



The

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ENCOUNTER

Know... Grow... Flow into fullness



Enlarge
the space
of your *tent*
for **GOD**
with us...!



REMINISCENCES OF JMJ BICENTENARY OPENING CEREMONY

St. STANISLAUS CONVENT, BENGALURU

29 JUNE 2022



MEMOIRS IN THE NETHERLANDS

23-25 JUNE 2022

ENGELN



AMERSFOORT



CULEMBORG



NIJMEGEN





JMJ BICENTENARY JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT MARIENBURG

26 JUNE 2022



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Time marches on relentlessly! Bicentenary year is over... we are already into the third century. The Synod is on: one year plus after the opening of the synodal journey. Both the events invite us to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, to walk together with the whole human family.

The quote on the cover page "*Enlarge the space of your tent!*" from Isaiah 54: 2, is the title given to the working document for the Continental Stage of Synodal Journey. As we move onward towards a Missionary Synodal Church, the promise of God comes into our heart to widen the space for participation, communion and missionary outreach. To enlarge the space of our tent for *GOD WITH US* at this Christmas means that we widen our hearts, to embrace our underprivileged brothers and sisters who are the beloved of God.

The Bicentenary year has taught us how this '*journeying together*,' with Fr. Mathias Wolff has inspired us, as well as challenged us to transform our lives at personal, community, and congregation levels and revitalised us to continue to radiate Founder's legacy of love and liberation in our ministries with renewed zeal and commitment.

Inspired and stirred by the spirit of the Bicentenary Journey, our sisters have shared their incredible lived-in experiences in this issue of '*The Encounter*'. The articles on Bicentenary programs and celebrations awaken our memories and keep our spirits ignited. Sr. Laetitia's reflection at Marienburg reminds us of the '*other*' who looks at me, asks me for help and touches me to the very depths of my soul. We find insightful and creative articles and poems under *Youth Echoes* and *Wolff's Vision Radiates*. The real-life stories from *Wisdom's Whispers* and *Myriads of Mission* stir the readers to the core.

Shortly, our local chapters begin, where in we reflect, pray and deliberate on the relevance of Founder's visionary charism and spirituality in the reality of our times. This period is sacred space for us to be open to the guidance of the Spirit to enlarge the tents of our hearts, so that we are capable of embracing the suffering humanity with our Father's tender love and compassion.

The eighth issue of '*The Encounter*' is due in June 2023. We look forward for your articles by email: cjmjencounter@gmail.com before 30 April 2023. Gratefully we acknowledge the contributions of our sisters that give flavour to this issue. Special thanks to Sr. Mary K and Sr. Christina for editing the manuscript and Mr. Gopi for attractively designing it.

- Vijaya M. Udumala JMJ

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JMJ Bicentenary 'incredible jubilation' in Europe



JMJ Bicentenary Jubilee celebrations gracefully organised by our Communities in Rome, at Marienburg in Den Bosch, St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, together with our ecstatic visits to Generalate at Via Tevere, and our pilgrimage to Assisi, Venice, Paduva, Lourdes and Pisa have left everyone of us with awe and wonder!

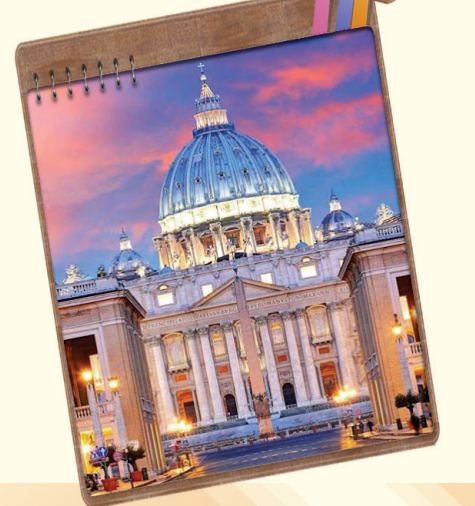
This jubilation in Europe has greatly impressed us, where in we experienced abundantly the fruits of JMJ family spirit, and revitalisation of JMJ legacy. It was indeed a journey with Rev.Fr. Mathias Wolff experiencing his vibrations while we walked in his footsteps.

Elegant Episode of Jubilee at Marienburg, The Netherlands

26 sisters from India and Ghana accompanied by Sr. Innamma, Sr. Valsa and Sr. Vijaya had the pilgrimage to JMJ Founding places in the Netherlands from 22 to 27 June 2022. It was an awesome opportunity to visit Den Bosch, Engelen, Culemborg, Amersfoort, Nijmegen and Heeswijk. Visiting the places connected with our Founder was indeed a great blessing for us. The reminiscent *Thanksgiving Prayer Service* as a mark of JMJ Bicentenary Jubilee on 26 June 2022, in Marienburg with about 25 Dutch Sisters, some personnel of JMJ and well-wishers was the high light of our visit. This jubilant celebration in Marienburg Chapal filled everyone with revitalised JMJ spirit. The lovely encounter we had with our sisters at Marienburg as well as Heeswijk ever remains as a sweet memory in our hearts. The extraordinary hospitality extended to us by Sr. Laetitia and Council and inestimable help of Sr. Gre Pronk are praiseworthy. May God bountifully bless them with good health and fill them with peace and joy.

Prestigious Bicentenary Celebration at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican and visit to Rome

On 28th June, all the sisters had a tour to the important places in Rome, including the Basilicas of Mary Major, St. John the Lateran, St. Peter and St. Paul. On the 29th June, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, we had an opportunity to participate in the holy mass offered by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican. On the 30th June, an impressive *Bicentennial Jubilee Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist* at the Altar of The Chair, offered by Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the CICLSAL, concelebrated by other priests was a remarkable jubilee event. Several religious and priests from Rome have participated. It was indeed a great occasion for nearly 60 JMJ sisters present in the eternal city of Rome praising and thanking God for the past 200 years of glorious contribution of the Society of JMJ to humanity. Basilica of St. Theresa of Avila's Parish choir created a heavenly atmosphere for the participants with their melodious singing. It was indeed an unfathomable moment of bliss and jubilation.



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Pilgrimage to Assisi, Venice, Paduva, Lourdes and Pisa

From 1st to 5th July 2022, we had a delightful and holy pilgrimage to Assisi, Venice, Paduva, Lourdes and Pisa. Mr. Tomi our travel agent cum driver took every effort to make our journey comfortable, and food palatable all through the trip. Fr. Praveen Mummadi from Germany accompanied us and offered holy masses in these pilgrim places. Overall, this pilgrimage had positively elevated our souls, strengthened our faith and left us in deep gratitude to God and the General Council who has given us this rare opportunity.

Special days in Rome Communities

All the sisters in this trip had an opportunity to visit Thesianum of OCD fathers, while some of them had their accommodation there. We had a grand JMJ family fest at Monte Senario community on 6th June, to mark the end of our visit, where we had exchange of good wishes, thanks and prayers. The Province and Region leadership teams with General Council had meetings at Generalate and at Claretianum. We are ever grateful for our memorable time with our sisters in Rome communities, although we could not visit the places where our sisters are working with SOM sisters due to the pandemic.

Bicentenary Jubilee a momentous occasion to THANK

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” - Thes 5:16-18

At the close of the Bicentenary Jubilee in Europe we are grateful to God for His blessings not only to the Congregation but also in the lives of every one of us! It was truly a time to rejoice and celebrate the blessings of 200 years. It's an occasion to think of our Founder with reverence and love, and numerous JMJ sisters who walked the way before us. On this significant jubilee it's our opportune time to grow in our spiritual life with personal conversion and renewal. It's also our responsibility to get deeply rooted into the spiritual ground of our lives, and live faithfully the spiritual legacy of the Founder Fr. Wolff with passion and zeal.

It is my fond hope that people will see something special in you. In everything, we must completely surrender to God's will, so that in this world there is no longer anything we would not happily leave for the sake of God. (Fr. Mathias Wolff, 1827)

Sr. Mariamma Gali
Bangalore Province

Sr. Tresa Maramreddy
Bangalore Province

Sr. Rajamma Gali
Hyderabad Province



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Bicentenary Reflection at Marienburg on 26th June 2022

Searching for the Source

- **Sr. Laetitia Aarnink**
Regional Superior
The Netherlands

At the significant occasion of Bicentenary of the Society of MJM, we have come from many places to be in Marienburg today, most loved, almost a holy place for us. We have come together from Ghana, Rome, Heeswijk, Boxtel, and India, to remember that we have been on the way for 200 years. Our sisters from Indonesia could not join us. We miss them at this important event.

The beginning of MJM was small and not everything pleasant. We have experienced high and low points, disappointment and joy. And today, we are here to remember how it all began. And specially to think about the place where we now stand.

In the Book of Exodus, we read that Moses, deep in the wilderness, was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law. It was there that the *Living God* appears to him in the middle of a *burning bush* which is all ablaze, and yet is not consumed. Moses, familiar with the wilderness, and yet amazed by this strange phenomenon, very cautiously approaches the bush.

When God sees him getting closer, He calls out to him: *'Moses, Moses, do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because the place on which you are standing is holy ground'* (Ex: 3.4).

Moses covers his face, because he does not dare to look up to God.

And then he hears what is expected of him. And by means of nothing other than the name of God - *'I am here, I will be with you'* - etched into his soul, then Moses goes on his way. It seems that there are no holy

places by a burning bush, in the wilderness or on the top of a mountain, where in a draught of wind, God passed by Elijah.

And this is also how it was with Jesus. He is born somewhere in Bethlehem, lives for some time as a refugee in Egypt, returns to Nazareth with his parents and goes regularly on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He appears in synagogues, by the Lake of Galilee, on a mountain, with people at home or somewhere on the way. He has no fixed abode, has no preference for holy places, but feels at home in all places. He urges his followers not to visit the temple or the synagogue, but to fulfil the will of the Father. Whether or not you hold fast to the mountain in Samaria or to the temple in Jerusalem, Jesus says to the woman at the well: It is not about a holy place, it is about people, who in spirit and truth search for the Father (John 4: 20-24).

It is not about clinging or longing to return to places, times and rituals, that we once experienced as holy and good. It is about the place where we now stand, live, dwell and work being experienced as holy ground. And yet, as modern pilgrims, we come from far and wide to Europe so that we can visit the places where it once began: Ghent, Namur, Amersfoort, Culemborg, Engelen. Are these holy places? Can these places be holy ground?

In 1819, shortly after he began working in Culemborg as an assistant priest, Father Wolff sent three candidates to the Soeurs de Notre Dame in Ghent (Belgium), to be formed there for the religious life. Later on, four other candidates followed. By 1822, the plans to found



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a religious institute became concrete because a number of young women from Utrecht had also come forward to enter the religious life.

In 1823 the Regalement (a sort of Constitution) had been approved by the Archpriests of Holland, and on the 29 July of that same year, the first house in the Muurhuizen in Amersfoort was rented. It is there, in that place, that the first community begins, with two sisters who had undergone their first formation in religious life in Belgium, and three young women whose spiritual formation had taken place in Utrecht, led by a parish priest.

The community began under the name *Pédagogie Chrétienne*. It was from Amersfoort that the institute extended into the south of the Netherlands, namely to Engelen, Nijmegen and Zevenbergen. Because of problems within and outside of the community in Amersfoort, a separation took place after twenty years between Amersfoort and the three communities around Engelen. At that time the Congregation had twelve sisters.

Engelen became the Motherhouse, but only for a short time. Its isolated location and the many problems with flooding meant that the Motherhouse was relocated to Postelstraat in Den Bosch. However, it did not take long before this house became too small. It was the Motherhouse of a rapidly growing institute. It was providing training for teachers, the novitiate was there, and 750 children came every day to school.

