in the midst of these challenges, I experienced a quiet and sustaining grace. What initially appeared demanding gradually became deeply meaningful. At the end of these three months, I felt a profound sense of joy and fulfilment. It felt like a special gift, a “bonus” within my first year of doctoral studies. I realised that I had not only completed a course but had truly used my time meaningfully, growing both personally and spiritually.

I felt especially blessed to be in Cork, a place that holds a unique connection to our Congregation. Knowing that the roots of the paternal grandparents of Venerable Sister Mary Glowrey are from this very city. I could only thank God for His unfolding plan.

My journey through Clinical Pastoral Education profoundly reshaped my understanding of ministry and transformed the way I perceive the human person in suffering. What began as a learning

programme gradually unfolded into a sacred encounter - a journey into the depths of human pain, resilience, faith and healing. For me, it became far more than an academic or pastoral requirement; it evolved into a deeply spiritual experience that continues to resonate within my heart.



Clinical Pastoral Education is a unique form of theological and pastoral training that integrates theory with real-life ministry. It originated in the early twentieth century through the pioneering work of Anton Boisen, who believed that theology must be grounded in lived human experience, especially in the context of illness and suffering. He introduced the powerful concept of patients as “living human documents,” emphasizing that every individual carries within them a story, one

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that reveals deeper truths about life, suffering, faith and hope. CPE, therefore, is not simply about learning what to do, but about understanding how to be present, attentive, compassionate and authentic in the midst of human vulnerability. One of the most enriching aspects of this journey was the formation process itself. We were a group of five students, guided by a trained director Dr. Daniel Nazum and a supervisor, Stephen Wilson. The groups are intentionally small, allowing each participant the space to reflect, grow and receive personal guidance. Our learning was deeply experiential. We engaged in pastoral visits with patients, group reflections, verbatim presentations and had theological as well as philosophical case studies. Through peer feedback and the careful guidance of our director and supervisor, we were gradually formed not only in pastoral skills but also in self-awareness and emotional maturity.

We learned essential competencies such as deep listening, empathy, respect for diverse beliefs and cultures, accompaniment of the sick and the dying, support for grieving families, and the ability to lead prayer in sensitive and inclusive ways. As Henri Nouwen beautifully writes, those who truly matter in our lives are often those who choose to share our pain and touch our wounds with tenderness. This insight captures the very heart of chaplaincy a ministry I encountered deeply and began to embody. One of the most striking aspects of chaplaincy at the hospital was its inclusive and collaborative nature. The chaplaincy team

consisted of Catholic priests, lay chaplains, both men and women and ministers from various Christian traditions, including the Church of Ireland and Protestant communities. This multidisciplinary and multifaith model opened my eyes to a broader vision of ministry, one that transcends boundaries and focuses on the shared human need for care, dignity and meaning. It challenged my earlier assumptions and invited me to see chaplaincy not as the responsibility of one group alone, but as a shared vocation.

In the hospital wards, I encountered people facing immense suffering, serious illness, loneliness, fear and uncertainty. Each patient became, for me, a “living human document,” revealing truths that no classroom, no textbook and no library could ever teach. In the beginning, I felt overwhelmed, as I had never witnessed such depth of suffering earlier. There were moments when I questioned whether would I be able to continue? Yet gradually, I learned to remain present. I discovered that ministry is not about providing answers, but about offering presence. In many situations, I could not change the condition of the patient, but I could be with them in their pain and that presence itself became a source of healing.



One of the most touching moments of my journey was, when a patient recognized my identity not through my dress or introduction, but through my presence. She said, “From your kindness and gentleness, I can sense that you are a religious sister.” This filled my heart with deep joy. It reminded me that our true identity is revealed, not

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through titles, dress or achievements but through the love we carry within us. As Mother Teresa reminds us, we are called not to do great things, but to do small things with great love. Another patient told me that he would remember me because of my smile. That simple statement revealed the power of small gestures. A smile, a kind word, or a gentle presence can bring hope even in the darkest moments. In places filled with suffering, these small acts become powerful signs of healing.

This journey transformed me deeply and made me become aware of many blessings, especially the gift of health. I encountered patients who, despite their suffering, expressed deep faith and gratitude to God. Their strength inspired me and their faith humbled me. This experience awakened in me a new vision.



by diversity of faiths, languages and cultures. Yet every new mission begins with a vision. With openness, collaboration and proper formation, we can create spaces of healing, dignity and compassionate accompaniment in our own hospitals. At the end of each day, I felt a quiet sense of fulfillment, not because I had done something extraordinary, but because I had simply been present to those in need. Amid the busyness of the hospital, I discovered a sacred space where God is present in suffering, silence and simple acts of love. As I complete my first unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, I carry with me not just knowledge, but a transformed heart which is only the beginning of my journey.

Finally, I bow my head in deep gratitude to God, the source of all grace, who has guided me, strengthened me and gently led me through this beautiful transformative journey. I am ever grateful to my congregation, especially to Sr. Mary Karicakunnel our Superior General and her Council, for placing their trust in me and giving me this precious opportunity to go beyond boundaries to learn something new. Without their encouragement, support and confidence in me, this journey would not have been possible. I remain deeply thankful for this opportunity, which has not only enriched my academic life but also deepened my understanding of ministry and mission.



In our congregation, healthcare ministry is prominent. This journey invites us to explore a new dimension of training sisters as professional chaplains. Inspired by my Professor Anna Vandenhoeck, I began to see chaplaincy as a meaningful and necessary mission. Certainly, there will be challenges, especially in contexts marked

Called to Communion - Sent in Obedience

Sr. Siji Joseph Vattamattathil
Bharat Mata Convent



*In a world divided by anger and fear,
God's gentle calling we still can hear:
"Come into communion, walk in My way,
Be My peace in the world today."*

*Not just to gather, not just to pray,
But to listen deeply and humbly obey;
To seek His will in all we do,
With hearts made open, faithful and true.*

*Our call is not comfort, steady and still,
But a journey of trust in God's holy will;
To move when He calls, to stay when He says,
To walk in surrender all of our days.*

*Ever available, ready to go,
Wherever the signs of the Spirit may show;
To places of pain, to lives torn apart,
Carrying love in a listening heart.*

*Communion is built in simple ways
In patient care, in quiet days
In choosing to forgive, to understand,
In reaching out with a gentle hand.*

*When we leave behind our pride and name,
And seek not power, nor worldly fame,
We become bridges, strong and wide,
Where broken hearts can safely abide.*

*Peace is not silence, empty and weak,
It is the courage to love and to seek;
To stand with the poor, the lost, the small,
And see God's presence within them all.*

*In every mission, in every place,
We search for God with attentive grace;
Not fixed in plans, but open and free,
To shape our lives in His mystery.*

*This is our charism, living and bright-
To follow His will as our guiding light;
To serve with joy, to give, to release
And become true witnesses of His peace.*

*For we are sent, in obedience and love,
Guided by grace from heaven above-
To be His presence, gentle and true,
Bringing His peace in all that we do.*

Tribute to Sr. Laetitia JMJ A Grace - Filled Encounter at her Final Journey



Sr. Mary Sanjukta Ekka
Belgium

The 2nd of April 2026 became a moment of unexpected grace in my life journey. Sr. Anitha K. and me travelled together to the Netherlands for the funeral service of our dear Sr. Laetitia Aarnink.

Months earlier, during our visit to Heeswijk on 31 October 2025, we had hoped to meet our Dutch sisters, but due to late communication and a private community celebration, it was not possible. I carried a quiet sorrow and an unspoken longing for deeper connection within our congregation. God transformed that sadness into grace on the day of Sr. Laetitia's funeral.



On our arrival, Sr. Theresia Supriyati the Superior General, the Dutch and Indonesian sisters welcomed us with warmth and openness. Their affection and acknowledgement of our presence and their gratitude for the condolences sent by our Superior General Sr. Mary Karickakunnel and Council, fostered a profound sense of communion strengthening our bonds. It felt as though God Himself was gently knitting us together as one JMJ family, healing our past experiences. This simple encounter reminded me that communion is both a gift and a responsibility, nurtured through humility, listening and openness.

Laetitia Aarnink was not only a devoted religious sister of the Congregation of JMJ, but also a woman of profound spiritual wisdom, intellectual depth and prophetic courage. Her life became a bridge between contemplation and mission, scholarship and pastoral care, tradition and renewal. Her theological reflections were never merely academic; they flowed from prayer, contemplation and attentive listening to the realities of human life.

Sr. Laetitia also contributed immensely to the empowerment of women within the Church. Through her scholarship and leadership, she opened spaces where women's voices, experiences and theological insights could be heard and valued. In an era when women theologians often faced limitations and resistance, she stood with courage and conviction, demonstrating her wisdom and leadership to the dignity and vocation of women in the Church.

Within the JMJ Congregation, her contribution was invaluable. As co-author of the congregational document *Sent by the Lord*, she helped articulate our charism in a way that remains relevant to the

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contemporary world, encouraging interculturality, dialogue and collaboration in mission.

Although I had never met Sr. Laetitia personally, listening to the tributes during her funeral helped me appreciate the richness of her life and mission. Born in 1935 and the eldest of nine children, she entered JMJ at the age of seventeen with a deep desire to proclaim the Word of God. Supported by Mother Johanna, she studied theology in Nijmegen and became part of a founding member of the Titus Brandsma Institute. Through her pastoral ministry, retreats, courses and more than 130 articles, she shaped the spiritual landscape of her time.

The presence of so many faithful at her funeral testified to the countless hearts she had touched during her earthly journey. The procession from the residence to the cemetery felt profoundly solemn. As we walked, I sensed a deep gratitude, communion and peace settling within me, a quiet awareness that her life and legacy had become a blessing for our entire JMJ family. After the

funeral, we spent precious time with our senior sisters, sharing about our mission and studies. It was a quite surprise when Sr. Theresia Supriyati told us, “You are most welcome to visit us now and then,” we felt a renewed sense of belonging. It was as though Sr. Laetitia’s passing had opened a new threshold of peace, unity and communion within our congregation. Our Dutch Sr. Gre Pronk and Sr. Trees Berendsen, expressed the same joy. At that moment, I understood more deeply our call to be witnesses of unity, forgiveness and solidarity, building bridges in a world longing for peace.

