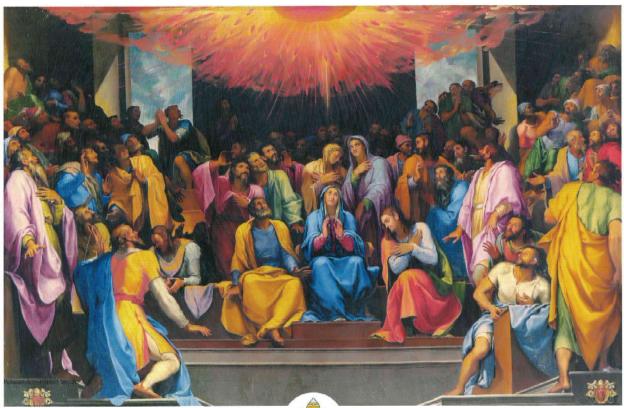






XVI Assemblea Generala Ordinaria del Sinodo dei Vescovi. Per una Chiesa sinodale: comunione, partecipazione, missione



La discesa dello Spirito Santo Girolamo Muziano (1528-1592)



02-27 OCTOBER 2024: Pope Francis ratifies Synod on Synodality's final document, marking a new approach to Church reform. In his final address at the Synod Assembly, Pope Francis presents the Synod's Final Document as a "THREEFOLD GIFT" to the people of God. Pope Francis described the Document as a gift with multiple dimensions, serving as GUIDANCE FOR THE CHURCH and a SYMBOL OF UNITY and SHARED MISSION.

CONTENTS

*	Foreword - Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, Superior General - Sr. Sushila Kerketta, GC in charge of Encounter		1 2
*	Resonances from the Second Congregational Chapter		
1.	A Sacred Encounter	Sr. Santhosh Mary Michael (BP)	3
2.	A wakeup Call	Sr. Veronica Thattil (RP)	4
3.	A Journey of Grace and Renewal	Sr. Shiny Kochappilly (GP)	5
4.	A Journey of Transformation	Sr. Lalitha Karanam (HP)	6
5.	A Glimps of General Chapter 2024		7
	Translation of the Autobiography of Dr. Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ		
5.	Mary Glowrey: Autobiography in Italian	Sr. Denin Mary Chiryankandath	8
6.	Analysis of the Autobiography	Anna Maria Sciacca (Translator)	10
*	Safeguarding, Mission cum JIPC		
7.	Safeguarding		
	The Mission that Fosters Hope	Sr Joseph Mary Mrudu Ravali V	13
8.	Season of Creation 2024	St. Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore	14
9.	Response to the Action Plan		
	from JPIC Desk	Sr. Denin Mary Chiryankandath	15
	Wisdom's Whispers		
10.	Timeless Wisdom from Senior Sisters	Sr. Prathibha Kalajalapati	18
11.	Evolve with Elegance	Sr. Bala Showramma Naguri	19
12.	Embracing New Horizons	Sr. Fatima Mary Berala	20
13.	Thriving Through the Years	Sr. Paul Basani	21
	Echoes from She - Wolffs		
14.	Consecrated Life: A Call to Service	Sr. Mary Mazzarello Narisetti	22
15.	Embracing Grace, Faith & Vocation	Sr. Brigit Govindu	23
16.	A Pilgrimage of Hope with Aspirants	Sr. Lilly Rose Mary Kommareddy	24
17.	Young Living the Dream	Sr. Sushma Gardia	26
18.	A Rare Treasure	Sr. Kamala Suripogula	27
19.	Mission with JMJ Lay Associates	Sr. Swarupa Jyothi Jangala	28
20.	Driven by Purpose – Missionary in Ghana	Sr. Berlin Gracy Magimaidoss	29
21.	A Life Chosen – A Path Transformed	Sr. Shashi Bimla Dung Dung	31
	Myriads of mission		
22.	A Journey of Collaborative Service	Sr. Lourdu Mary Palagiri	32
23.	Embrace the legacy, ignite the future	Sr. Elizabeth Rani Koligila	33
24.	A transformative experience	Sr. Amulya Kala	35
25.	She-Wolff radiates God's healing	Sr. Raymond Adakapara	36
26.	Ten years of mission in Ghana	Sr. Vimala Jose Chittilappilly	37
27.	Joyous Encounter	Sr. Jyothi Kota	38