In 1896, when the Motherhouse had existed for 25 years, the decision was made to purchase ground on the Westwal, which today is known as the St. Janssingel. A convent of the Franciscan Sisters, called 'Mariënborg', had once stood on that same place for two centuries, where one hundred sisters had lived a contemplative life.

When in 1629 Frederik Hendrik occupied the city, it was then governed by Protestants. The property and goods of the convent were confiscated and the sisters were forced to flee. The convent was destroyed and was sold a number of times, and in 1896 it became the property of JMJ. The construction was done with real zest and zeal! On 31 December 1898 the clock was set into the tower. On 16 November 1899 the board members held their first board meeting there.

After 115 years we had to part with what was built with so much care and love. On 29 July 1897, Sister Seraphine Pullens laid the first stone, and now in 2014, the Provincial Council of the Netherlands had to sell Mariënborg. The cloister between the Dommel and Dieze exists no more.

Holy places: Amersfoort, Culemborg, Engelen, Postelstraat and Mariënborg: they exist no more. There is almost nothing left to remind us of those early days. Just like the burning bush of Moses, and the mountain on which Elijah felt the Eternal One passing by, they have not become sites of pilgrimage. And yet, we go on pilgrimage: we search for our 'roots'. But what are we searching for in these places? It is interesting to discover that you will find nothing.

But where do our roots lie? How do we get closer to our sources?

It took a long time before we became interested in our own history, because we were fully occupied with responding to the demands of the time.

However, the real question here is: are the active congregations only concerned with an external spirituality: doing good to those who find themselves in a difficult situation?

If this is the case, then 'mercy', benevolence, doing good, would correspond with providing education to

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poor children, caring for those who are terminally ill, giving a home to orphans etc. However, when it comes to mercy this does not mean giving from out my own abundance to another who has less or nothing. That would mean turning the other into an object of my love, of me doing good.

When it comes to mercy, it is not the 'I' who stands at the centre, but the other who looks at me, asks me for help, calls me to account. In the eyes of the other, the Other looks at me, touches me to the very depths of my soul. This is about a way of looking, of listening and feeling, that draws me out of myself.

During the last decades a gap has come to light between the religious institutes and the religious experience of the source which lies at the very foundation of these institutes: the non-rational explanation 'of God's working' in people, which on its own initiative introduces a new religious way of life. And yet, an attentive reading shows clearly that the sisters are being invited, over and over again, not to walk their own way, but to walk the way of God.

Some years ago the book written by Sister Seraphine Gommers, *'En het zaadgroeide op'*, the *'Seed Grows Up'* was thought more than sufficient. However, on 15 July 1997, during the celebrations to mark the 175-year foundation of the Congregation, the first copy of *'De Geest die ons beweegt'* (Sent by the Lord)

consisting of Founder's writings was solemnly presented to the Provincial Superiors in the Mariënburg chapel. It was on that occasion that the Superior General, Sister Benedict Melchers said:

'We hope that in reading and talking together about these texts we will be encouraged to continue walking in faith, on the way that lies before us.'

Our calling was and is about unpretentiously doing good, about helping where no one helps. This is in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus says: *'Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your charity happens in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you'* (Matt:6.3-4). It is not about doing many and great things, or about making a display of goodness.

Everything passes: all those memorable moments, holy places, even the place where we now stand: Mariënburg, where for more than 115 years we have lived, worked and prayed.

We do not know where the Spirit will drive us, but we trust that along the way we will reach our destination.

Or, in the words of Father Wolff: *'Just like the apostles of former times, so we are sent out to provide education to poor children, to apply ourselves to mercy. It is important that we treat each other with respect, that we dedicate ourselves to the work that God asks of us.'*



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Benevolent Blessings of Bicentenary

Bangalore Province

Great things happen when God mixes with us. It's indeed very true during the Bicentenary Year of the Society of JMJ from 29th July 2021 to 29th July 2022 - a year of spiritual renewal and incessant thanks giving for blessings of God to the family JMJ for two centuries.

We were fortunate to have the inauguration of the Bicentenary Jubilee Year in Bangalore. Though it was during COVID 19, we were present online viewing from far and wide the colorful opening of the jubilee year by our Superior General Sr. Innamma Yeruva and General Councilor Sr. Vijaya Mary Udumala who were present personally to mark the red-letter day in the annals of the Congregation of JMJ. This mega event took place in St. Stanislaus chapel in the presence of Sr. Anthony Mary the Provincial Superior and Council and many sisters from the Province of Bangalore.

During these 365 days of grace, we marched forward with different and creative activities online and offline that helped us to renew our spirit personally, and at community level, spreading the radiance of the spirituality and charism of our founder Fr. Mathias Wolff according to the signs of the times. We have touched many hearts through the implementation of various proposals put forth by the Bi-centenary Core Committee (BCC).

- **Reviving the original Spirit of our Founder:** Our Provincial Council has created a platform to review the Spirit and Charism of our founder by enthusing the sisters to spend quality time in reading, reflecting, revitalizing oneself and helping one another in the community.



- **JMJ Constitutions Talk Series:** Provincial Council of our Province has organized a series of input sessions on every Saturday for eight long months during the Bicentenary year, with the sourcefulness of Rev. Fr. Freddie D'Silva SJ, who integrated the JMJ Constitutions, challenging every participant to know, love and live the constitutions.

- **Quiz on Constitutions:** To deepen the knowledge on Constitutions, the BCC of Bangalore Province conducted quiz for 10 months on the Constitutions and Spirit & Charism. 215 sisters participated in the 10 months' quiz with much enthusiasm and lively spirit.

- **Remembering the dear departed members:** A special day was dedicated to the memory of all the dear departed JMJ Sisters. In all our communities' sisters offered holy masses, prayed special rosaries, organized prayer services and visited the cemeteries remembering our sisters with nostalgia for the great example of self-sacrifice and dedication they set before us to imbibe.

- **Felicitating the Senior Sisters:** It was indeed a noble gesture of our Province Leaders to honour our senior most sisters above eighty years of age. They were congratulated and felicitated for their valuable and exemplary lives as true daughters of the Founder.



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• **‘Share the Journey’ booklet:** The Province had encouraged the sisters to share their life experiences, the joy of living the consecrated life, the challenges one has faced with courage, vocation stories, witnessing life of sisters, and experiences in the missions, in the form of poems, articles and stories which we recirculated every quarterly as a booklet. This sharing, helped the sisters greatly to know one another, and enthused them to surrender to God in consolation as well as desolation moments of life, while at the same time experiencing the providential care of God, with His conditional love, and assurance that God is with us, and He journeys with us to build his Kingdom of love here on earth.

• **In solidarity with the poor, co-workers & beneficiaries:** All our communities helped numerous people by providing for their basic needs, medical aid, spiritual and psychological help. Some of the staff were able to renovate their houses, even building houses for them. Sisters walked an extra mile to reach out to the unreached, supported the people in various ways radiating sparks of smiles on their faces.

• **Reading the documents of the Congregation:** During the course of Bicentenary year, every sister has taken extraordinary interest to read month wise, the documents proposed by the Bicentenary Core Committee, on which the monthly webinars were organized. This reading exercise and sharing has definitely helped to transform the sisters personally as well inter-personally and as a community.

• **Monthly Webinars:** The webinars on the documents of the Church and the Congregation, helped the sisters to broaden their knowledge and understanding, and enlightened us to live the rich heritage of the Congregation, that successfully handed over to the members until today.

• **Honoring the members of various Bicentenary Committees:** The Province Leadership team has greatly applauded and appreciated the Province Bicentenary Committees and congratulated them for their team spirit and special contribution to the committees’ work.

• **Bicentenary Community Celebration:** It was indeed an occasion of joy that brought every sister, staff, students, well-wishers and beneficiaries into one JMJ circle. Celebration of the event at the local level helped the sisters to value every person as unique and important, whether big or small. All felt oneness of JMJ



Spirit and celebrated the togetherness as one big family of JMJ. There was a tangible sense of companionship and gratitude as so many people from diverse areas and ministries came to join us in the celebration and expressed their immense gratitude for the contribution of the Society to their lives, and in the place where JMJs are present for so many years.

Conclusion: JMJ Bicentenary challenged the sisters not only to look at the brighter side but also at the shadows. It was a time to reflect on our failures and the lessons we have learned over the 200 years. It was a time to celebrate the joy we shared together. It was a time to give thanks for every blessing we received. It was a time to be hopeful of abundant graces that we received and continue to receive.

The bicentenary jubilee year was like a rainbow with lovely colors, culminating the big and small events of 200 years, the richness of our heritage, the poverty of our practice, challenges that our Congregation faced and God’s mercy that nourished us. May God be praised for His goodness and grace. Let’s enter into the 3rd centenary to live the legacy of JMJ with great hope and trust. Long live CJMJ. All for the greater glory and honor of God.

Sr. Hrudaya Mary JMJ
Bangalore Province

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Treasuring the Bicentenary Jubilee Year 1822-2022

Guntur Province



- Sr. Mercy George
Guntur Province

On this historic event of Bicentenary Jubilee Year of the foundation of Society of JMJ in the Netherlands, we the members of JMJ Guntur Province are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to God for His benevolence conferred on the Society for the past 200 years. We celebrated the striking landmark in the annals of the Society, unfolding our history, preserving our patrimony, strengthening our unity and community living.

We are elated as we reminisce the memories of our Bicentennial Jubilee events. At the outset, we take the pleasure of thanking and congratulating the General Council, Bicentenary Committees and the Provincial Council who have set a tone with a yearlong preparation for these historic celebrations. We were given ample opportunities for the study and reflection of our Society and Church documents, writings of our Founder through monthly webinars, which were great resources to make our celebration meaningful. We are indeed grateful to the Congregation for all the opportunities given for personal as well as community growth.

The Bicentenary Year is a defining moment for our Congregation. The efficacy of bicentenary commemoration has enlivened the legacy and values of Fr. Wolff. The Charism that we have inherited from the Founder has a significant impact on us even today. Beyond reminiscence, it has posed a challenge as to how we interpret and integrate Founder's prophetic Charism into our apostolates to be fruitful and effective while responding to the signs of the times in line with the call of the universal Church.

In order to earmark the momentous milestone in our history we are happy to share the gist of some of our community's Bicentenary celebrations.

21st September 2022 was indeed a glorious day for Guntur Province as we celebrated "The Day of Salutation". We were nostalgic at the hard work of our senior sisters who have done great things as spirited missionaries. Proclaiming the Gospel of compassion, they have established the mission on a strong foundation through their fervent and passionate efforts and lifted up our Congregation to the present status. Long Live JMJ.

- JMJ Prasanthi Nilayam, Guntur

In honour of Fr. Mathias, we launched an 'honesty shop' on the campus to bolster the virtue of honesty among pupils. It is an initiative in which children are left to choose edibles or stationery on their own and deposit the money in the coin box unsupervised. The goal of this down-to-earth ingenuity is to enable children to be upright citizens in the future. This ground-breaking scheme is christened after Fr. Wolff.

- JMJ Convent, Marakanam

Biblical jubilee is about sharing in solidarity, and it's a 'jubilee of mercy'. As an expression of our solidarity with the poor St. Joseph's Convent, Hospital and School collectively reached out to 'YANADI' Colony, in Guntur offering them festive meal and bed linen. This act of reaching out added joy to our jubilation.

- St. Joseph's Convent, Guntur



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It was the opportune time for Holy Rosary Convent to commemorate the Bicentennial jubilee of JMJ together with 75 years of semi sesquicentennial of St. Joseph's College of Education for Women founded in 1946 with the endeavours of Sr. Stanislaus Swamikannu, with the combined efforts of Mother Angelina and Mother Edwiga, who worked relentlessly with the concerted efforts of the training young women teachers.