As Sr. Laetitia completed her earthly mission, she left us a precious gift: a call to be born again in Spirit and Truth (cf. Jn 3:5-6). For the JMJ family, her passing is not simply the loss of a senior sister; it is the passing of a torchbearer. Her life reminds us of our shared heritage as daughters of Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, a heritage of love, unity and peace. We rediscovered who we are to one another: one family, one spirit, one mission and called to communion and peace.



A Journey of Faith and Grace

Sr. Francina Savariappan

St. Ignatius Convent, Durgi



When I look back on my life, I see a sacred journey shaped by God's loving presence. My years in religious life as a JMJ sister have been filled with both challenges and blessings, each contributing to my growth in faith and love.

In my younger days, I embraced this vocation with enthusiasm and a generous desire to serve. I had many dreams and was eager to give my life for others. However, as time passed, I encountered difficulties, moments of uncertainty, responsibilities that demanded patience and sacrifices that tested my commitment. There were times when my efforts seemed unnoticed and the path unclear. Yet, in those very moments, I experienced God's quiet strength and the encouragement of my superiors and sisters.



The blessings in my life as a JMJ sister have been abundant. Serving the young and the needy brought me deep joy. Every person I met became a teacher and every situation helped me grow in humility and trust. Gradually, I realized that God was working within me, shaping my heart through each experience making me better each passing day.

Now, I see aging as a grace-filled stage of life. It is not a time of decline but of deepening. I have learned to appreciate silence, to value presence and to find God in the ordinary moments of life. What matters most is not how much we do but how deeply we love.

My vocation continues to be nourished by prayer, the Eucharist, the Word of God and the inspiring example of our sisters. Rooted in the Charism of our Founder, I strive to live with simplicity, compassion and trust in Divine Providence.

Today, I continue my mission through small acts of love, kindness and fidelity. Though my body may grow weak, my spirit remains alive and renewed each day. As JMJ sisters, we are called to remain faithful, trusting that God leads us at every step.

With gratitude, I continue to pray: "Hold my hand, Precious Lord, lead me on."

A Quiet Yes That Endures

Now, at 84 years of age, when I look back on my life as JMJ, my heart fills with deep gratitude. My journey in the JMJ Congregation has been a path of grace, shaped through simple beginning, many struggles and countless blessings. I was born in a small village in Ananthapur District of Andhra Pradesh, where faith was part of our daily life. Though I was not regular in school, God had His own plan for me.

My vocation began through the inspiration of my neighbour and companion, Sr. Herminia Mumadi. Together, we entered the JMJ formation, trusting in God's call. From that moment, my life became a journey of service across different missions. One such unforgettable experience was during my mission in Nagaland in 1979, where I witnessed great suffering after a natural calamity. Amidst that pain, I encountered God in a profound way. It was there I truly understood the compassionate spirit of our Founder, calling us to be instruments of love and hope.

In my early years in JMJ, I was filled with zeal and enthusiasm. I desired to do great things for God. But over time, I realised that vocation is not only about doing, but about becoming. There were moments of difficulty in community life, times when prayer felt dry and occasions when obedience was challenging. Yet today, I see that these struggles deepened my faith and strengthened my trust in God.

Now, in my later years at St. Joseph's Guntur, my vocation continues in a quieter form. I serve through prayer, listening and offering my limitations to God. This "hidden apostolate" has

become my way of loving. Even in weakness, I experience God's strength.



I find joy in accompanying younger sisters, sharing with them the assurance that God remains faithful. My "yes" today is not as active as before, but it is deeper and filled with peace. I thank God for the gift of my vocation and for the grace to live it each day as a JMJ sister.



Sr. Henricia Konreddy

St. Joseph's Convent, Guntur

A Quiet Flame of Mission: The Life and Legacy



Sr. Sophia Thaikkatil

JMJ Prasanth Nilayam, Guntur

As I reflect on my life journey, I see it as a silent yet powerful testimony of God's faithfulness. I was born in Kuriachera, Kerala, and from my younger days I felt a deep attraction toward the missionary call. With a heart filled with zeal, I left behind all that was familiar in the 1960s and came to Guntur. Though I did not cross oceans, I crossed something greater - the boundaries of comfort, fear and self to become a missionary among the poor.

My journey did not begin in ease, but in trial. Soon after my arrival, I became seriously ill and was placed in isolation on a hospital veranda near a mortuary. For ten long days, I lay there in the shadow of death. Yet those days became days of grace for me. I did not experience fear, but care. I did not feel abandoned but deeply accompanied by God's quiet presence. I realized that difficulties are not obstacles to vocation but sacred moments where God deepens our commitment.

There was another unforgettable moment during one illness. I was unexpectedly attacked by a monkey, pressing against my throat. I was alone and weak and I could not cry out for help. In that helplessness, I turned inward to prayer. Holding tightly to my Rosary, I surrendered myself completely to God. In a sudden and mysterious way, the monkey withdrew. That experience taught me forever that when human strength fails, divine grace prevails.

My mission found its deepest meaning in Thumala, among the Yanadi people, where poverty and neglect were severe. It was there that I lived my own "Exodus." During the terrible cyclone of 1977, I chose not to run away but to remain with the people. As the winds tore apart our shelter, we stood together in prayer. In that darkness, I understood that sometimes the greatest gift a

missionary can offer is simply presence - standing with people in their suffering and trusting in God.

After the cyclone came years of patient labour. I tried to walk with the people, encourage education, restore dignity and build hope step by step. Today, when I see children from that once-forgotten colony standing in places of honour and responsibility, my heart overflows with gratitude. It reminds me that mission is not about great achievements but about love faithfully poured out each day.

Now, even in the later years of my life, I remain joyful and available to God's call. My life has taught me one simple truth: to be a missionary is to remain open to God, to people and to the needs of the time. If there is any light in my journey, it is only the light of Christ shining through weakness. I thank God for allowing me to be a small instrument of His love.



Growing in Grace Along Life's Path



Sr. Mariam Jojo

JMJ Convent, Varanasi

Whispers of wisdom first reached me through my dear parents. Whether I fully understood them at the time or not, I followed their guidance in simple obedience. This seed of wisdom, sown as faith, began to take root in my childhood, eventually blooming into a personal realization: The call of a vocation to religious life.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16). I was like simple clay in the hands of a potter or an unshaped piece of wood in the hands of a sculptor. Through the Congregation of MJM God shaped me into a vessel of hope and a masterpiece for His Vineyard. As a pioneer from the unknown lands of Odisha, God chose me and planted me in the MJM family. At the start, I knew nothing of MJM but soon I discovered that God’s purpose is not always found with immediate clarity but in the steadfast endurance of faith and love. He remains the source of my strength, my courage and the answer to every encounter in my ministry.

As I look back on my years of ministry and community life, I recognize that my most profound blessings often arrived in the midst of struggle and confusion. Persistent prayer and the steadfast support of my community have been the anchors of my life. I have come to see that wisdom whispers most clearly through the quiet acceptance of my own inabilities and every challenge became an opportunity to grow in holiness, peace and total surrender.

Though many years have passed, God’s gentle voice remains ever fresh, echoing the words I heard during my formation: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9). His grace draws me closer and more tenderly each day. As the prophet Isaiah reminds me, “Those who trust in the Lord will

find new strength” (Is 40:31). The spirit and charism of our Founder, Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff S.J., is a living flame that keeps me active and alive, teaching me the beauty of joyful obedience. Similarly, the life of Venerable Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey serves as a living example of unwavering faith, selfless service and compassionate dedication.

Pearls of Wisdom

When I look at our senior sisters, I am greatly encouraged by their cheerful obedience, unshakable trust in God and their simple, dedicated lives. Their graceful growth in age and wisdom whispers to me that I too will soon reach that stage of life. They are the true treasures and role models of our community living examples of Synodality. Like lighthouses to the youngsters, they show the path across the vast ocean of life towards the shore: that final destination God has prepared for us all.

My deepest desire is to continue listening to the whispers of God and to remain loyal to this vocation. May we always realize the deepest truth of our lives: that while power and position will pass away, the experience of finding God in the poor and suffering will raise us up to share in His Glory. Therefore, let us hold fast to a deep faith, a compassionate heart, a firm hope and a total surrender of all that we are and all that we have.



Hidden Blessings in Everyday Life



Sr. Vijaya Geetha Golamari
OLL Convent, Koilkuntla

Life's greatest blessings rarely arrive in grand gestures or extraordinary events. More often, they unfold quietly, woven into the rhythm of daily living - within community, through mission and in the tender simplicity of love that often escapes notice. These hidden blessings sustain, shape and draw us ever deeper into communion with God and one another. As Scripture reminds us: ***"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."*** (James 1:17)

Communion in Community - Blessings in Mission

Community life has shown me that blessings are often hidden in ordinary moments. Though living together brings challenges, differences in opinions, misunderstandings and moments of weakness, it is precisely here that God's grace shines most profoundly: in a kind word from a sister, a silent gesture of support or a shared smile after a long day. Community becomes not merely a place to dwell but a sacred space where patience, forgiveness and unconditional love are learned, fulfilling the call to ***"bear with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"*** (Eph 4:2-3).

Blessings in Mission

Likewise, in mission hidden blessings abound. Teaching, accompanying the young or serving the poor may not always yield immediate or visible fruits and some days may feel unnoticed. Yet, in a child's gratitude, in the quiet transformation of a struggling student or in the trust of those we serve, I glimpse the silent work of God. These moments remind me that our mission is not about recognition but about faithfulness, echoing the exhortation: ***"Let us not grow weary in doing***

good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up" (Gal 6:9). Through these simple acts of service and shared life, we become instruments of peace, touching lives in ways we may never fully understand.