Foreword

As we start over the publication of 'The Encounter,' on this issue, we are invited to reflect on our profound journey of Consecrated Life. With the theme "Consecrated Life: A Pilgrimage of Hope," we delve into the heart of what it means to walk in faith, fully surrendered to God's call. This pilgrimage is not a solitary journey but one that unfolds within the broader tapestry of the Church, grounded in a community that nurtures and supports each pilgrim along the way. Calling hope an anchor for our lives, Pope Francis said, "Christian hope is a gift from God that fills our lives with joy". His Holiness invites Christians to allow God to fill our lives with hope, so that we may become gifts of hope for everyone around us (Vatican News, 3 December 2024).



Consecrated life is a path illuminated by hope, where every step, no matter how challenging, is marked by the light of Christ. It is a commitment to live the Gospel with radical love and to witness to the transformative power of God's grace through our prayer, community and vowed life. This life, often lived in simplicity and sacrifice, is a profound act of trust – a pilgrimage toward the Kingdom of God.

In this issue, we explore the many faces of consecrated life: the joy, the trials, the grace, and the sanctification that come with living a life dedicated entirely to God. As we journey together in faith, we are reminded that hope is not merely an emotion but a virtue that sustains us, especially in moments of uncertainty. "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no.1817).

May the reflections and stories shared by our sisters, within these pages inspire and strengthen us, and deepen our understanding of this sacred vocation. As we are in the season of Advent, preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus, we are drawn into the very heart of the Christian vocation – a journey that mirrors the pilgrimage of Jesus Christ Himself. At the core of this reflection is the profound mystery of the **Incarnation**, where God chose to enter human history, not in grandeur or glory, but in humility, vulnerability, and love. The Incarnation is the ultimate pilgrimage of hope, where the eternal Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Consecrated life, in many ways, is a participation in this divine mystery. Just as Jesus, in His earthly journey, embraced a life of simplicity, obedience, and love, we who are called to consecrated life choose to follow His example to be pilgrims of hope in a world that needs the light of the Gospel.

The hope that sustains this pilgrimage is the same hope that the Incarnation offers the world: the hope of God's presence in our midst, the hope that God walks with us through our trials and joys, and the hope that one day, as Jesus revealed, all will be made whole. The Incarnation reminds us that hope is a tangible reality that we experience through our relationship with Christ and through our vocation to live for Him. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year filled with love, hope, and joy.

- Sr. Mary Karickakunnel JMJ





As we turn the pages of the last issue, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in our congregation, the chapter period. Following the conclusion of the Second Congregational Chapter, we now stand on the fresh phase of our journey renewed in spirit and purpose. The chapter has set the direction and it is now our task to bring these decisions to life in concrete ways. The 2nd Congregational Chapter engaged deeply with the pressing topics of "Fraternity" "Solidarity"

and "Synodal leadership" as vital calls for our congregation. May the Chapter theme 'Synodal Solidarity towards Universal Fraternity' find expression in the life and mission of every sister in our Congregation.

Universal Church's great event **Synod on Synodality** 2021 – 2023, a process, initiated by Pope Francis, **"journeying together"** or **"walking together"** as a Church concluded on 26 Oct. 2024. The theme of the Synod "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission" has enabled a deeper exploration of what it means to be a Church that is truly united, collaborative, and going out for mission. Dear sisters within the church we are called to be a new way of being. The synodal process has underscored the importance of listening, listening to one another, listening to the Spirit, and listening to the world. At the same time in 2025, the Church is gearing up to celebrate the ordinary Jubilee, the holy year which will mark an important milestone for the Catholic Church with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." It will be a major media event and the city of Rome will be a destination for millions of pilgrims from all over the world.