- Holy Rosary Convent, Guntur

Fr Mathias Wolff says, "In everything you must completely surrender to God's will, so that in this world there is no longer anything you would not happily leave for the sake of God". At our Bicentenary celebration we are convinced that, absorbing the spirituality of the Founder, every member of JMJ spreads the flames of love in their apostolic endeavours. The missionary spirit embedded in every JMJ is a beacon of hope and strength for the Holy Catholic Church of contemporary times.

- Christhu Jyothi Convent, Hanuman Junction

'Caring for our Common Home - the Mother Earth' is a serious concern today. Hence, we have integrated it in our Bicentenary celebrations with the title 'JMJ Nurtures the Nature'. In this programme, all our faculty and students as per the houses, were allotted gardens to plant, grow and care, naming them after the stalwarts - Fr. Mathias Wolff, Mother Stanislaus, Dr. Mary Glowrey and Mother Josepha. Children and Staff gift plants to their family and friends on their birthdays and promote plastic free zones wherever they live.

- JMJ Convent, Kanchili

"The strength of a rope lies in the way it is twisted. To build a thick strong rope, many thin strings are tied together after giving them numerous twists." Similarly, at the close of the Bicentenary Jubilee Year, let us to be generous in contributing our share as thin strings to make a thick strong rope in order to bind us together as a Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph and the whole creation as a Family of God.

- JMJ Snehayala, Mangalagiri

The high light of JMJ Bicentenary Jubilee celebration was remembering the foot prints of our JMJ sisters who voyaged from the east and west to radiate the legacy of our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ. Attributing this credit to our senior citizens, we honoured the senior sisters in our community with shawl and souvenirs in recognition of their hard work, and generous service in the Society of JMJ.

- JMJ Convent, Nagarjunanagar

Accomplishment of the Bicentenary Jubilee year is a journey towards the 3rd century with our founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ radiating JMJ legacy by reading the signs of the times to move to the peripheries where the Lord leads us. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God as we recall 200 years of God's accompaniment and his abundant blessings upon JMJ. We are ever grateful to our beloved Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, for his great vision and incredible legacy.

- JMJ Convent, Nallapadu



JMJ BICENTENARY BLESSINGS

Bicentenary Jubilee Celebrations

Hyderabad Province

- Sr. Anitha Toppo
Hyderabad Province



We, the sisters from Hyderabad Province are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude as we gracefully reminiscence the most significant landmark of the Bicentenary year. At this juncture we owe appreciation to the Congregation for helping us to celebrate the Bicentenary year, unfolding our past 200 years of renowned history, and to renew ourselves within to live faithfully our commitment journeying with Fr. Mathias Wolff - radiating JMJ legacy.

Bicentenary virtual Inauguration in Bangalore: It's with nostalgia, we recall the solemn opening of 200 years Jubilee year on the 29th July 2021 at St. Stanislaus Convent, Bangalore through a virtual platform meticulously planned by the Bicentenary Core Committee. The global JMJ family joined the celebration with gratitude, recalling God's faithfulness and providence of two centuries in the life JMJ. The Bicentenary Logo with its theme - *Journeying with Fr. Mathias Wolff - Rekindling JMJ Legacy* was unveiled

by Sr. Innamma Yeruva. Thousands of people including JMJ sisters, staff, students and well-wishers have viewed the grand opening on YouTube live streaming.

Opening of the Bicentenary Year of Hyderabad Province: Hyderabad Province marked the opening of the Bicentenary year with a special mass offered by the Archbishop Rev. Poola Anthony. It was a momentous occasion for us to thank God for our Founder's prophetic vision and spirited efforts of our pioneering sisters. On this significant occasion, our senior members were honoured for their contribution to the Society of JMJ.

Pre-programed Webinars: The monthly webinars and reading of the documents of the Congregation and the Church have greatly facilitated the sisters to renew ourselves. The shared reflections of our sisters and the resource persons have greatly inspired us. May God be glorified for their delightful inputs, proficiency, and wisdom.



JMJ BICENTENARY BLESSINGS

Grand Climax of Bicentenary Jubilee: On the 19th August 2022 we remembered our dear departed sisters as we marched with lighted candles in Mettuguda cemetery towards the resting places of sisters. The grand climax of Bicentenary Jubilee was on 20th August 2022 at St. Theresa's Campus, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad. It was well organised program by the Bicentenary committees and sub-committees of Hyderabad Province. The con-celebrated solemn thanksgiving Holy Eucharist was officiated by Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad and Rev. Victor Henry Thakur, Archbishop of Raipur. The jubilee fellowship meal was followed by a public function at 4 p.m. with felicitations and releasing of Bicentenary Souvenir, Calendar, Documentary film in Telugu titled as "Pragati Padamlo JMJ". Exceptionally, some of our former JMJs have joined the celebration. It was a great occasion to remember the marvellous deeds of God, and adventures of faith and love of hundreds of JMJ sisters. The cultural fest 'JMJ Spoorthi Sudha' on our Founder, the history and future thrust of the Congregation was the high light of the day.

Glowing Ever JMJ Legacy: Undoubtedly, our Bicentenary year's programs and celebrations yielded a great outcome to confidently enter into the third century of our journey of faithfulness, totally placing our future into the hands of the Lord. It is then our collective responsibility to continue our Journey with Fr. Mathias Wolff, glowing JMJ Legacy, that every one of us together with our JMJ collaborators, fan into flame, the love and compassion of God in our wounded world.

Immense thanks: Our deepest gratitude to the Congregation, Province Leadership teams, and Bicentenary Committees for carrying out the Bicentenary programs fruitfully and effectively. We appreciate your generous contribution and availability till the end. A special note of thanks for the bicentenary mementos, calendars, souvenir, documentary and the documents of the Congregation as the fruit of your ceaseless efforts.

We continue our life in the song of thanksgiving for all that had happened and continues to happen, that the good Lord who has begun the good work will continue to accomplish it. Congratulations! Long live JMJ!



JMJ BICENTENARY BLESSINGS

JMJ Bicentenary Experience

in Raipur Province



At the end of a spirit-filled preparatory year, the memorable celebration of Bicentenary of Society of JMJ made a deep impact and spread ripples of joy among the sisters and everyone who witnessed this great event. During the one year of spiritual preparation 2021- 2022, we have heard, saw, reflected, meditated, assimilated and shared so much of our spiritual resources, sentiments, reflections and experiences which in turn became the source of our renewal and recommitment as we entered in to the third century. There was a lot of spiritual ambience in all the activities that were carried out as individuals, communities and provinces.

As a Province we have been deeply revitalized with various spiritual activities like writing daily reflections in connection with our documents, quiz programs, written exams, collage preparation, power point and video presentations on our founder's spirituality and charism. Besides these spiritual activities we were able to share our resources with the less privileged by giving monthly ration to the widows, feeding the poor, giving concessions and scholarships etc. in honor of the bicentenary.

The magnificent and awe-inspiring celebration of the Bicentenary of our Society was commemorated with ardor, fervor and passion among staff, students and management equally and everyone participated in several activities that were conducted in schools, hospitals, mission stations as well as in our communities during the year. Through this significant event our sisters inspired the lay collaborators, staff, students and beneficiaries about virtuous and prophetic life of the founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff and our spirited charism.

As a Province we are strengthened in our bond as JMJs in witnessing the compassionate love of Jesus in our ministries through all these activities. Reading our documents "*The Seed Grows Up*" helped us to deepen our missionary zeal with gratitude as we heard the stories of our heroic pioneers and the senior sisters who went before us facing the challenges of the unknown, and of their faith journeys into unfamiliar lands, people and cultures.

The monthly webinars, and the inspirational sharing by our sisters showed forth the passion and commitment our documents and church documents called forth from us, as we questioned ourselves on our present ways of living out the mission entrusted to us. We felt admiration and wonder at what God was able to do in and through our pioneers and we also asked questions that surfaced as we considered the situations in which we find our Congregation here and now.



JMJ BICENTENARY BLESSINGS

The JMJ fraternity truly delighted at this enterprise of God and celebrated the grace filled occasion with a Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist on 30 July 2022 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Tatibandh, along with Parish family and friends. His Grace Victor Henry Thakur, Archbishop of Raipur officiated the solemn Thanksgiving Eucharist. A fellowship meal was served in the Provincialate, after which Provincial Council felicitated our senior sisters, for their contribution and selfless services to the Congregation. It was an emotional moment as they shared their life experiences that inspired the young sisters.

Celebrating the accomplishment of 200 years of our Society is indeed a cause for great joy, and it reminds us that the Congregation is no longer young but vibrant with a new beginning. The theme of our bicentenary jubilee, "Journeying with Fr. Mathias Wolff- Rekindling JMJ legacy" - aptly helped us the Congregation, Provinces, Communities and each sister to imbibe the original vision, charism, and spirituality of Fr. Mathias Wolff, with greater zeal and zest, energy and passion. It was a momentous occasion to transform ourselves to be vibrant followers of the Ravening Wolf who worked like a giant with great apostolic zeal, kindling our hearts to be the champions of frontier missions revitalizing and recommitting our lives to the cause of the Kingdom.

Believing that the Almighty is ushering the JMJ fraternity into the 'Third Century' we continue our journey with Fr. Mathias Wolff, our Founder and beseech the constant accompaniment of the Holy Spirit while we march ahead '*With the Lord of the World; for the World of the Lord*' to uphold and live the Charisma of the Congregation.

JMJ Provincialate
Raipur Province



Manifestation of JMJ Bicentenary in Ghana Region

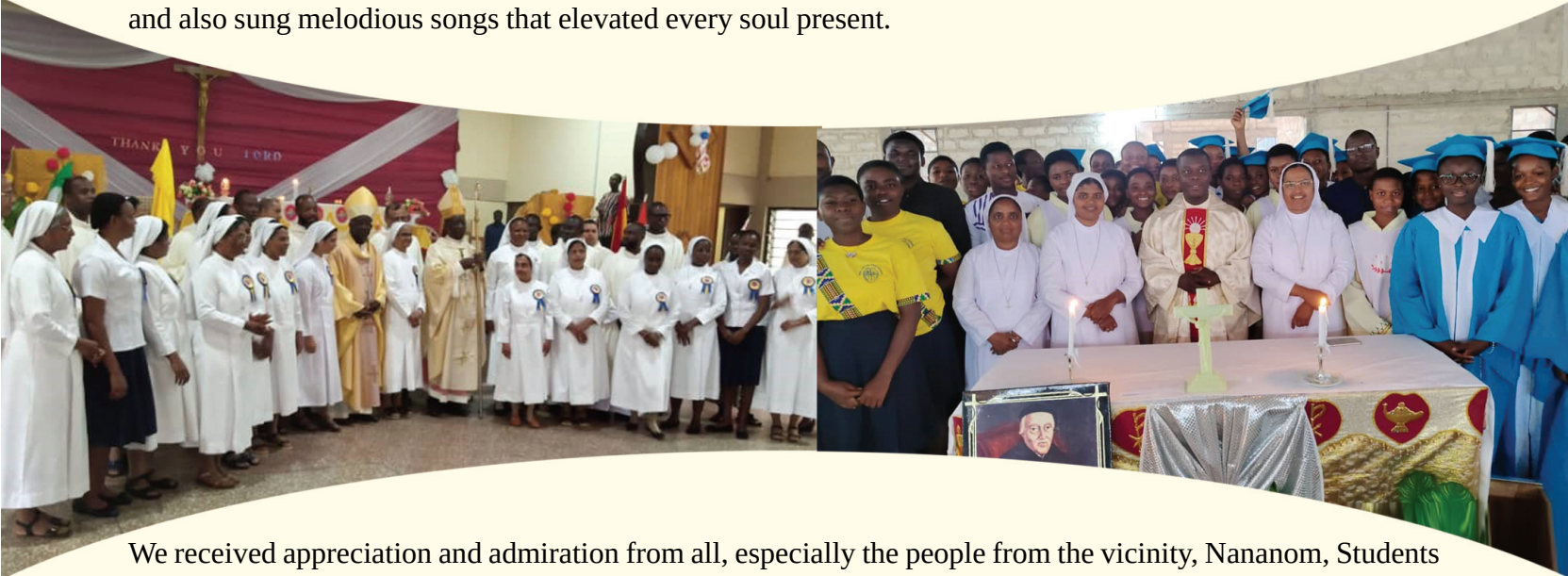
- **Sr. Regina Zangiti**
JMJ Convent, KBK

One yearlong celebration of Bicentenary of JMJ in Ghana was one of the memorable one as the event witnessed so many activities across the length and breadth of the Region.