Grace in suffering and New Life

This truth became deeply real to me during a season of illness in 2016 at Achampet, when swine flu brought me to the edge of death. In weakness and fear, I could no longer rely on my own strength. Yet, through the prayers and care of my sisters and all those around me, above all with God's mercy, I encountered His hidden grace most powerfully. What seemed like an end became a new beginning. ***"I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord."*** (Ps 118:17) Suffering became not defeat, but a channel of grace, a call to trust God more deeply and to live more fully for Him alone.

The Wisdom of Years

As the years pass, I have learnt to embrace the unfolding of life as a grace in each community and mission. Though it brings limitations, it also offers clarity, a freedom found in letting go, in accepting what cannot be changed and in trusting God's



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providence more completely. Each present moment reveals itself as a gift, filled with hidden blessings. ***“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.” (Is 40:31)***



From our Senior Sisters, I have gently learned that aging is a sacred grace-calling us to deeper surrender, quiet trust and a peaceful acceptance of God’s will. Their lives continue to inspire me to live each moment with gratitude, faith and a heart rooted in communion and peace.

A Journey of Faithfulness

Guided by the charism of our beloved Founder and the Pious Maxims of Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, I have come to appreciate the beauty of obedience, the joy of embracing each mission wholeheartedly and serving the people with a generous heart. Rooted in the JMJ spirit of trust and readiness, I have found strength through transitions, crises and change, discovering hidden blessings in daily life and the moments of communion that foster peace. ***As Pious Maxim 18 inspires us, “If you sacrifice your interests for the service of God and seek nothing but His glory, He will take better care of your concerns than you could have done yourself.”***

Conclusion:

Anchored in the JMJ charism “An Ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability, life’s blessings are discovered not in grand achievements but in the faithful living of each day. In community, in mission and in prayer, God’s quiet presence calls us to communion, making us instruments of His love and peace. ***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Mat 5:9).***



JMJ SISTERS IN ATEBUBU, GHANA



Sr. Regina Zangiti
Atebubu, Ghana

In the heart of Ghana, where the savanna gives way to fertile forests and the great Volta traces its silver path through the land, the Congregation of Jesus Mary and Joseph (JMJ) live out a charisma that is as ancient as the Gospel and as fresh as the morning dew: An Adaptable Apostolic Availability. It is a spirituality of readiness—a willingness to be where God calls, when God calls, and in whatever form love requires.

To be JMJ is to carry within one's soul the three hearts that shape the congregation's identity. Yet these hearts beat not in stillness, but in motion. The Heart of Jesus, the Teacher, is ever on the road - journeying through Galilee, pausing at wells, lingering in the homes of sinners and saints. In the school at Atebubu, this apostolic availability means that education is not a fixed program but a living encounter. When a sister arrives early to welcome a struggling child or stays late to comfort a worried parent, she embodies the adaptability of the Master who met each person precisely where they stood.

The Heart of Mary the mother, teaches a different kind of availability: the swift readiness of the Visitation. When the angel departed, Mary did not wait for certainty; she rose and went with haste to the hill country. In the Bono, Ahafo and Bono East regions, the sisters mirror this holy haste. Whether responding to a sudden need in a rural village, adapting to the shifting demands of a new school

term or simply being present when a community faces unexpected hardship, they carry Mary's gift of moving swiftly toward the other. Their availability is not frantic but faithful - a willingness to let the needs of God's people set the agenda.

The Heart of Joseph, the Guardian, reveals the hidden dimension of adaptability: the courage to change course in the night. Joseph received dreams that upended his plans - flight into Egypt, return to Nazareth - yet he obeyed without hesitation. For the sisters laboring in Northern Ghana, in the emerging district of Bono East, in the quiet towns where resources are scarce and demands are many, this charism becomes a daily reality. They adapt not from instability but from deep trust. They shift from classroom to chapel, from teaching to counseling, from administration to manual labor, all with the quiet dignity of the carpenter who made his hands available to the holy.

Ever adaptable does not mean without roots. In Atebubu, the school stands as a sign of enduring commitment. Yet within that rootedness flows a profound freedom - the freedom to respond, to innovate, to meet the moment with courage and creativity. Apostolic availability is the sisters' way of saying: Here we are, Lord. Send us. And when the path changes, we will change with it, for love knows no rigidity.

This charism of JMJ is the gift to Ghana: a presence that does not cling to comfort but stretches toward need. In a world that often divides and stagnates, the JMJ sisters offer a living witness to communion and peace - not as a static ideal, but as a movement of love that is ever ready, ever adaptable and ever available to the voice of God echoing in the cries of the people.

Mission in Hungary



Srs. Jyothi Kota & Co

Our missionary journey to Hungary began with intense preparation. On 31st August 2025, we embarked on this long-awaited mission with hearts filled with hope, excitement and the natural fear of stepping into a new and challenging chapter of our lives.

Arrival and Initial Welcome

We travelled from Hyderabad via Dubai, reaching Budapest in the evening at 9.40 pm. We were warmly welcomed at the airport by Fr. Francis, Rector of the SVD Mission House and Fr. Lourdu SVD the mission coordinator. By 10:00 pm we arrived at the SVD Mission House in Budapest, where we spent the night marking the beginning of our mission experience in Hungary.

First Encounter and Blessings

On the 1st September, morning we participated in the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am, celebrated by Fr. Lourdu. We prayed for God's blessings on our mission. After breakfast Mr. Merci the Bishop's secretary and Caritas representative, arrived at 10:00 am to escort us to the Bishop's residence.

Hospitality and Welcome

We arrived at the Bishop's residence at noon and were warmly welcomed by Bishop Janos Székely. The Bishop expressed his joy and appreciation for our presence to serve in the Diocese of Szombathely. We were deeply touched by the Bishop's simplicity and kindness as he personally served us the lunch.

He showed keen interest in our congregation's charism and our years in religious life. He was pleased to learn that Sr. Jeoti Manju is a qualified nurse, while Srs. Jyothi and Michel are professional teachers.

Mission Orientation and Guidelines from the Bishop

The Bishop provided clear directives and pastoral guidance for our mission:

- Priority to learning the Hungarian language for effective ministry. Diocese will arrange the language classes for the sisters.
- Due to ongoing legal proceedings in the Egyhazmegye parish, we are to stay in the Zalaegerszeg parish for the next two years.
- Fr. Robert, a diocesan priest fluent in English and serving in a diocesan school in our parish, will be our point of contact.
- **Mission Priorities:**
 - Our primary mission initially is to learn the language over one to two years, depending on our pace.
 - We are encouraged to serve in the field of education, healthcare or any creative ministries inspired by the Holy Spirit to meet local needs.
 - We are invited to conduct prayer services in the parish church, at least once a month.
 - Invite people to our home for prayer and fellowship.

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- Fostering communion with the local community and praying constantly for the people are to be the spiritual pillars of our mission.

Financial Support

The Bishop also outlined the financial arrangements for us to support our expenses. He assured that once our congregation is officially registered in Hungary, the government will further support us financially through the Church.

Arrival at Zalaegerszeg Parish

We departed at 2.30 pm with Bishop's secretary and Fr. Lourdu, and arrived at 3:45 pm to Zalaegerszeg Parish. Fr. Robert was waiting to welcome us.

Settling In and Starting the Mission

On 2nd September, Fr. Robert and Fr. Lourdu accompanied us to purchase essential household items, with all expenses generously covered by the Diocese. Later that day, we participated in Holy Mass at the parish church and were warmly welcomed by the Parish Priest. We were also blessed by the presence and assistance of Fr. Lourdu, who stayed with us in the early days. His message was clear: *"Pray to*

God, for with Him, all things are possible." On September 4th Fr. Lourdu bid us farewell with his blessings and best wishes. That same day, we began our language classes and gradually settled into our daily routine.

Cultural Immersion and Community Life

We also had opportunity of attending a cultural festival, where we participated in the vibrant programs that showcased the rich traditions of Hungary. Over the past months, we have gradually adapted to the language, culture, climate, and way of life in Hungary. While our primary mission is learning the Hungarian language, we also engage in volunteer service by visiting patients in hospitals, accompanying residents in an old-age home and observing teaching methods in a kindergarten school. These experiences have helped us build relationships and feel at home among the people.

We are deeply grateful for the love, support, and kindness we have received from the diocese and the people, which we recognize as signs of God's constant guidance and care. We are also happy to share that all three of us have received residence permits valid for three years, and our congregation is officially registered under the Society Registration Act of Hungary on 15 May 2026.

As we complete nine months in Hungary, we thank God for His guidance and grace. Every challenge has deepened our faith, and every encounter has revealed His loving presence. Strengthened by the prayerful support of our sisters, we remain committed to serving wholeheartedly for a fruitful and Spirit-led mission.



A Testimony of God's Constant Presence in My Mission Lugagnano, North Italy

Being a religious sister for 39 years and serving as a professional nurse for 34 years has been a profound journey of faith, dedication and service. On 16 October 2023, I began my mission with the Salesian Sisters in Lugagnano, North Italy. I was the only nurse serving in a home for the aged, caring for 46 elderly sisters and two elderly lay persons. I worked there for two years and three months. As I look back I can say with deep conviction that I experienced God's constant and faithful presence every single day.

I arrived with great anxiety, carrying a suitcase full of hope and a heart full of questions: *Would I be able to meet their expectations? Would I be able to carry this responsibility alone?* Everything was new to me - the faces, the long silent corridors, the rhythm of the community prayers, the medicines and medical terminology, and above all, the Italian language which were very difficult for me in the beginning. Yet, slowly and patiently, step by step, I began to learn and adapt.

As the only nurse in the house, my responsibilities were many and demanding. My daily duties included preparing and administering medicines to 27 sisters three times a day, dressing chronic wounds, caring for bedridden sisters, tube feeding and oral feeding critically ill sisters, withdrawing blood samples and taking them to the laboratory, purchasing medicines from the pharmacy, administering intravenous fluids, attending emergencies, informing doctors and arranging hospital admissions whenever necessary.