Through "THE ENCOUNTER" every six months, we embark on a journey of discovery, reflection, and growth and this edition is no exception. The theme for this edition is "Consecrated Life a Pilgrimage of Hope." This issue seeks to explore the many facets of consecrated life, stories of perseverance, compassion, and service that resonate within the hearts of us all. This sacred journey is not just about personal sacrifice; it is about embracing the transformative power of love and faith and sharing that light with others. This issue invites you to delve into the real-life experiences, reflections, and stories of our sisters that capture the essence of this journey. You will find narratives of our sisters who dedicated their lives to serving others, often in the most challenging circumstances. Their lives are testaments to resilience, showing us that even in times of struggle, hope can flourish. Each experience reveals how faith in action can bring light to the darkest places, fostering healing and renewal. Moreover, consecrated life teaches us about the importance of community. It is through shared experiences, prayers, and collective action that we find strength and inspiration.

In this issue, we present a message from the Superior General, a Special event in Rome in honour of Sr. Mary Glowry, Experiences of delegates from the 2nd Congregational Chapter. Under *Echoes from She-Wolffs*, our young and experienced members have communicated their dreams and ambitions. In *Wisdom's Whispers*, sisters have shared their lived-in experiences of faith and conviction to follow the Lord. In *Myriads of Mission*, you will find updates about newly launched missions and, an array of mission experiences bundled with faith, conviction, challenges, and success. Finally, the articles from Mission, Safeguarding, and JPIC express how our sisters are engaged in these initiatives.

-Sr. Sushila Kerketta

A Gaered Encounter

Sr. SANTHOSH MARY MICHAEL
Bangalore Province



Participating in the 2nd Congregational Chapter was a transformative experience, marked by deep learning, faith, and community living in NSK, Bangalore, from May 11th to 31st, 2024. My heart was bursting with excitement and trepidation at the prospect of accepting the call to be a delegate to the 2nd Congregational Chapter. My journey to the chapter began with recollection, prayers, and reflective preparations. There were numerous challenges in my path throughout the procedures. I knew I was about to embark on an adventure. I realized that the pivotal gathering was aimed at fostering dialogue, the exchange of experiences, and the enhancement of synodal occurrences with a profound sense of unity amidst diversity. It required listening, discerning, speaking, praying, and silence throughout the chapter in faith and trust in God. It was a blessing to me to be a delegate for the General Chapter.

The spirit of the chapter was an encounter filled with surprise and wonder. It was a Sacred moment. It had sacred tasks, theme-based inspirational talks, proactive homilies, and timely guidance that stimulated me to rediscover the inclusive responsibility of upholding one another and transcending self-interest. Each day's meticulous proceedings were loaded with creativity, solemnity, insightfulness, and wisdom. I navigated through challenging times. It was a process in which I learned to listen to each other while coming together in union. Providentially, I was invited to walk together, listen to each other, and grow together towards New Hope.

My vision for the Congregation:

If the 2nd Congregational Chapter is mindful, then we need to be serious in ensuring the following:

to be a congregation of the peripheries, to be a green congregation caring flora and fauna, to be the congregation for the youth, children, women, and transgenders, embracing lay collaboration in our institutions. I visualize JMJ's collaboration with NGOs and other institutions, aligning activities with the Church, and drawing more vocations while preserving and strengthening the present vocations.

The 2nd Congregational Chapter was a synodal journey for me. As we engaged ourselves as a congregation in dialogue, listening, prayer, and discernment to shape our future for the coming six years, this experience of "encounter and grace" helped me see the realities of our congregation, church, and world more clearly.