Overall, we relished participating in monthly zoom webinars that have brought everyone together from far and near to constructively deliberate over matters of interest for the Congregation. Personally, I have experienced lot of inspiration through these virtual meetings to deepen my prayer life and to grow in my love for JMJ, and feel same for my fellow sisters. My interaction with General Council and other high-profile personalities of the Congregation is highly a privilege.

The good Lord has protected and guided us throughout the season of the year without any obstacles in the course of our celebration. We owed it a duty to glorify God's name for His merciful blessings showered over us especially during and after the celebration of the Bicentenary of this enviable Congregation of JMJ.

The climax of this unforgettable Bicentenary celebrations took place on the 8th September, 2022 at Pastoral Centre of the Sunyani Diocese. We place on record that five Bishops from the various dioceses in Ghana graced this occasion. Also in attendance were Nananom (Traditional Chief) of the area and students of Our Lady of Providence Girls Senior High School. These students displayed rich Ghanaian culture to the admiration of all, and also sung melodious songs that elevated every soul present.



We received appreciation and admiration from all, especially the people from the vicinity, Nananom, Students and even the staff of Our Lady of Providence Girls Senior High School. People have truly spoken well about JMJ Congregation in their undertakings such as educational institutions, and healthcare facilities. It has been observed that JMJ sisters are change makers as they have inculcated discipline among students and hence, there is a right transformation of the people in the area.

We feel very proud as God raised our school to the first position in West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) results alongside with the JMJ Bicentenary celebrations. We sincerely trust in the mighty hand of God Almighty and thank Him for His benevolent blessings on the sisters, staff and students. Kudos! to all the students and staff for bringing laurels to OLP Girls Senior High School, and to the nation of Ghana.

JPIC-CELEBRATING LAUDATO SI' AND SEASON OF CREATION

The 'Path to Renewal' Together-Season of Creation-2022



Listen to the
Voice of Creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and to respond together to the cry of creation. 'The sweet song of creation invites us to practice an "ecological Spirituality" (Laudato Si', 216), attentive to God's presence in the natural world'.

Hearken to this summon we, the sisters of St. Joseph's Convent, Dargamitta celebrated the season of creation with arrays of creative activities to rejoice with whole of creation and to listen attentively to the voice of the creation.

The Season of Creation commenced with a meaningful prayer service conducted by Sr. Bertilia, superior of the community imploring God of wonder to bless the earth and for the grace to celebrate the Season of Creation. It was followed by a procession to the altar bringing along the earth, water, stones, fruits, vegetables, flowers and plant in the gracious presence of Sr. Anthony Mary, Provincial Superior and Sr. Arogya Mary, Provincial Councilor on their visitation to the community.



Creation walks in pairs helped us to thank the mother earth for all its bountiful gifts in the form of all flora, fauna and lush green trees. On September 3rd eve special prayer was held in which all the members of the community gave a reflection on various elements of nature like earth, sun, clouds, water, fruits and vegetables, grains, plants etc. which helped us to understand the role they play in our lives while thanking God for the marvelous bits of His handiwork.



The symbol of season of creation "**The Burning Bush**" was set up in the chapel to remind ourselves the deeper meaning it has for the season of creation. The narrative about the burning bush was read from the book of Exodus. The burning bush, symbol of God's Spirit and presence reminds us to take off our shoes, to contemplate our connection to holy ground. On September 2nd evening, the tree planting was done by Sr. Anthony Mary, to mark the beginning of season of creation 2022 and also as a symbolic action declaring our commitment to care more deeply for God's creation.



The evening of 12th September we had an audiovisual aided prayer with a reflection on 'River Mee'. The flow of the river from its origin to its destiny helped us to dive into our inner selves glancing at our lives from birth through different stages of life and experiences. The lesson learnt was that our life flows till it reaches God, its final destiny and becomes one with the divine as the river disappears when it enters into the sea.

On 20th September we had pleasant nature meditation, beside the still waters, in the rare garden of convent

JPIC-CELEBRATING LAUDATO SI' AND SEASON OF CREATION



under the magnificent mango tree with fascinating chirping of birds, gentle touch of the cool breeze and the melodious music in background led us to be deeply united with the master of the universe using the five senses. It was a greatly energizing exercise to face the busy day. By praying the Rosary in the garden, we lovingly placed ourselves in the loving hands of Mary our mother and entreated her to envelop the mother earth under her mantle of love.

The last week in Season of Creation was a journey through the creation story of Genesis. Everyday reflection about the creation story took us by surprise at the care and concern of creator God for human race. It left us with awe at His meticulous planning of creation and he made sure that it was good.

The culmination of Season of Creation was very exciting with the community outing to 'Irakam Island' near Tada, in A.P. which is the embodiment of God's beautiful creation. It was a chill and rainy day. The clumsy weather did not put a stop to our desire to be together. The outing rekindled joy and unity among the sisters and brought us closer to the nurturing nature. An hour journey in the boat with water below and blue sky above was a spectacular experience for us. The scenic beauty with the rare, migrated birds was so captivating. We spent some quality time speaking and listening to the people residing on the island. Listening to their life stories we were stunned to know that they lack basic education and health facilities, but the people are so hopeful and contented with their simple lifestyle. They are very welcoming and hospitable. The visit to this island stirred us to listen to the voice of creation and the cry of the people. Throughout the day we experienced God's beauty and love mirrored in His creation.

Grabbing every opportunity to grow spiritually in the season of creation all the members had a chance of



learning a bible verse a day and had a fun memorizing the verse. Quiz was planned on the Biblical numbers and it kept the members on toes to prepare well for the quiz and everyone was very eager to excel. Quiz masters Sr. Showrilu Allam and Sr. Elizabeth K were very systematic in conducting the quiz and members were too smart to bag almost equal scores.

In this Season of Creation, we the community members decided to make at least two sustainable life style changes. It was a time to renew our relationship with God our creator and with all creation. We give thanks for all that God has made and repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to protect the earth our common home.

The Season of Creation is ended... but our efforts to become friends of nature will continue.

- Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent
Dargamitta, Nellore.



JPIC-CELEBRATING LAUDATO SI' AND SEASON OF CREATION

A Clarion Call to Harken to the Cry of Creation



- Sr. Linda Ojawuri & Sr. Vera Ayisaama
Ghana Region

The session on Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation has brought to us rich spirituality of JPIC i.e., God cares and seeks the wellbeing of the poor. It talks about the care for the environment and all that is within the environment and that God Himself is involved in and committed to the task of making the world a place that is just and reconciled, providing a dignified life to all His creatures.

The book of Genesis states, “God saw all He had made and indeed it was very good!” (Gen 1:31). JPIC seeks to draw our attention to the fact that, the whole of creation that is originated from God is respectable and deserves justice and peace. In doing this we should uphold all creatures as having equal right and dignity.

JPIC has been promoted in the Church right from the beginning of the Church on various ways. The Second Vatican Council which was convened by Saint John XXIII in 1962 and concluded by Pope Paul VI in 1965 aims at bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. It seeks to promote justice for all. The document *Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World reads,

“Taking into account the immensity of the hardship which still afflict a large section of humanity and with a view of fostering everywhere the justice and love of Christ for the poor the Council suggested to create some organization whose task would be to arouse the Catholic community to promote and foster Social Justice between nations” (GS 90). It seeks to promote justice and peace as well as the care of creation.

The Catholic Social Teaching (CST) also stresses on the dignity of work, the right of workers and option of the poor and the vulnerable. In the recent document “*Laudato Si' Care for Our Common Home*” Pope Francis raises concern on how to combat the destruction on the environment through human activities and suggest ways to protect it for future generations. Another concern is the inequality in the world where the poor and the weak of the society have no say on the mismanagement of resources and the environment by the rich. He calls on us to develop a new lifestyle where the entire world community works to solve the complex issue we face today.

We were also taken through the history of JPIC in the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph, JPIC – JMJ Charism and Spirituality and JMJ response to JPIC. The seminar has really enriched us on the part we have to play in promoting Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation in our communities and the society in which we find ourselves. The Sessions stirred in us a deep sense of responsibility to put into action, in small or big way, to promote the wellbeing to not only human community but to entire creation.

We thank Sr. Vijaya Mary Udumala, the General Councillor and Sr. Denin Mary Chiriyankandath, the Mission Coordinator for the Congregation for enabling us to draw out the action plan which will keep us building a bond with the Humanity and the Mother Earth.



SYNODALITY

Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

- Sr. Elizabeth Xess

JMJ Formation House, Bhopal



Pope Francis has invited for an year long preparation on Synodality to discern ways in the decision making of the whole Church in which we are also part of this process. The Church is inviting us to come in communion and participate in the mission as to the signs of the times.

For a Synodal Church – the three dimensions of Communion, Participation and Mission are profoundly inter-related. They are the vital pillars of the Synodal Church.

Synodal Church: The Holy Spirit is leading the Church to move forward as we are seeking the Will of God in the Church. This initiative is part of a global consultation process led by Pope Francis. This decision process through prayer and reflection is rooted in the encounter with Jesus in the sacred Scriptures and the liturgical life of the Church and inspired by openness to the moment of the Holy Spirit which enables us to hear the Spirit speaking to us.

Reading the signs of the times, the Synodality has become a tool in governing the Church in a world hurt from the pandemic, extreme weather conditions, massive migration, poverty, violence and moral irrelevence.

Communion: God gathers us together as diverse people of one faith through the covenant that He offers to His people. The communion we share finds its deepest roots in the love and unity of the Trinity. It is Christ who reconciles us to the Father and unites us in the Holy Spirit. Together we are inspired by listening to the Word of God, through the living tradition of the Church and grounded in the *senses Fidei* (sense of the faith) that we share. We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God's call for His people.



Participation: A call for the involvement of all who belong to the people of God – laity, consecrated and ordained – to be engaged in the exercises, deep and respectful listening to one another. This listening creates space for us to hear the Holy Spirit together and guides our aspirations for the Church of the third millennium. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and are called to serve one another through the gifts they have received from the Holy Spirit.

Mission: The Church exists to evangelize. Our mission is to witness to the love of God amid the whole human family. The Synodal process has a deeply missionary dimension to it. It is intended to enable the Church to better witness the Gospel especially with those who live on the spiritual, social, economic, political, geographical and existential peripheries of our world. In this way Synodality is a part by which the Church can more fully fulfil her mission of evangelization in the world as leaven at the service of the coming of God's Kingdom.