Although I was expected to work seven hours a day, my service extended far beyond those hours. Every morning, I began my day at 5:30 a.m. with meditation, prayer and the Holy Eucharist, which became the source of my strength and perseverance. From morning until evening, often until 8:30 p.m., I remained with the sisters, except for a short personal time in the afternoon. I also stayed available for emergencies at all times.

Only prayer sustained me throughout this mission. One prayer especially accompanied me daily: *"O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine."* Very often I also prayed: *"O my Jesus, wash me with Your Precious Blood and fill me with Your Holy Spirit."*

Truly, I experienced God's living presence throughout my service. Many emergencies had to be faced alone, and each time I would quietly say, *"Jesus, come with me,"* and He truly did. I received calmness, wisdom and the courage to act without fear.



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One of the most challenging tasks was withdrawing blood samples from elderly sisters between the ages of 80 and 102 years due to their fragile and weakened veins. Many required six or seven test tubes for investigations. Yet, by God's grace, I was able to carry out this responsibility successfully.

During my service, eight sisters completed their earthly journey and returned to the Lord. It was a sacred privilege to accompany them in their final moments, praying beside them for a peaceful death. One sister, in particular, touched my heart deeply. She was unable to eat for nearly four to five months, and every day I had to administer intravenous fluids. With prayer and trust in God, I was able to continue this task faithfully. In those moments, I strongly felt that God Himself was working through my hands.

These two years and three months became a beautiful experience of self-giving, sustained entirely by God's faithful presence. When the time came to conclude my service, I felt profound sadness in leaving the sisters. They too were deeply appreciative of my service and sorrowful to let me go. This mutual love and affection became for me a clear sign that God had truly walked with me throughout this journey.

Today, with a heart full of gratitude, I can say: God was present in the silence of the long corridors, in the fragile veins of the elderly, in the long hours of service and even in my own weakness. He was with me always and remains ever faithful.

Sr. Gracy Marrokky
Mary Glowrey Convent, Arco



A Prophetic Presence: JMJ SSS Leading the Journey Toward Dignity



Sr. Mary Kumari Cheedy

St. Joseph's Convent, Nallapadu

On 7th April 2026, Vijayawada witnessed more than a gathering, it became a space of awakening, courage and hope. Over 1,700 members of the transgender and Hijra communities, along with activists, civil society leaders and policymakers, came together for the Andhra Pradesh Trans/Hijra Swabhimana Sabha. This historic initiative, animated and led with conviction by JMJ Social Service Society (JMJ SSS), Guntur Province, marked a decisive step toward restoring dignity and rightful belonging to some of the most marginalized in Society.

At the heart of this movement was the powerful value of *Swabhimana* - self-respect. For countless transgender persons who continue to endure exclusion in education, employment, healthcare and social acceptance, this was not merely a concept, but a cry of the heart. JMJ SSS recognized this cry and responded not from a distance but through active presence, partnership, and prophetic commitment.

The Meeting began with a vibrant rally through the streets of Vijayawada. Voices once silenced now rose with courage, claiming space, identity and dignity. Placards, slogans and united steps spoke louder than words: *we belong, we matter and we are equal*. In this powerful public witness, JMJ SSS stood not as observers but as companions, walking with the people, affirming their worth and strengthening their voice.



The formal gathering at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram unfolded as a moment of shared vision. The lighting of the lamp marked a collective resolve to move from exclusion to inclusion, from invisibility to recognition. Through every detail, JMJ SSS ensured that the programme upheld dignity, respect and participation, creating a space where every voice was valued.

In her address, Sr. Mary Kumari, Director of JMJ SSS, articulated a clear and compelling vision: that social transformation demands collaboration, responsibility and sustained commitment. Her words reflected the deeper mission of JMJ SSS - to be a bridge between the marginalized and the structures of society, ensuring that justice is not only spoken of, but realized. Through this Meeting, JMJ SSS once again demonstrated its proactive role courageously initiating change.

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The voices of the community and advocates echoed the urgency of this mission. Legal experts, activists and representatives highlighted the persistent gaps between policy and practice. Yet, beyond the challenges, what emerged was a strong sense of collective strength. The presence of policymakers, especially the Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission, brought reassurance that dialogue can lead to action and that systems can be transformed when voices unite.

A particularly moving moment came through the cultural expression of a transgender artist. In that graceful performance, years of pain were transformed into beauty and rejection into pride. It was a reminder that empowerment is not only about rights but also about reclaiming identity with dignity.

The submission of a **formal memorandum** to the Government marked a concrete step forward, advocating for housing, healthcare, employment, legal protection and the establishment of a Transgender Commission. Yet, the true success of the meeting lay deeper: in the awakening of confidence among participants, in the strengthening of networks and in the visible affirmation that they are not alone.

This landmark initiative reveals the heart of JMJ SSS, a heart that listens, responds and walks with the excluded. It is a call to every JMJ sister to rediscover the essence of our mission: to feel with those who suffer, to stand with those who are unheard and to act with courage where dignity is denied.



Building a Culture of Peace in the Mission by Living Wolff's Vision

Sr. Mary Mazzarello
JMJ Illam, Marakkanam



What does it mean to live communion and peace - not as ideals, but as daily realities? This question finds its answer not in grand gestures, but in the quiet fidelity of everyday life. My journey in ministry has slowly become a sacred space where relationships are formed, healed, and transformed through small yet meaningful acts of love.

Within community life, I have come to recognise that true communion is woven in the ordinary. Differences arise, as they naturally do, bringing moments of tension and misunderstanding. Yet, I have learned that peace begins with a simple choice - to pause, to listen and to understand. When I resist the urge to react and instead respond with patience, those fragile moments turn into grace-filled encounters. Communion, I realise, is not given; it is built - gently, humbly and together.

In the school environment, relationships become even more dynamic. Students carry their own struggles, emotions and conflicts. I recall a moment when two students, deeply hurt by misunderstanding, found it difficult to reconcile. Walking with them through their pain required patience and sensitivity. Listening without judgment and guiding them toward forgiveness was not easy but when they finally embraced peace, it filled my heart with quiet joy. It reminded me that healing is always possible when hearts are gently led toward love.

Interactions with staff and parents also bring their share of challenges. Concerns, expectations and tensions can easily create distance. Yet, I have discovered that when people feel genuinely heard, something shifts within them. Listening becomes a bridge; respect becomes a pathway to trust. In these moments, peace is not imposed, it is invited.

The parish offers yet another space of learning. Its diversity reflects the richness of God's people. Being present to families in their joys and struggles has deepened my understanding of ministry. I remember visiting a family weighed down by hardship. I felt inadequate, unsure of what I could offer. Yet, my presence, a listening ear and a few gentle words brought them comfort. In that moment, I realised that peace often flows not through eloquence, but through presence.

Even in the neighbourhood, ministry unfolds quietly. Simple gestures - a greeting, a smile, a willingness to help become seeds of connection. Over time, these small acts build trust and openness. It is in these unnoticed spaces that peace grows most naturally, like a gentle stream nourishing the soil of human hearts.

Through all these experiences, one truth stands clear: communion and peace are daily choices. They require attentiveness, humility and a heart open to grace. Rooted in the charism we have received, I strive each day to be an instrument of unity and peace.

In these hidden and sacred moments, I see a vision coming alive, not in extraordinary ways, but in every relationship healed, every barrier softened and every heart that dares to choose peace. Here, in the simplicity of daily encounters, the light of that vision continues to radiate.

A Journey of Faith and Mission



Sr. Jayamma Marneni
Karuna Nivas, Bhilai.

My journey in JMJ has been a deeply transformative experience. What began as a process of learning gradually became a way of life. With the time I have grown spiritually, become more socially aware and have developed a deeper commitment to serve others with dignity and love. I understand, mission is not just a responsibility but is a calling rooted in Gospel values. As it is written in The Gospel of Matthew, “You are the light of the world.” This verse has continually inspired me to live my mission with purpose.

One of the most enriching aspects of my experience has been collaboration with lay partners. I have learned that they are not just assistants but true co-workers in mission. Their creativity, commitment and shared responsibility make the mission more vibrant, inclusive and effective. This reminds me of the words of Pope Francis: “We are all called to be missionary disciples.” This shared mission has given me a deep sense of unity and belonging.

I have also had the opportunity to engage in collaborative ministries with NGOs, dioceses and other congregations. These experiences exposed me to real social issues such as migration, human trafficking, education and women empowerment. Working together has shown me the power of unity in diversity and the importance of collective action. As Mother Teresa said, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

In today’s world marked by conflict, inequality and a crisis of values, I have experienced how the JMJ mission becomes a powerful instrument of peace-building. Through simple acts of service, education and pastoral care, I have witnessed how peace is nurtured through attentive listening, small acts of compassion and solidarity with the marginalized. The words of St. Francis of Assisi resonate deeply with me: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”

Through my profession of social work, one of the most important lessons I have learned is how to live in harmony with others. Living in community has taught me to respect differences, practice dialogue and appreciate diversity. Harmony, I realized, is not about being the same but about growing together

in mutual respect and understanding. As St. Augustine beautifully said, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

This journey has also taught me the importance of shared responsibility, adaptability and continuous formation. In a changing world, mission requires openness to new ways, including digital outreach and innovative approaches. I have witnessed the empowerment of women, youth, migrants and the poor, strengthening my belief in an inclusive and participatory mission.

Overall, JMJ formation has shaped my life in a profound way. It continues to guide me to live with purpose, serve with compassion and become a messenger of peace and hope in today’s world.



Living Communion and Peace in the Ministry of Education

Sr. Ignatius Sunanda Maddineni

JMJ Convent, Alair



In the semi-urban setting of Alair, in Yadadri Bhongir, Telangana, where tradition and change gently converge, my ministry in education has never been merely a responsibility; it has always been a sacred mission. Inspired by the charism of Fr. Mathias Wolff, I strive each day to make love my method and peace my message, nurturing young minds with compassion, understanding and hope.