The 2nd Congregational Chapter engaged deeply with the pressing topics of "fraternity" and "synodal leadership" as vital calls for our congregation. I was blessed to draw from the rich wisdom and experiences of sisters with different knowledge. The chapter was concluded by capturing the collective decisions and deliberations as were to directive statements of the second General Chapter with a theme of Synodal Solidarity towards Universal Fraternity, made a strong vibration in the halls of the NSK, Bengaluru. The ripples of its happening must reach the shores of the entire JMJ. Hats off to the congregational team and to all who worked for the success of it. You have highlighted the synodal solidarity towards universal fraternity.

I love JMJ. Long live JMJ.

A Wakenp Call





I am profoundly grateful for being chosen as a delegate to the Second Congregational Chapter 2024. From the moment the theme was announced, "Synodal Solidarity Towards Universal Fraternity" I felt a sense of being drawn into something larger than myself, a spiritual journey that invited each of us to reflect, deepen our understanding, and unite our hearts in prayer and mission.

This chapter experience has been meaningful to me, an opportunity to reflect on my vocation and the collective mission of our Congregation. The spiritual preparation, and planning sessions all led up to a moment I awaited with eager anticipation. At the arrival at NSK, the atmosphere was filled with divine ambiance. The spiritual richness of the surroundings, the silence, and the tranquility all made it a place set apart, a sacred space for deep reflection and open receptivity to the Holy Spirit. The experience mirrored the depth of retreat-like moments, where I could attune my heart and mind to God's gentle whispers. There prevailed a profound sense of unity among the delegates, and the spirit of prayer and commitment permeated the chapter.

As the highest body of our Congregation, the Chapter was a sacred moment for each of us to discern together the voice of the Holy Spirit. Everyone was well-prepared, and all cared deeply about the issues at hand. I was struck by how all the delegates sought to be open to the Spirit's movement in each discussion, allowing each deliberation to be guided by prayer and reflection. The Holy Spirit was palpably present, urging us towards greater unity and deeper discernment for the mission ahead.

The theme "Synodal Solidarity towards Universal Fraternity" has been more timely and more pertinent. Personally, the chapter has inspired me to be more attentive to the voices of others, especially the marginalized and the suffering, and calling us to be in solidarity with those in the margins. This experience has deepened my conviction that the Gospel must be lived in a way that is relevant to today's world, responding to the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth.

What has touched me the most in this chapter in a very real sense, a spiritual movement that calls us all to open our hearts and minds to the working of the Holy Spirit. It has been a time of theological reflection, contemplative dialogue, and common discernment, helping us to identify how we, as a Congregation, are called to respond to the emerging needs of the Church and the world. I am especially moved by the way the chapter has called us to be missionaries of synodal solidarity, missionaries of hope, compassion, and care in all that we do.

This chapter has solidified my deep sense of sisterhood and fraternity that binds us together as a Congregation. It is a reminder that our strength lies not only in our individual commitments but in our collective solidarity. I am more committed than ever to walk in solidarity with the Church, with the people of God, and with all of creation, responding to the divine call to universal fraternity. As I look to the future, I carry with me the deep conviction that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us as we discern how best to respond to the needs of our time.

A Journey of Grace and Denewal

Sr. SHINY KOCHAPPILLY, JMJ

Guntur Province



The Second Congregational Chapter - 2024, created a deep impression on my spiritual and vocational life. As a first-time participant, I approached this sacred journey with anticipation, prayer, reflection, openness, and hope. It was more than an event, a transformative experience that deepened my commitment to the JMJ mission and renewed my energy at the service of the Church.



Deep within, I realized that the Chapter is a significant spiritual movement in the Congregation that calls on every member to be open to the working of the Holy Spirit at this moment in our history. It is a sacred and grace-filled time to deepen the unity and the spirit of sisterhood in synodality and solidarity, thus promoting universal fraternity. It is a faith journey, a paschal process theological reflections, that involved contemplative dialogue, and collective discernment, leading to the unfolding of strategic mission priorities as per the emerging needs of the Church, deepening the Charism of the Congregation.