SYNODALITY

Synodality: Journeying Together Reflection on Holy Family



Pope Francis is deeply concerned about how we, as a Church, live up to the challenge of “synodality”. What is unique about this is that the Pope has given the Church two years to prepare for the synod in October 2023. And we are all invited to participate!

So the second word in the theme “journeying together” has huge significance. Every member of the Church is being invited to participate through reflection and sharing during this journey.

In this Christmas season we are conscious of the journey taken by the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we respect and love this example of love given to us from our God above. If we understand the bond which holds this family together, then we could parallel it to our own families. Through learning from a model, which God gave us freely, we could become better and stronger as individuals and in value, become better fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.

Mary accepted her role to be the mother of Jesus immediately. She was obedient to God through the request by the angel Gabriel. Joseph, through a dream, had faith in his role as the earthly father of Christ. Jesus, the King and Saviour of the world believed in the will of God and took His role as being the Lamb of God, who will take away the sins of the world.

What did these three members of the Holy Family have in common?

Obedience, faith, and love for God overflowed.

How could we implement these traits in our families and communities?

We could listen to one another, really listen as we journey together in Synodality. Synodality is opening our hearts and minds to the message others relate to us. We could take the time to understand the wants, likes, fears and desires of our own family / community members. We could spend quality time with one another. Let us put down the cell phones and really be there in body, mind, and spirit. Let us be present. May we be obedient to God by following His Ten Commandments, especially the Greatest two: to love God with our whole mind, body, and soul and to love others as God loves us.

May we have faith in knowing that Jesus is the Saviour of the world and that He is the Son of God. Do not be afraid to love God, to speak of Him to others and to share the Word of God and His Commandments. Do not worry about tomorrow, for if we truly believe that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour, then everything will always be okay.

Remember you are a member of Jesus’ family, now and forever.

YOUTH ECHOES

The Seed Grows Up...



- Sr. Annet Rodrigues JMJ

To begin on a lighter note... while I was proof reading 'The Seed Grows Up' along with our sisters and by chance if anyone asked me what I was doing, I used to respond, 'The Seed grows up'. Some wondered and asked what it was and I explained saying, it is one of the documents of JMJ Congregation. So next time when they called, the conversation would begin this way: 'What are you doing? Are you reading 'The Seed Grows Up'? God alone knows when your seed will grow up...' And a hearty laugh continued...

While I was going through the fifth Chapter in the Second period i.e. the Papal Approbation of the Constitutions, I thought to pen down a few things and here I am...

These are the four insights that crossed my mind:

1. When the General of Jesuit order was informed about the Papal approbation of the Constitutions, he answered: 'I shall ask God that our good Wolff may catch sheep for many more years and feed them to the greater glory of God.'

I was touched by this metaphor as usually the wolf and sheep share a predator-prey relationship but here Fr. Mathias Wolff looked for young girls to liberate them, to read the signs of the times and to carry the four corners of the world in their hearts, all for the greater glory and honour of God.

2. When our Founder began the Society, he had nothing except the dedication and generosity of the three girls and today we are nearly 815 sisters, how much more do we need to be accountable in this world that is moving at a nano speed?

3. In this chapter, we also find that due to a stroke on October 31, 1857 our 78 years old Founder peacefully passed away. During the memorial service of our sisters, the condolence messages are read out, I was moved while so beautifully it is articulated about our Founder: 'With a pious heart, a brave spirit and strong will, Father Wolff continued at Culemborg to set an example of apostolic zeal by using his talents and strength to the

very best for the salvation of souls, notwithstanding advancing years.' This challenges me to live my consecrated life as I ponder, 'How am I living? Are there any such things that will be said about me?'

4. It is said that prior to the retreat and post retreat preached by Fr. Wolff, the sisters were already filled with spiritual joy, eagerness, and earnest desire for spiritual deepening. There are times that we take two to three days to get into the retreat and by the time we get into the mood of prayer the retreat is over. At times, it seems to me as though before doing the retreat there was one evil spirit prowling around and when the retreat is over as the soul is found clean, a legion of evil spirits prowl around me. But the grace and shield of God protects and strengthens me.

As I went through the Second Volume of the SEED Grows Up, my attention was drawn to the inner prayer life, apostolic zeal, dedication in the mission and great trust in God of our Dutch missionaries. For any seed to grow up there are essential elements necessary such as a healthy seed, good soil, water and sunlight. These four elements are seen in the life of our pioneering sisters who were deeply spiritual, moved with great apostolic zeal, ever ready to adapt to any situation, saying YES to the signs of the times in perfect obedience to the Lord. They believed that when God entrusts a mission, He gives necessary graces to accomplish it and be successful in the mission. They lived simple and holy lives according to the pious maxims of the Founder and handed over to us the same great missionary zeal and the spirit of an ever-adaptable apostolic availability.

Dear Sisters, we are convinced that our Founder never gratified himself, but tried to be everything to everybody in order to win all for Christ. May we too journey with our Founder 'Mon Père' to radiate the legacy of JMJ here on Earth.



Inspired and Challenged by the Missionary Zeal of Senior Sisters

- Sr. Swarna Yeruva

JMJ Convent, Achampet
Hyderabad Province



With a grateful heart, I am happy to share about the impact of the charism of the Founder and the missionary zeal of our senior JMJ Sisters whom I knew personally.

From the initial stage of my formation till date God keeps on surprising me. I gratefully acknowledge my gratitude to the Society that has trusted and provided me with many opportunities to grow both spiritually and academically. As a formator, I had an opportunity to work with some of our senior sisters especially Sr. Adriana Plackal and Sr. William Mallavarapu. They have taught me how to integrate myself by accepting joyfully what life offers daily. I remember what our Founder said, *“the real virtue consists in fulfilling the task given by God.”*

My journey as a sister of JMJ had ups and downs but the grace of God was sufficient for me to move on smoothly with contentment of heart. Being a formator for along time and teaching the formees about Charism of the Founder, was a real challenge to me. The dynamic spirit of the Charism emanated from my passion for Christ enabled me to love the young members whom I had to accompany and help them to grow in deep intimacy with Christ.

This dynamic Charism of the Founder *“an Ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability”* is handed over to our pioneer sisters and through them to us. It is my personal experience that our senior sisters exceptionally lived up to the Charism of the Founder faithfully and fervently in word and deed. It is with their indomitable faith and trust in the Lord, they lived their consecrated life being loyal and trustworthy to their vocation.

“The happiest and the most peaceful and also the most cheerful heart is the one that is most detached from itself and only seeks God in everything”: (PM11.1). The missionary zeal of our sisters radiated from their happy, peaceful and cheerful hearts. They lived out of love for God and to save as many as souls as possible for God through their total detachment to what is earthly but deeply attached to God alone.

Fr. Wolff said: *A sincere sister of JMJ should carry the four corners of the world in her heart and be ready to be sent even to America.* Being a missionary is to be sent out anywhere, at any time but not anyhow. It places a demand on us to have the heart of God, to have the mind of God, to have the vision of God, and to have a deep desire to establish the kingdom of God. In this contemporary world, we need to get back to the roots of JMJ and listen to what Fr. Wolff is saying to us again and again. It is our responsibility to imbibe the example of our elderly sisters and live our vocation with faith and courage as true members of the Congregation.

I pray to God, our loving Father, that all of us may truly live our beautiful Charism without any kind of reservations of places, or apostolates but always be ready to go anywhere as obedience requires of us and to carry out with undivided heart the mission that is entrusted to us. May our holy Founder and pioneer sisters intercede for us. May we become the beckons of light of Christ to humanity.



My Cup Overflows with Happiness

- Sr. Lilly ED JMJ

JMJ Preethinivas, Bangalore



It was a Jubilee year, in the hot summer of an afternoon, I was returning to Provincialate after a tiresome program at ISI Bangalore, an institution run by Jesuits. As usual, like any other work day, the bus was overcrowded, with hardly any place to keep my feet together. I glanced around to see if there was any familiar face among the seated to hold my baggage safely. There was none, and I held things together and continued the journey clinging to an iron bar.

At the next stop, more people boarded and my balancing became tougher. Somehow, I managed to stick my head out for some fresh air. Suddenly, a voice greeted me from nowhere: "Good afternoon, Sr. Lilly."

I was taken aback, because I never expected to be recognized as a Catholic nun since I was in casual dress. Really, I was curious to know who called me but I never found the person who greeted me. My eyes were searching for that unknown voice who greeted me lovingly. In vain I found none in the bus. Already, it was Nagavara bus stop... while walking towards the Provincialate, I was disturbed a lot wanting to know who greeted me?

As I reached the garden in front of our Provincialate, I was shocked by a scene. Father Mathias Wolff and a number of JMJ sisters were sitting and talking to each other. My heart burst out with joy and wonder. I could hear them singing songs of love and praises. They were all in ecstasy. I could not see their faces clearly as their faces were illuminated with light. I took courage and went closer to them. Seeing me, suddenly some sisters

disappeared. I went closer to other sisters. One of them said, "Welcome to our abode!" I could not dare to speak. I stood beside them. The air was filled with fragrance. I found some preparing food, some teaching others, some nursing the sick and a few others walking with the poor. Their eyes were closed but their lips were moving, uttering LOVE... LOVE... LOVE... The people around them were saying ... Amen ... Amen ... Amen...

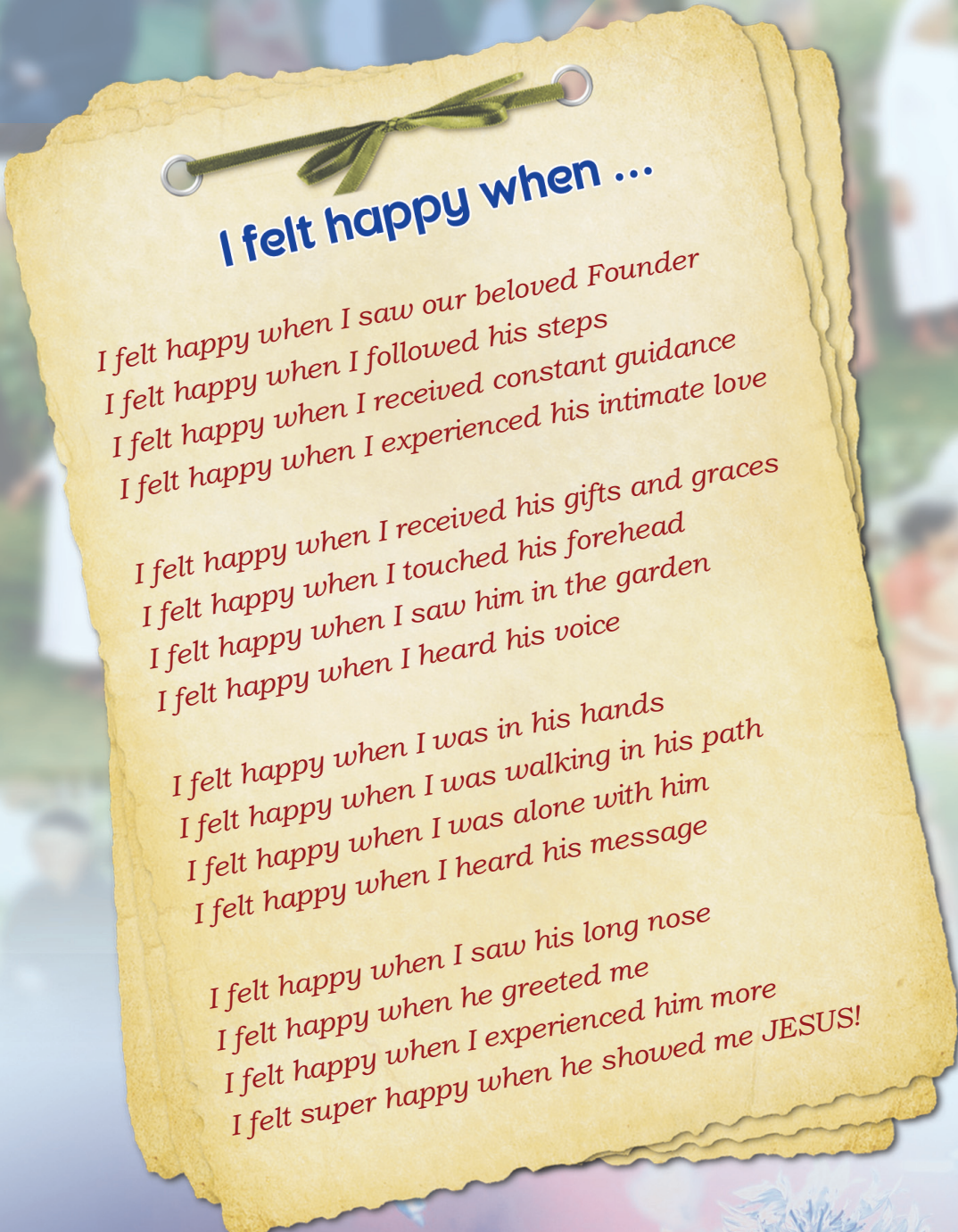


I turned to another side. Then, I saw Fr. Mathias Wolff. I went, sat near him and touched his forehead with my little finger. He opened his eyes, smiled at me and again greeted me with the same voice: 'Good afternoon, Sr. Lilly'. I asked, "What are you doing here? Were you in the same bus that I travelled? He answered, "I am loving and living Jesus" and to my surprise he added that he came to give a message:

*"When you love one another, Jesus lives among you,
When you live for love, Jesus lives in you"*

While saying this, a cloud appeared above the mango tree, and a voice came from the cloud. "This is my beloved disciple Mathias Wolff, listen to Him". I saw Jesus in the cloud. Jesus called Mathias and he flew like a bird and vanished. I was left alone in the garden. This was my dream, I dreamt on the day of the heavenly birthday of our Founder. I visualize Father Mathias Wolff as a bridge builder of his time with ours. He brought hope to the hopeless, love to the loveless, education to illiterate and meaning to those who had lost meaning in life.





I felt happy when ...

I felt happy when I saw our beloved Founder

I felt happy when I followed his steps

I felt happy when I received constant guidance

I felt happy when I experienced his intimate love

I felt happy when I received his gifts and graces

I felt happy when I touched his forehead

I felt happy when I saw him in the garden

I felt happy when I heard his voice

I felt happy when I was in his hands

I felt happy when I was walking in his path

I felt happy when I was alone with him

I felt happy when I heard his message

I felt happy when I saw his long nose

I felt happy when he greeted me

I felt happy when I experienced him more

I felt super happy when he showed me JESUS!



WOLFF'S VISION RADIATES

Mathias Wolff: “The Pearl of Great Heritage”

- Sr. Leema Paul Raj
Guntur Province



*“The pearl of great heritage, was born in a simple village,
To deliver the poor from the bondage, with the spirit of courage.
A man of prayer and of God, who found the will of God,
Found the source in God, to accomplish the plan of God.”*

The Bicentenary of the birth of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph was indeed a “year of Grace”, The theme aptly chosen helped us to resonate with the program of the Year, journeying with Mathias Wolff – rekindling JMJ Legacy. All of us lived this momentous occasion as a Family of JMJ with a sense of gratitude to the Lord, with a sense of humility but also with great joy, being aware that it was the Lord who blessed us with this beautiful spiritual apostolic movement founded by Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ.

This Bicentennial celebration was not just a moment of celebration without transcendental references, but a precious occasion that is offered to us to look to the past with gratitude, to the present with hope, and to dream the future of the mission entrusted to our Society with the Gospel strength and newness, with courage and a prophetic gaze, permitting ourselves to be guided by the Spirit who would always be close to us in our discernment of what God wants of us.

The Bicentennial was truly an opportunity for true spiritual renewal for the entire JMJ Family to enrich ourselves with current topics, an opportunity to make the charism more alive and make our spirituality more contemporary, as it had always been for two centuries. This celebration was an opportunity to live the mission that had been entrusted to us with renewed conviction and strength, always for the good of poor children, caring for the sick around the world, especially those who need it most, the poorest of the poor and the most fragile people of our world.

As our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff had already shown the path that we must follow, it's a great challenge for all of us, the JMJ family to renew our commitment once again in the spirit of our vocation to read the signs of the times with clear intentions. The

spirit of joy and excitement overwhelmed every one of us while recalling the hardships of our pioneers who toiled for the growth and development of our Congregation and which remains an inspiration to everyone today. With deep sense of gratitude, humility and obedience we need to carry out the inspiration and legacy left to us by our pioneers and it's our challenge and vocation to accomplish it. This inspiration of our pioneers kept us going with a new heart to reach out to all the people across the world. With their persuasions, we felt vibrant not only to admire our pioneers, but also to move forward with greater vigour and undeniable commitment to expand our mission to reach the unreached in our society.

As we began the third centenary, let us restart our journey with Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, who blesses us from heaven and gives us the grace to revitalise our commitment responding to the cry of the poor and cry of the earth as well as reading the signs of the times and making JMJ dream a reality in God's service.



WOLFF'S VISION RADIATES

JMJ Charism Ever Alive in Us !

- Sr. Mary Maddimadugu JMJ

Raipur Province



The Charism of JMJ “**an Ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability**” handed over to us by our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ resounds in my heart and always leaves me with total admiration and amazement. It’s so dynamic, alive and contemporary. The dynamic movement of the Charism of our Congregation is a movement of organic life that has the continuity from the seed, through the branch and the flower to the fruit.

We the JMJs imbibe the spirit of “**Ever**” by being -

- Ever ready to do the will of God and testify it through our ministry.
- Ever ready to walk in the footprints of Jesus and lead others to Christ.
- Ever ready to listen to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit to be sent on mission.



We the JMJs imbibe the spirit of “**Adaptation**” by -

- Adapting to the spirit of our Congregation.
- Adapting to the new demands and challenges in our ministry.
- Adapting to multiple cultures, climates, contexts, people and places for the sake of the Gospel.



We the JMJs imbibe the spirit of “**Apostolic**” by being -

- Apostolic in our teaching the values of Jesus like the apostles in the education of every student
- Apostolic in serving the sick and suffering like Jesus
- Apostolic in our concern for social justice, serving the most marginalized and downtrodden people in the society.



APOSTOLIC

We the JMJ’s imbibe the spirit of “**Availability**” by being -

- Available and ready to be sent on a mission of God
- Available always in building up the Lord’s world like that of Mary and Joseph
- Available to work tirelessly for the greater glory of God.



AVAILABILITY

If the Charism is truly alive in each one of us, then it is continuity of life originating from our beloved Founder. Let us live in all its fullness and richness, the Charism of our Founder in the context of our reality to today’s contemporary world, being sensitive to the presence of the Spirit who inspires and empowers us on our journey. Let us always be proud of being a member of the Congregation of JMJ and that is our humble tribute to our beloved Founder.

WOLFF'S VISION RADIATES

Rooted and Grounded in JMJ Charism

- Sr. Maria Prajitha Pudota

Assam, Raipur Province



Charism is a spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit, who empowers the one willing to dedicate oneself to God and neighbor in service of love. Our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, encountered the Holy Spirit in a very personal way to liberate the Catholics of his time from their clandestine existence. Moved by the same Spirit our pioneer sisters followed the path of the Founder and were sent to those in desperate need in a particular world situation. Availability for mission of the Congregation was expressed in their love for God and people. Today every member of JMJ has witnessed to the richness of the Charism being lived and expressed in all capacities by the stalwarts of our Congregation.

At the end of 200 years of selfless service to humanity in the Church and in the world, I am indeed very grateful to God the Father Almighty for the countless blessings, He has bestowed on our Congregation.

Inspired by the prophetic Charism of the Founder and the pioneering sisters, and responding to the call of God today, I am sent as a pioneering missionary to Assam. I am ever ready for the mission of the Congregation after the great example of our missionaries from Holland and Australia as well as from India. I heard many times from our elderly sisters to *"trust in the Divine Providence, for with God everything is possible"*. And *"Jesus Mary Joseph pray for us"* was an often-repeated prayer. Though they were not protected by mighty structures, pleasant situations or good climatic conditions, there was simplicity, spirit of poverty, self-sacrifice and sheer joy in abundance and an extraordinary charm that attracted those around them, including their close followers and collaborators. Being attentive to the signs of the times they have adapted totally to live up to the Charism that demanded them never to look back from the mission land.

As I take delight in the life experiences of our Founder and pioneers, I am called to be rooted in our Charism in order to be more creative as a missionary answering God's call to proclaim the Good News, especially to the poor and the most abandoned, in the context of our wounded and bruised world today. As I grow in grace and wisdom through my consecrated life it's a beautiful experience to see our Charism lived across cultures and nations. It deepened my understanding of living interculturality, implanted in me a deep reverence for the sacred history of all people and offered me an opportunity to become a better person by the richness of diversity I encountered in my mission.

As a sister of JMJ the sparks that deepen my commitment and renew my vocation on a daily basis are - Being rooted in Christ, continually steeping in the Word of God, that keep alive the fire of the Charism out of my love for God and the people.

WOLFF'S VISION RADIATES

Striding on the Footsteps of Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ

- Sr. Soujanya Pathiwada
Guntur Province



Rooted in the love of God
Mathias blessed with fine sensitivity of mind
Gifted with a delicate heart so kind
An ideal priest Mathias we say with pride

Adorned with a heart that loved
Endowed with hands that served
Wolff saw God in rags and ran around
To clad Him with garments of gold

With a powerful vibrant voice, he spoke
Fetters of the ignorant and innocent he broke
Stormed like the tempest for the truth above
Defied all that tore the law of love

Oh, the giant enlightened liberator
Led the youth as she wolfs for the Creator
Resonated the voice of the Spirit's power
For the supernatural bliss forever

One by his side to protect and cheer
An upward glance calmed each doubt and fear
He could lean on arm unseen
That strengthened his spirit serene

Moved by the Spirit to gain souls for God
Sent on mission of mercy for good deed
To radiate Wolff's legacy ever shine
Making JMJ Charism forever alive

Follow the path of Christ with passion
Striding Mathias' vision with compassion
Lead the people on the road to emancipation
Continuing God's work of redemption

"LONG LIVE JMJ"



WOLFF'S VISION RADIATES

Founder: A Vibrant Visionary and Charismatic Missionary

- **Sr. Kavya Raikanti JMJ**
JMJ Convent, Gyaraspur
Hyderabad Province



*Our Founder is so bright
His ways are always great
A charismatic visionary spirit
That made him a great missionary right
The Spirit which led Jesus
Is the same Spirit which led Mathias
The same Spirit leads us at all times*

*Wolff's Spirit and Charism are our Legacy
They lead us to experience Jesus in ecstasy
To follow Jesus' path forever faithfully
JMJ Charism calls us for harmonious entity
It's Charism which calls us for adaptability
It's a Charism which calls us for apostolic availability
Following it loyally we have our true identity*

*Spirit of the Congregation is the spirit of Jesus Mary Joseph
It finds its expression in Ora et Labora
We live with the Lord of the World, for the World of the Lord
Ascending to God and descending to the people of God
Being and becoming contemplative in action indeed
To be at the service of God and neighbour in need
Offering all for the honour and the glory of God*



WISDOM'S WHISPERS

My Life's Journey in JMJ

- Sr. Dr. Francis Annam, JMJ
St. Xavier's Convent, Ongole

I was born in a small, remote village called Garlapadu, Guntur Dt., Andhra Pradesh. My father was a Hindu and mother a Catholic. Some years later, my family migrated to my mother's place Phirangipuram. Inspired by my mother's faith, my father accepted the Catholic faith, and became an ardent devotee of Jesus. He was an extraordinary holy man who loved me tenderly being the last child among his seven children. There was no daily



I made my temporary profession in the year 1989. The then Provincial Superior, Rev. Sr. Joannette Mallavarapu sent me for medicine in 1990. Trusting in God's grace, I completed MBBS and later MD - OBG at St John's Medical College, Bangalore. I consider all these events as God's interventions and His providence. Thus, I owe a lot and ever remain grateful to Him.