Over the past twenty-five years, my journey has been deeply shaped and enriched by the people around me. They have welcomed me with openness and trust and together we have walked a path of collaboration. As we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of our school, I see it not just as a milestone but as a testimony of how I have grown with the people, constantly adapting myself to their needs and expectations, striving to live the charism of availability with humility and commitment.

In the classrooms, I encounter the rich diversity of Alair. Students come from different social, linguistic and economic backgrounds and many are first-generation learners. In this space, I experience education as a ministry of communion. Differences slowly give way to unity through patience, mutual respect and shared learning experiences.

At the same time, I also face real challenges like many of our parents are palm wine tappers, engaged in demanding work that leaves them with little time to be with their children and support their education. There are also external influences and teachers who are accustomed to traditional methods of teaching. Yet, I have come to see these not as obstacles but as opportunities for mission. With patience, I try to guide teachers towards more child-centered approaches, respond wisely to external pressures and accompany families with understanding. What often seems difficult becomes deeply meaningful, especially in the joy of guiding and shaping the young lives.

I make a conscious effort to involve parents more closely in their children's education. Through simple conversations and encouragement, parents are helped to realize the importance of their support and presence for their children. Slowly, I witness transformation; parents becoming more engaged, homes becoming supportive spaces and children growing in confidence.

These experiences have helped me grow in responding to situations with a spirit of peace, balancing discipline with compassion and offering correction with understanding. As a result, I have been able to build meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents and find myself becoming an instrument of reconciliation and healing.

For me, Fr. Wolff's vision is not something distant or abstract. It comes alive in everyday moments in my patience as a teacher, in the growth of a child, in the awakening of a parent and in relationships that are restored. These small, faithful acts become seeds of communion and peace.

Thus, my ministry in Alair has become a living expression of faith. It is not only about forming minds but also about shaping hearts that long for unity and peace. Guided by the spirit of our Founder, I continue this journey with quiet conviction, trusting that even the smallest acts done with great love will bear lasting fruit.



Miles to Heal, Hearts to Serve: A Mission Beyond Limits

Sr. Kavitha Manjula
JMJ Convent, Katra



Some journeys are measured not in kilometers, but in compassion. Mine began in 2009 at Katra Hospital, Mandla, in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, where mission became more than service - it became life itself. Entering a new place was not easy. The language was unfamiliar, the culture different and the customs are new. Adjusting to the people and their way of life was a challenge. Yet, in those uncertain days, the words of our founder became my anchor: "Bloom where you are planted." Those simple words gave me courage to stay rooted, to trust the call and to serve with joy. What situations I witnessed there changed me. Sick people travelled miles and miles for medical treatment, often with no proper transport and with very little support. Their struggle spoke louder than words. Seeing their pain awakened in me a deeper compassion and a stronger missionary zeal. The diocesan priests were a constant inspiration. Their simple lifestyle, courage and wholehearted commitment to the poor tribal people despite the lack of basic facilities, showed me what real mission looks like. Service was not convenience for them; it was conviction. Their dedication strengthened my own desire to work happily among the suffering.

The legacy of our senior sisters, Sr. Baptista, Dr. Sr. Tresa Bellamkonda, Sr. Divya Joseph was equally moving. Even today, people speak with gratitude about their compassionate tireless care for the sick and saved countless lives. Their quiet heroism continues to inspire those of us who walk the same path of service. This mission also taught me the beauty of communion. Communion is not merely living or working together. It is a relationship built on love, trust, listening and mutual respect. It invites us to see beyond differences of language, culture and background, and to meet one another as brothers and sisters. In mission, communion becomes the bridge that unites hearts.

Today, I continue this beautiful experience in my close collaboration with the diocese, living our charism of adaptability, apostolic spirit, and availability. Mission is not only about duties or responsibilities. It is about becoming a healing presence, building unity and bringing hope where there is fear, loneliness or pain. Like every true calling, this journey has had its struggles. Differences, misunderstandings and personal challenges were part of the path. Yet these moments did not weaken the mission; they purified it. They taught me patience, humility and the strength to choose peace even when it was difficult. Peace, after all is more than the absence of conflict. It is born from justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. To live this call to peace is to stand with the wounded, defend dignity and become an instrument of healing.

Looking back, I see that the people who travelled miles for healing also led me on my own journey of grace. Their pain deepened my compassion. Their courage strengthened my faith. Their trust gave new meaning to my mission. The road ahead is still long. There are still miles to heal and hearts to serve. But the missionary spirit remains alive: simple, profound, compassionate and fearless. The mission continues - beyond limits, beyond excuses and always with love.



Walking Together in the Spirit: Living the Synodal Experience

*"The journey of synodality is not a path we walk alone,
but a pilgrimage we make together, led by the Spirit."*

Srs. Margret Mary
Jayaseela Thirumalareddy
Sundari Reddimasu &
Divya Thomas

A seminar on Synodal Spirituality was conducted from 6 - 17 January 2006 in Bangalore, at the initiative of the Generalate. The Synodal journey unfolded a deeply prayerful and transformative experience that invited us to walk together in grace, communion, and shared discernment. From the outset, it became clear that this was not merely a programme to attend, but a sacred space to enter - a pilgrimage of the heart guided by the gentle yet persistent movements of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer shaped the rhythm of our days. Symbols such as the Word of God, the lighted lamp, the guiding star, the globe and the images of our Founder and Venerable Mary Glowrey reminded us of our shared mission, calling us to listen to God's Word, walk in Christ's light, and live our charism with compassion and commitment. They also fostered a spirit of unity, belonging, and renewed purpose.

As we journeyed together, we experienced synodality as a way of life rooted in communion, participation and mission. Through deep listening, dialogue and accompaniment, we recognized that forgiveness and reconciliation are essential for building trust, healing relationships and strengthening community life.

The Eucharist was rediscovered as the heart of synodal life. It gathers all people and creation into communion, challenging isolation and individualism. Rooted in the Eucharist, we are called to become a people gathered, broken and sent forth - united in Christ and committed to building inclusive, life-giving communities marked by mercy and hope.

Listening became a transformative spiritual practice. We realized that true listening goes beyond hearing words; it is an act of presence that creates safe and sacred spaces. Through silence and attentive presence, we learned to listen with the heart, allowing others to feel seen, heard, and

valued, thereby strengthening trust and relationships.

The journey also depend our understanding of accompaniment. We were reminded that God is the first companion who walks with us through joy and struggle alike. Authentic accompaniment calls for patience, presence and trust rather than control or quick solutions. This led us to great self-awareness, enabling us to walk more gently and authentically with others.

Discernment gradually revealed itself as a daily way of life. We were invited to pause, return within, and notice the interior movements shaping our choices. By recognizing God's presence in ordinary experiences, we learned that discernment grows through reflection, gratitude, dialogue and hope.

As we move forward, synodality is no longer an idea but a lived reality. With renewed clarity and grateful hearts, we commit ourselves to continue walking together - listening attentively, discerning prayerfully, forgiving generously and responding faithfully to the Spirit.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, our Superior General, and the General Council for their vision in offering this enriching experience. A special word of appreciation to Sr. Tresa KVM, In-charge Councillor for Spirituality and Formation, for her inspiring guidance and gentle accompaniment. We are deeply thankful to Sr. Thresiamma Kudiyirupil and the Bangalore Province Council for the excellent organization of the seminar, the Provincials of the Indian Provinces for their trust, and to our community sisters for their generous support that made our participation possible.



Synodal Spirituality *My experience...*



Sr. Vijaya Rani Polisetti

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern spirituality, the concept of synodality has emerged as a profound invitation to deepen our faith in the context of our community. My experience of Synodal Spirituality has been both transformative and enriching, deepening my faith, strengthening my communion with the Church and the wider community and opening my heart to new ways of relating to God and others.

Walking together

One of the most profound aspects of Synodal Spirituality is the call to walk together. In my community, in the apostolate and in the church, I discovered that faith is not a solitary path. Sharing stories, struggles and hopes with others reminded me that the church is a pilgrim people. This sense of companionship gave me strength during moments of doubt and joy in times of celebration.



Listening as a spiritual practice

Synodality taught me that listening is not passive, it is an act of love. I learned to listen not only to spoken words, but also to the silence, emotions, and unspoken needs of others. In the meetings and gatherings, I realized that true listening requires humility, patience and openness to the perspectives different from my own. Listening became a spiritual discipline - a way of encountering Christ in the other.

Discernment in community

Another key dimension of my experience is communal discernment. Decisions are not made quickly or individually but through prayer, dialogue and reflection. This process sometime felt slow, but it revealed the beauty of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us collectively. I experienced how discernment in community can lead to deeper unity and more faithful action.

Challenges and growth

Living Synodal Spirituality is not without challenges. At times, differences of opinion create tension and the process of dialogue demands perseverance. Yet, these difficulties became opportunities for growth. I learned that unity does not mean uniformity, diversity enriches the Church when embraces with respect and love.

Personal Transformation

My experience of Synodal Spirituality has transformed the way I understand my role in the Church and its mission. I no longer see myself as a passive member, but as an active participant in shaping our community's path. It has deepened my faith and strengthened my commitment to walk together with others in communion, participation and service. As I continue to embrace Synodal Spirituality, I realize that it is an ongoing journey of listening, discernment, shared responsibility and mission. It is a constant invitation to grow in faith, to listen deeply, and to respond with love. This experience has taught me that synodality is not merely a process, but a way of life that calls each of us to actively participate in the mission of the Church.

TRAINING PROGRAM ON SYNODAL SPIRITUALITY



Conclusion

Participating in the Synodal Spirituality seminar has been a profound and enriching experience that deepened my faith and strengthened my commitment to communion, listening, discernment, and shared mission. It taught me that the Church is most alive when we walk, listen, and discern together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This journey continues to inspire me to grow not only in personal holiness but also in building communion and mission with others, filling me with hope for a Church rooted in love, participation, and the beauty of diversity.