The daily Eucharistic celebrations and reflections guided by Rev. Fr. Lisbert D'Souza SJ enriched the process, offering moments of grace and divine encounter. Silent contemplation and collaborative deliberations deepened my sense of unity with my fellow sisters and reinforced the sacredness of our shared mission.

The Chapter theme, "Synodal Solidarity Towards Universal Fraternity," resonated deeply within me. It called for a culture of care, love, and compassion rooted in Christ's hope. The Chapter's spirit was marked by dialogue, collaboration, and collective discernment, encapsulated in the "Conversation in the Spirit" methodology, which emphasized attentive listening and mutual respect. The Direction Statement of our congregation invites us to redefine our destiny for the coming six years in response to the evolving challenges of our world. The election of the new Congregational leadership team was perhaps the most intense and spiritually charged moment of the Chapter. It was an intense movement of prayer and discernment. The delegate's role in electing leaders who would guide the congregation for the forthcoming six years was a weighty and sacred responsibility.

In conclusion, personally, the Second Congregational Chapter was a journey of grace, discernment, and renewal. Every step of the process was led by the Holy Spirit, the true protagonist, towards a deeper understanding of our shared mission and our sacred call. The experience of being part of a larger body that is united in its pursuit of a common vision was spiritually invigorating. As JMJ members, we are called not only to walk together but to live in the spirit of Synodal Solidarity, reflecting Christ's boundless love with unwavering courage, humble service, and compassion that embraces all, transcending geographical or cultural boundaries. Rooted in our charism and empowered by the Holy Spirit, with hearts full of faith and love, let us walk courageously forward, embracing God's call and building a future where hope, compassion, and unity shine brightly for all.

A Journey of Transformation

Sr. LALITHA KARANAM JMJ

Hyderabad Province



As I reflect on my experience as a Chapter member of our recent JMJ General Chapter, I am filled with a sense of gratitude, wonder, and renewal. The three-week journey was a transformative experience that touched my heart, mind, and spirit.

The theme, "Synodal Solidarity towards Universal Fraternity," resonated deeply within me. As we delved into the various aspects of our lives as sisters, our mission, and our spirituality, I felt a sense of connectivity with my fellow Chapter members. Our shared experiences, challenges, and hopes created a bond of solidarity that transcended our differences.

The Chapter experience was a journey of discovery, growth, and renewal. One of the most significant takeaways for me was the importance of synodal solidarity. I realised the future of our congregation depends on the transformative journey, reignited passion and empowered leadership that equip every member with new skills and confidence to minister effectively with It was also a Spiritual Experience of Epiphanic moment, Spiritual rejuvenation, Deepened devotion.

Bonding among the delegates, united in mission and interconnectedness was an inspiration and motivation for my personal growth. I felt a sense of spiritual rejuvenation as we explored the theme of synodal solidarity. The Chapter ignited enthusiasm within me, and I returned to my ministry with a renewed sense of purpose and passion.

In conclusion, my experience as a Chapter member was a journey of transformation that has deepened my understanding of our congregation's mission and values. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this experience and look forward to continuing our journey together.





Australia's Gift to India - Mary Glowrey: Autobiography in Italian

Published by Centro Studi Femininum Ingenium (CSFI)

Sr. DENIN MARY CH JMJ



The presentation of the publication of the book'Mary Glowrey: La Bontà di Dio è gratuita, Un
dono dell'Australia all'India. Autobiografia', the
Italian translation of 'Mary Glowrey: Australia's
Gift to India' (2017) by Anna Maria Sciacca and
introduction by Angela Ales Bello, in 'Flores
Memoriae' Series of CSFI 2024 was on 27
November 2024 organised by the CSFI in
collaboration with Regione Lazio, Città
Metropolitana di Roma Capitale and Roma
Capitale, at Sala David Sassoli, Palazzo Valentini,
Via IV Novembre, 119a - Roma.