Mass and no Church in my village, but we kept up the devotions like praying the daily family Rosary that nourished our faith. Rev. Fr. Papaiah Allam, the then Parish Priest of Thalluru visited us once a month by riding a bicycle for an hour to celebrate Mass for us in my house.

At that time there was only one government school up to 5th standard in my village. So, with the assistance of the same priest, I was admitted at St Ann's school in Phirangipuram from 6th to 10th standard. All the girls in my village were married at a very young age. Convincing my parents, I joined at Nallapadu, for PUC with the help of Rev. Fr. Ignatius Yeruva, the then Parish priest. I was from a middle-class family. My parents, brothers and sister were hard working farmers. Their sacrifices motivated me to study hard with responsibility and by God's grace I passed 10th and PUC in first class bringing laurels to my family.

After PUC, I followed a retreat arranged by Rev. Sr. Ignatius Yeruva, the Principal. During that retreat, the words of retreat preacher - "Jesus died for you, what you are going to give Him in return?" inspired me to offer my life to the Lord and I desired to join religious life. This was a turning point in my life. There was a lot of resistance from my parents that I join the religious life; that came from my father's Hindu background. They expected me to take up a job since I was the only girl studied in my village at that time. My parents pleaded me with tears that I stay close to them in their old age. But guided by a mysterious courage and determination, I left home and joined the Society of JMJ.

Earlier in 2003, during the final year of the Post Graduate degree in St. John's, I had a deep God experience. I went through very painful experience when God filled me with His infinite love and healed my whole being with His unconditional forgiveness. His presence filled me with deep peace, joy, serenity, self-confidence, transparency, inner freedom, fearlessness and courage to shoulder any sacrifice for the sake of God. My relationship with everyone transformed into genuine. I was filled with a disposition to forgive, accept, understand and embrace every situation positively. This is where God became very much real and alive to me. Passing final year PG was a miracle and it was absolutely God's grace. I recall having said these words, "Lord, this intimacy of your presence is sufficient for me and I want nothing more than to thank you enough for the rest of my life".

As years passed by, I got engaged in more of work and less of prayer, priority given to people; gradually self-interest crept in. My profession, people and things were taken for granted. Pride and self-image dominated me. Without being aware slowly I fell into the hands of devil and evil was ruling my life. As a result, clashes, misunderstandings, arrogance, self-defiance satisfied my Will. Earlier God was very much alive, but later I experienced dryness in my spiritual life. But all through these years I never lost faith and trust in God. I always believed in His existence, His providential care, Fatherly love and continued to live on my earlier strong God experience.

Since, I could not cope up with an incidence of injustice, I decided to take sabbatical leave for one year, so that

WISDOM'S WHISPERS

I can in solitude and prayer decide my future life. I am grateful to the Congregation for availing me this beautiful time. During this period, I was confronted with a question - should I return to JMJ? But this thought drove me mad. It squeezed my heart. I went through a lot of agony. I spoke to myself- "For the past 35 years, I considered JMJ as my home, it is better to die than to leave JMJ".

I owe my gratitude to the Corona Pandemic, with lock downs, and house bound restrictions during the sabbatical, I spent more time reading the BIBLE. I could read it with an open mind and heart from the book of Genesis to the Revelation. Once again, I encountered my God alive speaking to me through the Word of God.

The life of Abraham touched me. Deep within me there was an awakening, "Francis, I called you but where are you now?" These words haunted me day and night, I had many sleepless nights. Sincerely, reading and reflecting the Word of God melted my stony heart, humility replaced my pride and there was sincere longing for reconciliation with God and people. I became aware that God uses difficult situations and various people to draw me closer to Him. I could forgive

and sincerely thank them who hurt me. It is because of them I could take a sabbatical; I could encounter my God and regain my relationship with Him. Making up my mind to withstand – what come may, ready to face any challenges and untoward situations, placing my total trust in God, surrendering rest of my life in His hands, I returned to JMJ believing that God is my ultimate Goal.

At the completion of staying nine months in St. Xavier's Ongole, following covid vaccination I was infected with corona, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. This crippled and made me dependent on others even for my personal needs. By God's grace, I could accept this sickness also as part of my purification.

God worked a miracle. He healed me completely through the intercession of Mother Mary. I am able to carry on the God given mission. I offer honor and glory to God Almighty. I am grateful to all the people who prayed for my health and vocation. Special thanks and my humble prayers to Superior General Rev. Sr. Innamma Yeruva, the Provincial Superior Sr. Anthony Mary, all the sisters,

fathers and my family members for your sacrifices, prayers, moral support and timely guidance.

Along with me, many of our JMJ sisters prayed to Rev. Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey for her prayers to save my vocation and for healing. Through her intercession and along with Mother Mary, I believe God has healed me and brought me back to serve the needy people of God.

As I glance at the past, I am grateful to God; as I look into the future, I surrender my life into His hands; and as I live now, I totally trust and believe that His grace is sufficient in all my limitations. I pray "Lord! You may take all that you have given me, my talents, profession, comforts, friends and even my health but give me heaven

at the end. Amen." YES, if I lose heaven, the entire purpose of life is lost and I will be lost forever.

Finally,
I affirm myself:

Francis!

Life is very short and it is temporary

Give yourself totally to the Lord

Give it generously in His service

Don't count the cost

Trust Him at all times

Surrender everything into God's hands

He will never leave you alone

He is always faithful

You are under

His loving protection. AMEN



Sr. Wenceslaus - a Gem of Great Value

- Sr. Arogya Mary Mallavarapu
JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect, for I shall not pass this way again." This is the core motive of Sr. Wenceslaus all through her life. She does her best, to everyone whom she meets, without any preference, even to the plants in the garden. At the age of 85 she is the JPIC promotor for Preethinivas Community, Bangalore.

A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor can a person be perfected without trials. So also, Sister Wendy has faced life's trials and temptations with undeterred courage and indomitable spirit. Born as the 5th child among 7 children she was loved by her parents greatly. Her younger sister is fond of Sr. Wendy, in fact they are like 'one stem with two flowers' and both wanted to join religious life but only Sr. Wendy was chosen by God.

Since her childhood, she had a desire to embrace religious life and she kept her vision and dream alive trusting in God's providence. Sister joined JMJ on 23rd May 1960 at Guntur along with Sr. Dionysia. She made her temporary profession in 1965 and then her perpetual commitment in 1970. Recognizing her talent for good communication, she was sent for teacher's training. She is not only a teacher to the students but a loving mother, she always had special care for the weak and poor students.

For Sr. Wendy, work is worship. In the morning, afternoon, and evening, always she is on her legs in the garden but still never tired and remains cheerful. Her life is very inspiring. She is obedient to the religious authorities throughout her life. A teacher by profession, she worked as co-novice directress and warden. In whichever community she was, she made the sisters happy by preparing special dishes. She remains happy and contented, never complains but always compliments on the beauty and service rendered by each individual.

She is a praying and discerning person. Every day, she spends at least 3 to 4 hours before the Blessed Sacrament, reads spiritual books, draws inspiration from the lives of saints and shares her knowledge with others. She is very simple, hospitable and God-fearing person. Prayer and fasting are her constant companions.

This episode reveals her love and relationship with the plants. In the Novitiate we had a Tree called, *Battakai*, which was not yielding fruit although well taken care, so she used to go to the tree daily and say, 'If you don't yield fruit, I will cut you down.' To everyone's surprise, it bore lots of fruits the following year. In life too she proved herself as a precious gift to God by blooming wherever she is planted.

A single encounter with Sr. Wendy inspires you and challenges you. In spite of her age and aches, we see her moving graciously among the plants, conveying message of love with her loving look and gentle touch. She receives everyone who comes to the provincialate community with a tender smile and affectionate wish. We just wonder how could she be so serene always!

While having a little chat with her, when I asked, how she feels about her life at this age, she strongly and spontaneously answered - 'My God has offered me all that I want, hence I have no regrets and am quite happy.' She never asks for comforts and never speaks of another person. She is quite happy and contented in life.

God has planted a person like Sr. Wendy in the Society of JMJ with a divine taste for prayer and deep devotion to her work. Her advice to the young members is to possess a deep love for the Lord and our Congregation, fidelity to our way of life and prayer, regularity and punctuality in our religious activities, courage to achieve impossible things and be an inspiration and role model to everyone to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Sr. Wendy is so loved and admired by all and truly she is a gem of great value!



Validating my Vocation to Religious Life

- Sr. Sophia Thaikkatil
Guntur Province



*O Lord, you are our Father, We are the clay, and you our potter;
and all of us are the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8*

During the Bicentenary year, I recall how the legacy of our founder enriched me to be available for mission. I am very much grateful to God for having given me the opportunity to be a formator in the Society of JMJ. The Charism of our Congregation an ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability inspired me and strengthened me to avail myself for the ministry. With deep sense of gratitude, I owe a million thanks to my beloved Society of JMJ for the trust and confidence placed in me to form the formees in all aspects of religious life.

It is only a flash back into my life. Today when I look back, I wonder how I could accept this responsible task as a formator that is to form the future members of the Society. It was blindly accepting the will of God, trusting that the one who called me will guide me. I know that I am only an instrument in the hands of God. Though, I experienced a lot of challenges and demands in the formation apostolate, yet I was convinced that it enabled me to form myself.

The candidates came from home with all the fears and uncertainties of their future, they had to learn to adjust with new companions, different cultures and languages. They ought to learn English, a language which they find difficult, learn prayers, about the Congregation and so many other things. They were altogether in a different world; hence I could not expect much perfection. They were not able live according to my expectation. At the

same time, I realized that vocation is a gift of God, like a seed planted in each one's heart, which symbolizes the soil. Formator is a caretaker, who takes the responsibility to make the seed to grow. It needs water, air and all that is needed to germinate and grow. In other words, the candidates need love, care, concern and understanding and recognition of their uniqueness.

The formators must offer themselves totally to God and to the formees. I learned to be patient, tolerant and see the needs of the candidate. They look for a role model. They learn from what we do, not what we say. In words of Fr. Wolff, we need to help the formees to appreciate and validate their vocation to religious life. It was a great challenge for me to foster their vocation, create a homely atmosphere, and to incultate in them love and loyalty.

In conclusion, I wish to say that a formator is one who walks with the formees hand in hand and shows the way of God. Today, I acknowledge the great works of God that many young girls were inspired and followed the path of Christ by embracing the JMJ Spirituality and Charism. Let us keep praying to the Lord of the harvest to send many more young girls to our Congregation to continue His mission. With the words of the psalmist (Psalm 34:8) let us inspire others, to "*Taste and see that the LORD is good*". May our holy patrons and Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff intercede for us.

MYRIADS OF MISSION

Reminiscing Memories of My Journey to Ghana - Land of Gold

- Sr. Denin Mary JMJ

Generalate Community, Rome

As I zipped up my last suitcase and dragged it towards the car, I hugged our sisters from the regional house, Sunyani exclaiming 'I would like to be back'. Before long, the house receded in the distance as the car set off towards Kotoka International Airport in Accra. I reminisce with bliss, the wonderful experience I had in Ghana, and pleased to share with you.