JAAGO UTSAV National Jesus Youth Conference

Jesus Youth Jaago, the National Conference organized by Jesus Youth, was held in Bangalore from 28–31 December 2025. The gathering brought together nearly 12,500 Catholic youth and youth mentors from across India for a profound experience of faith renewal during the Jubilee Year. The conference featured inspiring talks, interactive workshops, Gospel music, Eucharistic Adoration, cultural programs and fellowship, all centered on the themes of hope and missionary zeal. The event was preceded by the Jaago Yatra, a Eucharistic journey across India that spiritually prepared young people for the conference. Thirteen participants from the JMJ Bangalore Province took part in this enriching national gathering.



Theme: “Generation of Hope” and the entire programme aimed to provide a vibrant spiritual experience for youth to deepen their faith, experience Christian community, celebrate the richness of the Catholic Church and become messengers of hope.

The four-day event was held at Christ Academy Educational Institutions, Hulahalli. The conference was formally inaugurated on 28 December by



**Sr. Lourdu Mary Jeevappa &
Sr. Sujatha Nali JMJ**

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao. The opening also featured the Apostolic Blessing imparted by Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, linking the gathering with the Universal Church. The conference was organised as part of broader preparations aligned with the jubilee theme, “Pilgrims of Hope”.

The central daily programme titled “Jaago Utsav” combined musical worship, testimonies, catechetical inputs, creative presentations and Eucharistic adoration. Each day followed a specific theme, “Encounter, Healing, Hope and Witness”, guiding participants through a structured spiritual and formative journey. In parallel multiple optional sessions were also hosted addressing spirituality, faith formation, apologetics, mental health, self-development, mission and contemporary Catholic teaching. Dedicated prayer spaces, including reconciliation gardens, silent prayer zones, meditation huts and Bible- reading areas, were set up across the venue. Continuous intercessory prayer was maintained throughout the conference. Exhibitions included religious art displays, pro-life exhibitions and an exhibition featuring approximately 1500 relics of saints.



MISSION, JPIC & SAFEGUARDING INITIATIVES



Several creative initiatives such as “Coffee with Bishops,” podcasts, cultural showcases and youth-led interactive programmes were introduced to encourage dialogue between church leaders and young participants. The Conference also marked a logistical milestone, operating as a fully paperless event. All registrations, schedules, accommodation details and communications were managed through the “Converge” mobile application, reflecting a commitment to sustainability.

Having been part of Jesus Youth for the past few years, Jaago felt like a joyful family reunion. It gave me the opportunity to reconnect with my spiritual family from across the country to pray together, grow together, heal together, share meals, dance with joy and learn to love as Jesus loved and continues to love us.

Jaago 2025 was not just an event, but a lived experience of faith, fellowship, formation and transformation. It reaffirmed the beauty of belonging to a faith-filled community that journeys together, celebrates diversity and remains rooted in Christ. As a Jesus Youth India initiative, Jaago continues to inspire us to carry these moments, learnings and relationships forward, living our faith more authentically in our families, communities and daily lives.

The conference concluded with a solemn Holy mass celebrated by Archbishop Andrews Thazath of Thrissur and President of CBCI, who commissioned the participants to carry forward the mission of faith and witness. The conference also brought together 22 bishops, including 3



cardinals - Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, Cardinal Anthony Poola and Cardinal Jacob George Koovakad - and five archbishops. Their participation underscored the Church’s emphasis on youth engagement and leadership. Organisers announced that the next edition, Jaago 2027, will be held from 07-10th October, continuing the movement’s focus on placing young people at the heart of the Church in India.



Inter-Religious Dialogue

**Theme: Harmony in Diversity -
Together for Peace**



Sr. Hrudaya Mary JMJ,
Devara-Hipparagi - Bijapur

The JMJ Social Service Centre, Deverahipparagi, organized an inspiring Inter-Religious Conference aimed at promoting unity, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among people of different faith traditions. The gathering brought together religious leaders, social activists, educators, youth, and community representatives, Devadasi women, Tailoring students and HIV support group participated to reflect on the shared values that bind humanity together.

Objectives

- To foster mutual respect, understanding and appreciation of different religions.
- To promote meaningful dialogue among religious leaders of diverse faith traditions.
- To encourage peace, harmony, and mutual respect within the community.
- To highlight common moral values found in all major religious traditions.
- To encourage youth to become ambassadors of peace and unity.

The programme began with a universal prayer for peace, followed by watering the sapling symbolizing freshness, peace, wisdom and hope. Sr. Hrudaya Mary, Director of JMJ Social Service Centre welcomed the gathering and highlighted the need for interfaith dialogue in today's fragmented world.

Leaders from different faith traditions - Hindu leader Swamiji Sathish, Muslim representative Mrs. Begam Bijapur, and Christian leader Sr. Thresiamma, Provincial Superior of the Bangalore Province shared reflections centered on the themes of love and compassion, non-violence and forgiveness, human dignity and brotherhood, service to the poor and marginalized. Readings were taken from the Bhagavad Gita, the Holy Bible, and the Quran, each highlighting the values of peace, unity, and mutual respect. The gathering also joined together in a peace song and the recitation of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution, reaffirming their shared commitment to harmony, justice and fraternity.

Outcome of the Inter-Religious Dialogue

The Inter-Religious Dialogue organized by the JMJ Social Service Centre, Deverahipparagi, yielded a positive and transformative outcomes for the participants and the wider community. The program successfully created a platform where people of different faiths, cultures and social backgrounds could come together in a spirit of openness, respect and fraternity.

The dialogue strengthened mutual understanding and appreciation among participants by highlighting the common values shared by all religions. It helped reduce prejudices and misconceptions, while fostering greater acceptance and harmony among communities.



MISSION, JPIC & SAFEGUARDING INITIATIVES

The reflections shared by the religious leaders inspired participants to recognize the diversity as a source of strength rather than division. The involvement of youth, Devadasi women, tailoring students, HIV support group members, educators, and community representatives encouraged inclusiveness and collective responsibility in building a peaceful society.

The programme also motivated the participants, especially the youth, to become ambassadors of peace and unity by promoting dialogue, respect and non-violence in their families and communities. The Joint Peace Pledge reinforced their commitment to reject discrimination, uphold human dignity, promote justice and work towards peaceful coexistence.

We each one of us have a role to play in building peace and harmony. Simple actions like helping a neighbour, celebrating others' festivals, or standing against discrimination can make a big difference. By choosing kindness over hatred and unity over division, we contribute to a more peaceful world. In a diverse world shaped by different cultures, religions, languages, and traditions, harmony in diversity is essential for peaceful coexistence and social progress. True unity lies not in uniformity, but in respecting and appreciating differences while working together for the common good. When diversity is embraced positively, it leads to creativity, innovation, and social progress. However, when differences are misused, they can lead to division and violence. Through simple acts of kindness, solidarity, and respect for others, we can contribute to building a more compassionate and harmonious society.

The programme concluded with a joint Peace Pledge, where all participants committed to reject discrimination, promote dialogue, stand for justice and human dignity, work for peaceful coexistence in Devara-Hipparagi and beyond. Let us all strive to live together in peace, embracing diversity as our strength and working hand in hand for a a more compassionate, inclusive and peaceful future.



Mission/ JPIC Development Tidings



Srs. Denin Mary & Joseph Mary Kata

Inclusive Programs for the Transgender Community by JMJ Social Service Society (JMJ SSS), Mahbubnagar- JMJ SSS Mahbubnagar organized an awareness and health support programs for the transgender community in Mahbubnagar and surrounding areas. These initiatives focused on promoting dignity, equality, inclusion, and access to basic healthcare services in line with SDGs 3, 5, and 10. Awareness sessions were conducted to address discrimination, social exclusion, personal health, and human dignity. JMJ SSS encouraged community acceptance and respect for transgender persons through participatory interactions and counselling support. Medical camps were organized at Suraram and Mahbubnagar, where transgender individuals received health check-ups, guidance and free medicines.



Sensitize and Engage on Anti Human Trafficking and Create Safer Environment:

Awareness Programs for Government School Children by JMJ Social Service Society (JMJ SSS), Mahbubnagar – The awareness programs were conducted for children studying in government schools in Mahbubnagar and nearby villages. These programs aimed at promoting quality education, personal safety, discipline, and responsible behavior among children in line with SDGs 4, 5, and 16. Awareness sessions focused on personal safeguarding, prevention of mobile addiction, human values, discipline, and the importance of education. Special attention was given to motivating students to continue their studies and prevent school dropouts. Interactive activities, discussions, and counselling sessions helped children understand good habits, self-confidence, respect for others and safe behaviour in society.



Empowering Women Through Education, Awareness, Health and Leadership Initiatives at JMJ Social Service Society, Vijayapura, Karnataka-In 2026 JMJ Social Service Society, Vijayapura - Bangalore Province implemented women-centred programmes emphasizing empowerment, education, health, leadership and social justice for marginalized women and girls. Special attention targeted Devadasi women, adolescent girls, mothers and vulnerable communities through integrated interventions that combined awareness, direct support and skills building.



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Inspired by the life and mission of Savitribai Phule, awareness programmes promoted girls' education, gender equality and social justice encouraging families to prevent child marriage and support girls' schooling. Outreach to Devadasi women provided emotional support, rights awareness, and access to welfare schemes. Legal and civic education strengthened women's understanding of equality, safety, protection from discrimination, land rights and strengthened civic participation. Health initiatives focused on HIV prevention, nutrition, hygiene, maternal health, and preventive care, while medical camps improved access to basic healthcare services.

Leadership and life-skills training strengthened communication, self-confidence, and community engagement, enabling women to take active roles in local governance and livelihood initiatives. International Women's Day events celebrated achievements, reinforced solidarity and highlighted ongoing challenges. Through rights-based and culturally sensitive interventions, supported by partnerships with healthcare providers, legal aid services, and community leaders, the Society contributed significantly to women's socio-economic empowerment, improved health outcomes, increased legal awareness, and stronger community support systems.



Child Ambassadors Initiative: Empowering Children for Protection, Leadership and Social Responsibility by JMJ Social Service Society, Vijayapura, Karnataka- Child Ambassadors programme aims to empower children to become protectors of themselves and other vulnerable children in the society. Through a series of awareness sessions, children were educated about child abuse, anti-human trafficking, personal safety and various dangers faced by children in today's social environment. The program aimed to build confidence, leadership and responsibility among children so that they become an agent of creating a safer community.

The selected child ambassadors were trained to identify signs of abuse, unsafe situations and harmful influences affecting children in schools, families, neighbourhoods and local communities. These children work together as a team and conduct regular meetings to discuss the issues faced by children around them. They also create awareness among their peers through discussions, group activities, and educational programs on child rights and protection.

The child ambassadors play an important role in supporting children who experience abuse, neglect or emotional distress by listening to them, encouraging them and guiding them toward help and protection. This initiative has strengthened children's participation, promoted child safeguarding and created a supportive environment where children learn to care for and protect one another with courage and responsibility.

Human Trafficking Awareness and Community Protection Initiatives – JMJ Social Service Society, Bhilai, Chattisgarh -JMJ Social Service Society (JMJ SSS), Bhilai, conducted Human Trafficking Awareness Programs as part of its Community Health Program. The awareness sessions were organized in schools and village communities across Bijli Nagar, Adivasi Mohalla, Udhiya Mohalla, Jagriti Chowk,

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Mangal Bazar, and the JMJSSS Centre. The programs aimed to educate children, youth, women and community members about the dangers of human trafficking and the importance of safeguarding human dignity and rights.

The sessions highlighted the grave reality of human trafficking as a serious violation of human rights, involving illegal trade of forced labour, sexual exploitation, child exploitation and organ trafficking. Awareness was also created on how traffickers manipulate and exploit vulnerable people through false promises, coercion and deception.

JMJ SSS emphasized the importance of education, community vigilance, child protection and safe migration to prevent trafficking. Through interactive awareness programs, the organization encouraged communities to identify risks, protect vulnerable persons and report suspicious activities. These initiatives strengthened community awareness and promoted a safer and more protective environment for children, women and marginalized groups.

Empowerment and Integration of Migrant Community Children:

Restoring Hope and Education for Vulnerable Migrant Children by JMJ Sneha Sadan, Kogilu, Karnataka- The home is dedicated to the care, protection, education and holistic development of vulnerable children, women, differently-abled persons and the elderly. The institution provides shelter, education, healthcare, counselling, vocational training and emotional support to orphaned and marginalized children, especially girls, helping them grow into confident and responsible individuals.

A remarkable initiative undertaken by the sisters was their outreach to migrant children living in nearby slums. Sr. Anitha Divyanathan personally visited migrant families from Bihar, listened to their difficulties and counselled the parents on the importance of education and child welfare. With the support of local communities and landlords, the sisters facilitated the admission of 35 migrant children into formal schools, providing educational materials, transport and assured ongoing support for their study and well-being. This initiative brought hope, dignity and a brighter future to vulnerable migrant children.

Transforming Children's Lives through Tuition Centres at Vijayapura and Brahmanavadi- The remedial centres of (JMJSSS) at Vijayapura (Bangalore Province) and Brahmanavadi (Hyderabad Province) significantly enhanced the academic performance, confidence and overall development of children from poor and marginalized communities. These centers provide regular educational support, guidance, and a safe learning environment for children who struggle in their studies due to poverty, lack of parental support, and inadequate educational resources.

Through daily coaching, individual attention, and remedial classes, the children have shown significant progress in reading, writing, communication, and overall academic performance. Their confidence and interest in studies have



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increased considerably, resulting in better school attendance and improved examination results. The centers also help children develop discipline, good habits, teamwork, and moral values through value education and group activities. Parents have also expressed happiness over the positive changes seen in their children's behaviour and studies.

Empower young people by valuing their ideas and contributions:

“Empowering youth through Faith, Education, Leadership and Holistic Development at Manendragarh, Chattisgarh- JMJ community at Manendragarh carried out various pastoral, educational and social activities that benefited more than 4,000 children, youth, families and parishioners. Youth ministry remained a major focus through the formation of parish youth groups, leadership training, counselling, retreats and participation in diocesan youth celebrations. The Sisters actively guided the youth spiritually and socially, motivating them to become responsible leaders rooted in faith and values.

Educational initiatives included free tuition classes for students from Nursery to Class 12, benefiting children from surrounding villages. Along with academic support, students participated in extracurricular activities, leadership programmes, eco-club initiatives, tree plantation drives, competitions, life skills training and awareness sessions on road safety and cyber security.

Pastoral outreach included family visits, prayer gatherings, parish celebrations, children's faith formation, and vocation promotion. The Sisters also strengthened relationships with Catholic and non-Catholic families through regular interaction and prayer services.

Experiences from Sisters who developed Integral Ecology Personal Plan:

By preparing little reflections and visuals we can help others to be inspired and at the same time it helps oneself to be conscious of what one presents and be committed to practice it. So sharing these little reflections and my small initiatives on the Laudato Si action platform has motivated me to be faithful and to contribute my share to protect the mother earth. When I alone do it, it's a drop but when it's added to the public platform it has an impact as much as an ocean can create. - **Anitha Kondaveeti, Belgium**

My personal Laudato Si' Action Plan has helped me become more responsible and accountable in my daily life. I consciously segregate biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. When I look through the window and see the person who cleans the public dustbins and collects the waste, I silently tell myself that I have not added extra work for them. This simple act has helped me grow in respect for the dignity of labor and the people who serve society in unnoticed ways. I have also grown in gratitude for food, becoming more mindful of avoiding waste and remembering those who struggle to meet their basic needs. I have never been selective about food, I usually comment positively on the taste and never complain. While I continue to work on certain habits, such as using the stairs more often and dedicating time to personal reading, this journey has taught me that ecological conversion is a gradual process. Laudato Si calls me not to perfection but to faithfulness in small steps, reminding me that simple daily choices can become expressions of care for our common home and solidarity with the poor. - **Arputha Lilly Antony, Belgium**

Following my personalecological plan has helped me embrace a simpler, more disciplined and purposeful lifestyle. I have reduced unnecessary possessions, shared excess belongings with others, adopted healthier eating habits and become more mindful in my consumption. I limit the use of electronic gadgets, make better use of natural light and strive to live sustainably within my daily circumstances. This journey has taught me that ecological living is about making conscious and responsible choices that reflect my values. Through small but consistent changes, I seek to live more simple life, care for creation and contribute to a healthier future for our planet. - **Reni Felishya, Bangalore**

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My Laudato Si' Action Plan has helped me become more environmentally conscious and responsible. I use reusable items such as cloth bags and refillable water bottles, reducing the use of disposable materials and conserve electricity by switching off lights and fans when not in use. We grow vegetables using organic manure, prefer public transportation whenever possible and avoid unnecessary purchases. These simple practices have taught me to use resources wisely and live more sustainably. I have also come to realize that caring for our common home requires not only personal commitment but also collective action and shared responsibility for the protection of Mother Earth. -**Sr. Anjela Yadav, Ghana**

Living lighter is a daily spiritual practice of simplicity, gratitude, and responsible stewardship. It means using only what is needed, avoiding waste, and sharing generously with others. Eating lighter involves choosing nourishing and sustainable food with gratitude and a spirit of moderation. Remaining fit helps maintain the physical, mental, and spiritual energy needed for mission and service. Conserving energy and water reflect care for creation and solidarity with those who have limited resources. Through these practices, I seek to live my consecrated vocation more authentically, embracing simplicity, service, and love for God, people and the Earth.

- **Sr Shanti Merugamala, Hyderabad**

Response from Communities on Laudato Si Week 2026-

Pope Leo XIV encouraged all who promote integral ecology to “renew their commitment,” reminding us that “caring for peace is caring for life.” Laudato Si' Week is a moment to make our hope visible and take concrete action for our common home.

Embracing the theme “From Hope to Action,” JMJ Hospital, Nagavara, Bangalore:

Sisters and staff together transformed ecological concern into concrete, compassionate practice under the motto “heal the people and heal the earth.” The week blended prayer, environmental care and humanitarian outreach to reaffirm commitment to our common home.

The observance opened on 17 May with a solemn inauguration. Sr. Elsy led a prayer invoking God's blessing on creation and its stewards. Five symbolic offerings - the Earth, a plant, a lamp, the Holy Bible and a stethoscope framed the hospital's mission of spiritual and practical care. Special guest Sr. Shymala delivered the keynote urging action beyond words. Participants sealed their pledge by placing thumbprints on a drawn world map, signing a visible Solidarity Covenant.



On 20 May the JMJ Green Warriors advanced stewardship and advocacy. Eco-awareness posters were widely shared online while campus cleaning drives, saplings plantation improved hygiene and created a cleaner, greener environment.

The humanitarian outreach on 22 May highlighted the link between ecology and justice. In Veerannapalya, aligning with the Holy Father's prayer to feed the hungry, the JMJ Sisters and staff distributed nutritious food packages to the homeless and vulnerable, pairing care for creation with care for people.

Laudato Si' Week concluded on 24 May with an awareness programme titled “**Hope to Action,**” attended by patients, visitors, and community members. The celebrations highlighted how

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faith-inspired prayer, environmental stewardship, advocacy, and service can promote care for creation and human well-being, encouraging a lasting commitment to sustainable living.