I visited Ghana in the second week of November 2022, and that was my first African country to visit. Thanks to the General Council that sent me to Ghana for an assignment on the need assessment study of JMJ mission in Ghana. The beautiful experience I had with my sisters working in Ghana reflected the beauty of friendliness, joy and the good sides of the people of Ghana.

My heart welled up with elation, as I envisioned the impending time to be in a new land, people and culture. The main purpose of my visit was to study the impact of JMJ mission and its concerns in the ministries carried out by JMJ sisters in collaboration with their lay collaborators. Together with JPIC Promoters' Sessions, Sr. Vijaya Udumala and me were able to create a platform where the sisters, and lay staff from our ministries; Parents Teachers Association and people in general have contributed significantly during the Focussed Group Discussion. This intervention helped us to draw out the strengths and the opportunities for JMJ sisters in mission and interventions needed for the effective functioning of the mission in Ghana Region.

This journey has recharged my personal life and my professional life as well. It was a great opportunity for me to understand and learn the culture that helped me greatly to interact with different groups of children, youth, men and women from different neighbourhoods. It's amazing to see their simple life style, pleasant and hospitable approach, open-hearted and generous welcome with Guinea fowls, chilis and beans. People's responsibility towards the wellbeing of their families and their respect towards traditional leaders and the elderly in the community is astonishing. My daily encounters with our sisters and unique experiences impressed me so much, and helped me to immerse myself easily into the culture. It was only then that I began to see the true beauty of Ghana which I keep cherishing all along my journey in religious life.

I thank the Almighty God for this rare privilege bestowed on me. My sincere gratitude to Sr. Innamma Yeruva and General Council Team, Sr. Sundari Singareddy and Council for giving me this great opportunity to visit and assess the mission needs of JMJ in Ghana Region. My deep gratitude to all the sisters of Ghana Region for their extraordinary receptivity in sharing their concerns in mission and above all their commitment to JMJ mission in Ghana.



MYRIADS OF MISSION

Sr. Elsy Chakkalakal's Amazing Life in Rome and as JMJ



"I have but one passion: It is He; it is He alone. Henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ" –Van Zinzendorf

My soul glorifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in the Lord my Saviour because the Lord has done great things in my life. With this overwhelming gratitude, I acknowledge all the wonderful things the Lord has done in my life. I honestly thank my Congregation for the privileges bestowed on me, especially for the fruitful and fulfilling life as a missionary in the Eternal City Rome.

To be a missionary is my childhood dream. I wonder how the Lord lead me through my life and blessed me with good health body and soul. I look at my past with nostalgia for varied enriching experiences I had, living in an international community at Dutch College in the beginning for about 9 years. Living together with diversified cultures helped me to adopt and adjust to various situations of life and to value the richness of interculturality.



Honestly, life is not always a bed of roses. Being true to my religious life and as a simple sister of JMJ, I always wished to live our Founder's spirituality and charism without any compromise. I lived happily and with content in Rome for almost 25 years, as well as 50 golden years in the Society of JMJ. At these two significant mile stones of my life, I am indeed so grateful to our beloved Congregation that always took care of me. It's by keeping my faith alive and my intimate union with the Eucharistic Lord helped me to be strong in fulfilling my responsibilities with dedication.

I was greatly inspired by our pioneer missionary sisters who sacrificed their life by leaving behind their loved ones and dedicated their services in the unknown land for the sake of their mission of mercy among the people of God. It was their exemplary life that motivated me to be a alive missionary with lots of conviction to serve the Lord in my little way like St. Tresa of Child Jesus.

"When Mary our blessed mother visited Elizabeth her cousin, the child in her womb leaped for joy". Indeed, God looks with favour on the humble of heart. Although, I am not so worthy, I am extremely blessed

with the opportunity of visiting Holy Land, Lourdes, The Netherlands and many pilgrim places in Italy. At the joy of my completion of 50 years in religious life my heart sings praises to the Lord and I feel as St. Paul says *"It is not I who live, but Christ lives in me"* It is very much true in my life as our Founder said, *"God has pulled you out of the world to work in His Vineyard"*. I experienced the hand of God guiding, leading and protecting me all these years as a missionary.

My humble little advise to the young generation is that you grow closer to God through your personal prayer in the presence of Eucharistic Lord. Having done that, you will experience an amazing power leading and guiding in your mission. Secondly, your love for our congregation and the elderly sisters. The wisdom and insights of the elderly will teach you many lessons to better your life. Let us remember when we are closer to God – spending quality time in prayer, we become fruitful and effective religious.

MYRIADS OF MISSION

Sr. Gracy's passion for Word of God recognised by Pope Francis

- Sr. Gracy Marokky JMJ
Via Lemmonia, Roma

In November 2020, I was affected by COVID 19 and for 16 days in quarantine. I was isolated in a basement room, where I could not see anybody, not even the nature around. Moved by the Spirit I spent my time in prayer and reading the word of God. Being inspired by the holy father, I continued to read and completed reading the entire Bible in 100 days.

After reading the whole bible, I had a great desire to write it manually in Italian to experience the power of God's word and to internalize it in my daily life. So, from March 2021 to March 2022, I completed writing the whole Bible in Italian. On my day offs I used to write even up to 14 hours. My determination to write the word of God is born from my personal prayer, and by the encouraging of my spiritual friends. I experienced vividly the power of the divine, and whatever intentions I prayed for during this time were blessed by God. Personally, I have experienced inner peace and joy, besides many graces and favours.

I have used 13 note books to complete it. It was the interest of my religious Sister Jancy who bound them into three volumes and encouraged me to inform the holy father by email with the assistance of a priest. I received an email from Vatican to participate in special general audience of the Pope on Wednesday, 21st December 2022. Accompanied by Sr. Innamma and other sisters from Rome communities, I had the great opportunity of receiving the blessings and signature of Pope Francis. Shaking hands with the holy father and touching the ring on his hand was a blissful spiritual moment for me on that significant day!

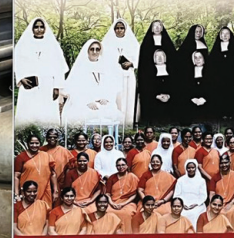


JMJ BICENTENARY JUBILEE FESTIVITIES IN VATICAN CITY

30 JULY 2022



Hearty Welcome
BICENTENARY
1822-2022
June 30, 2022



THE CONGREGATION OF JESUS MARY JOSEPH
Via Tevere 5/0, 00186 Rome, Italy



MUSINGS OF OUR PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI, VENICE, PADUA, LOURDES, PISA AND ROME

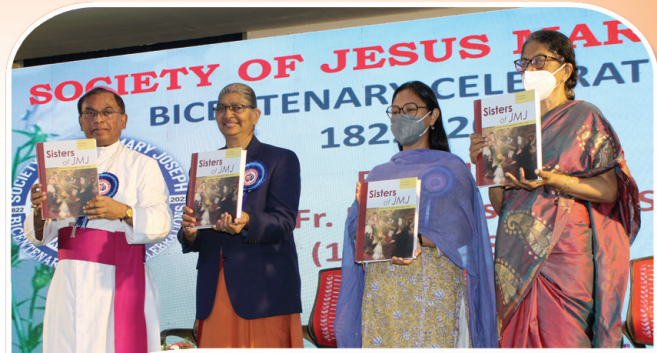
2-5 JULY 2022

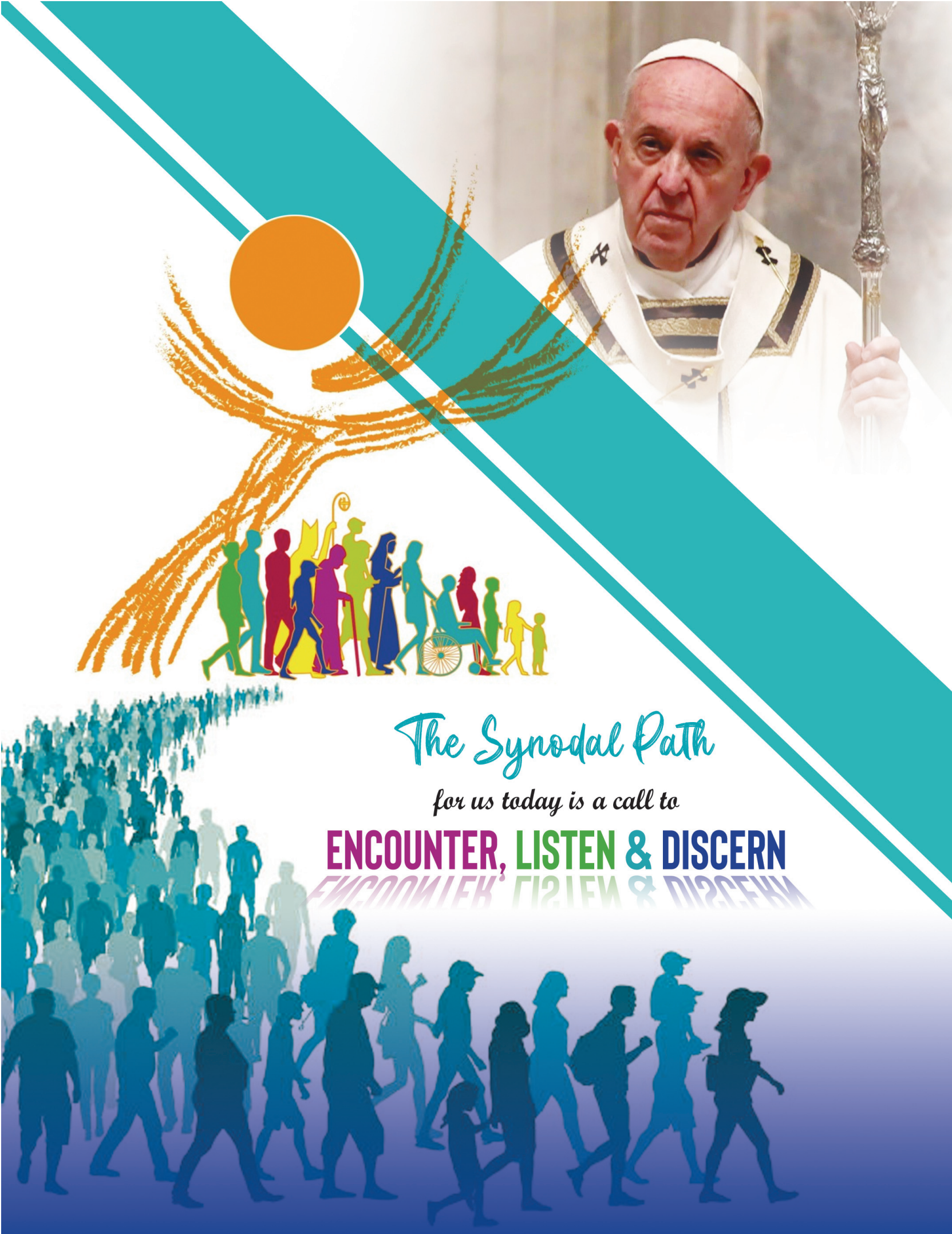


ZENITHS OF JMJ BICENTENARY FINAL CELEBRATIONS

St. THERESA'S CAMPUS, HYDERABAD

20 AUGUST 2022





The Synodal Path

for us today is a call to

ENCOUNTER, LISTEN & DISCERN

ΕΝΚΟΝΙΕΚ ΓΙΣΙΕΝ & ΔΙΣΣΕΝΑ