Laudato Si' Week 2026 JMJ Convent, Monte Scenario, Rome: During Laudato Si' Week 2026, began with a meaningful prayer service and practical environmental action. The week began with a prayer service focused on gratitude and stewardship, followed by the establishment and care of a vegetable and herb garden. We engaged in planting, watering, weeding and harvesting the ripe fruits. We also did the waste segregation and composting of kitchen and garden waste. By integrating prayer, cultivation, waste reduction, and composting, Laudato Si' Week 2026 strengthened our commitment to environmental stewardship and community resilience, demonstrating how small, coordinated actions can nurture both the earth and human solidarity.



Jeevan Jyothi School of Nursing Telco Town, Jamshedpur: marked Laudato Si' Week 2026 with a heartfelt reflection on Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical, which reminds us that "everything is connected" and calls for environmental care rooted in love for our neighbours and a steadfast commitment to social justice. Guided by the week's theme, "**Hope for Our Common Home,**" students embraced the fourfold path of Reflect, Reimagine, Renew, Restore and Rejoice. They engaged in hands-on activities like tree plantation, campus beautification through mural painting, and community outreach that encouraged honest reflection on the ecological crisis, imaginative thinking about sustainable practices and practical steps to heal local ecosystems. Through these acts, the nursing students translated faith and learning into service, demonstrating how compassionate care for people and the planet belong together. Their participation renewed communal resolve to protect creation, promoted eco-friendly habits in daily life and celebrated shared hope for a healthier and more just future.

Bharatmatha Convent, Raipur: We gathered in prayer and reflection and renewed our commitment to care for our common home. Guided by the spirit of *Laudato Si'*, we encouraged and inspired one another to adopt simple and sustainable lifestyles, protect creation, uphold human dignity, and promote justice for present and future generations. We pledged to steward resources responsibly, reduce waste, conserve water and energy, and favour local, ecological solutions that sustain livelihoods. We committed to cultivate gardens, nurture composting and support walking, cycling and shared transport where possible. We resolved to educate and inspire others, turning faith into action by advocating for policies that protect the poor and vulnerable who suffer due to environmental decline. United in hope we strive to be caretakers of creation, fostering solidarity across generations and cultures.

JMJ Convent, Tenali, During Laudato Si' Week 2026, JMJ Convent, Tenali, organized a meaningful programme combining ecological action and spiritual reflection. Sisters participated in a plantation drive, campus cleaning, Rosary on Creation, meditation, a Laudato Si' film screening, and a prayer service, renewing their commitment to care for creation and become responsible stewards of God's gift of nature. We pledged to live sustainably by conserving resources, reducing waste, protecting creation, and promoting justice for the poor and vulnerable.



Fostering a Culture of Care: Safeguarding Report 2025 - 2026

Introduction

The Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ) remains steadfast in its commitment to creating safe, respectful, and nurturing environments across all its ministries. Recognizing that safeguarding is a sacred responsibility, the provinces have undertaken significant strides this year to uphold the dignity and well-being of every individual, particularly children and vulnerable adults. Through collaborative policy drafting, professional certification, and extensive awareness campaigns, we strive to ensure that our institutions are spaces where everyone feels valued and protected. This report highlights the collective progress and future roadmap for the Hyderabad, Raipur, Guntur, and Bangalore Provinces.



1. Orientation to Safeguarding and Safeguarding Policy

- **Hyderabad Province:** Safeguarding orientation was initiated with an online Oath Taking Ceremony for Commission members on May 9, 2025. The official Province Safeguarding Policy was released on February 13, 2026, by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Antony.
- **Raipur Province:** The province formally established its safeguarding structures through an online Oath-Taking Ceremony for PSC members and Unit Safeguarding Officers (USOs) on February 17, 2026, coinciding with the official policy release.
- **Guntur Province:** Orientation to Safeguarding Policy was done on 25th May. Active safeguarding programs for minors are being organized in schools and colleges by dedicated teams. The policy is finalized and printed.
- **Bangalore Province:** To foster a culture of safeguarding, the Provincial Safeguarding Policy Book was officially released on February 14, 2026, at St. Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore.

2. Number of Sisters Pursuing or Having Completed a Safeguarding Diploma

- **Hyderabad Province:** 17 sisters are currently enrolled in the Diploma in Safeguarding Programme to strengthen province-wide competency.
- **Raipur Province:** 23 sisters are enrolled in the Diploma programme, and one sister is pursuing a Licentiate in Safeguarding at the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome.
- **Guntur Province:** 22 sisters have successfully completed their Safeguarding Diploma/Certification.
- **Bangalore Province:** 15 sisters have obtained certificates through online safeguarding diploma programmes and one sister pursuing Licentiate in Gregorian University.

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3. Safeguarding Programmes Conducted

- **Hyderabad Province:** Safeguarding awareness programs for students and teachers were conducted in Achempet, Mahabubnagar and Gajwel Schools. Eight zones were formed to conduct sessions, with a demo class held in June 2026 to ensure effective implementation.
- **Raipur Province:** A two-day online session on the Congregational Safeguarding Policy was held in March 2026.
- **Guntur Province:** Numerous online input sessions and webinars were held throughout 2025 and 2026 for HODs, Unit sisters and Temporarily Professed Sisters. Extensive orientation programs covered POCSO, PoSH, child labor prevention, domestic violence and cyber safety for staff, students and various women's groups.
- **Bangalore Province:** Five major programmes were conducted for superiors, principals, teachers, sisters and parents, covering topics like "good and bad touch," online safety and reporting mechanisms. Participants reaching approximately 1,000 in large institutions and 300 in smaller ones.



4. Establishment of a Safeguarding Office in Institutions

- **Hyderabad Province:** The PSC has finalized a list of Safeguarding Units and appointed Unit Safeguarding Officers (USOs).
- **Raipur Province:** Safeguarding structures and Unit Safeguarding Officers have been formally established.
- **Guntur Province:** The proposals are sent and oath taking is scheduled for June 6th 2026.
- **Bangalore Province:** Committees were formed at the institutional level, including teachers, doctors/parents, student representatives, and a Unit Safeguarding Officer.

5. Challenges and Recommendations

- Key challenges include balancing victim protection with institutional integrity, mobilizing financial resources and the policy restriction that prevents Heads of Institutions from serving as USOs and lack of clarity regarding unit-level policy development and the need for greater parent awareness.
- Recommendations include regular refresher training and stronger monitoring systems.

6. Future Plans and Action Points

- **Hyderabad Province:** Implementation of Zonal Sessions across eight zones in July and August 2026, focusing on safeguarding principles, policy guidelines, code of conduct and mandatory reporting.

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- **Raipur Province:** A series of specialized awareness sessions covering Religious Life, Social Apostolate and Trauma Care planned for late 2026. The sessions (July–December 2026) will cover Leadership & Accountability, Legal Dimensions, and Digital Responsibility.
- **Guntur Province:** An Oath Taking Ceremony for USOs is set for June 6, 2026, followed by workshops on the care of minors and ensuring all units observe the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse.
- **Bangalore Province:** Focus will be on completing unit-level policies, increasing student participation, and establishing stronger documentation systems.

Conclusion

As we look back on the 2025–2026 period, the JMJ Provinces have collectively moved toward a more transparent, accountable and protective framework. Despite challenges in policy development at the unit level and resource mobilization, our sisters and collaborators remain steadfast in their commitment. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Provincial Leadership Teams and all those who have contributed to this vital mission fostering a culture of care where every person is valued and every minor is safe.

Safeguarding Coordinators of Indian Provinces

Sr. Arogya Mary Mallavarapu, Sr. Rose Mary Thumma

Sr. Saritha Prathipati, Sr. Swarna Yeruva



Memorial Prayer Hall of
Venerable Mary Glowrey
St. Joseph's Convent, Guntur

Monthly webinar on **VENERABLE MARY GLOWREY**



- Mary Glowrey Heritage: Inspiration & Information - Karin Clark (Director and Secretary of Mary Glowrey Heritage, Australia) & Gabrielle McMullen AM (Emeritus Professor, Melbourne)



- Inspirations from the Autobiography - Living Experiences with Venerable Mary Glowrey by Prof. Agela Ales Bello (Rome) & Prof. Anna Maria Sciacca (Rome), and a combined Video from JMJ sisters who lived with Mary Glowrey



- Favours and miracles for the cause of saints: Information on the authenticity of miracles by Fr (Dr) Cherian Thunduparampil CMI (Postulator)



- Bub's Childhood & Brilliant Scholar (1887 –1910) by Ms Fiona Power (Curator, Mary Glowrey Museum, Melbourne)



- Driven by the burning zeal for God: Medical practice, vocation and formation (1911 – 1924) by Sr. Innamma Yeruva JMJ, (Hyderabad Province)



- A zealous medical missionary (1925 – 1942) by Sr. Kochumary Chellakudam JMJ, (Vice-Postulator)

Come and follow me - Venerable Mary



*From the sun-drenched plains of the Aussie land,
To the beating heart of Guntur's sand,
A brilliant mind, a healing touch,
Who gave herself, and gave so much.*

*Mary, of slight stature,
Yet in her soul, a roaring light.
A gifted healer, a doctor rare,
Who saw the poor and chose to care.*

*She heard the cry from across the sea,
A whisper of grace: *"Come, follow Me."*
She traded the wealth of a thriving shore,
To dress the wounds of the suffering poor.*

*Through dust and heat, with no delay,
She brought the dawn to a darkened day.
The first of her kind - a sister, a doc-
Tending the broken, the least of the flock.*

*Founding hospitals, lifting the weak,
Giving a voice to those who can't speak.
Through plaques and pain, her spirit stayed,
By love sustained, by faith arrayed.*

*Now, **Venerable Mary**, a beacon so bright,
Guides us still through the shadows of night.
A saint in the making, a heart ever true,
Oh, Mary Glowrey, we honour you.*



Declaration of **VENERABLE MARY GLOWREY** (Mary of the Sacred Heart)



The Special Jubilee
"Year of St. Francis"
of Assisi is underway in the Catholic Church,
running from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.

Proclaimed by
Pope Leo XIV,
this year marks the 800th anniversary of the
saint's passing (the Transitus) on October 3, 1226.