The CSFI which promotes female culture and knowledge of those female figures in history, thought, literature and art, more or less known to the general public, has chosen to translate the Autobiographical sketch of Servant of God Mary Glowrey in Italian. The initiative is taken by Prof. Angela Ales Bello, who was inspired by the life of the Servant of God while studying the *Positio* on Virtues and Fame of Sanctity of the Servant of God with ample quotations from the autobiography. Mary Glowrey was considered a feminine genius of her time who influenced the lives of many and is an inspiration for all, especially the youth, the women, and the religious and medical doctors of today.

Dr. Roberta Fidanzia, founder and president of CSFI saluted the assembly, saying that we need to understand the importance of women in society, the role of women in consecrated life, in institutions and in politics. One among those women is Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey who served hundreds of people in her mission with extraordinary passion.

Institutional greetings were extended by the honourable Francesca Barbato, Consigliera Capitolina, Sr. Mary Karickakunnel, the Superior General of the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph, and Rev. Dr. Cherian Thunduparampil CMI, the postulator for the cause of Canonisation of Mary Glowrey, which were commendable.

Prof. Angela Ales Bello, from the Italian Center for Phenomenological Research, made interventions on the life of Mary Glowrey, as an extraordinary example of charity. She denoted the internal conversation that has helped Mary to enter into the Congregation, perceive the situation and respond to it.

Dr. Massimiliano Del Moro, an Art Historian presented about 'The Mystic Healers of Soul', wherein he shared about the women Doctors of the Church and their contributions which made a vast change in the approach of the Church towards women and life.

Added to this, Prof. Anna Maria Pezzella from Pontifical Lateran University, speaking on 'Mary Glowrey and the courage of love', stated that it was the love of God and humanity which made her travel to India and care for the women and children.

Dr. Anna Maria Sciacca, from the Italian Centre for Phenomenological Research, and translator of the autobiography, articulated a note on the autobiography of Sr. Mary Glowrey, who wrote it during her last days in India, in obedience to the superior. Even as a girl of 9, she knew the answer to her question: 'Who is my Neighbour?' 'My neighbour is all mankind, including the Indians'

as she was familiar with some Indians to whom her father used to give food and accommodation in Australia. Later she decided to leave behind her loved ones in order to serve the people of India.

There were enormous accolades for the publication from the audiance that the project is sincere and precious because giving life to the other is a greater virtue than any other. St Paul says, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13). All the virtues are connected to one another, but LOVE stands in the first place. And Sr. Mary Glowrey chose to leave her country and her people inspired by the love of God, to serve the people in an unknown land, India.

http://femininumingenium.it/csfi/?tag=mary_glowrey



Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey JMJ

A legacy of Compassion and Healing

ANNA MARIA SCIACCA Rome



Speech by Anna Maria Sciacca on 27/11/2024 at the presentation of the Italian translation of the autobiography of the Servant of God Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart (Mary Glowrey), entitled, Mary Glowrey: La Bontà di Dio è gratuita, Un dono dell'Australia all'India, CSFI, Pomezia (Rome) 2024.

Translating a text from one language to another is a great responsibility, because, even if the translator knows both languages well (of origin and target), s/he is always a person who thinks autonomously, a subject who acts with her/ his individuality: it is possible, therefore, that in a translation there coexist the spirit of the author and some element, in the reproduction of the message, linked to the interpretation, that the translator believed s/he saw in that message.

I have often translated Latin texts from the lateancient or medieval period into Italian, but that
form of expression is tied to a linguistic code that
is now crystallized in forms and formulas that do
not change, precisely because they are no longer
in use in today's speech, but trying to translate a
text from English, which is current, contemporary
and spoken in almost every corner of the world,
involves other difficulties, raises other problems,
therefore, when Professor Angela Ales Bello
proposed to me the translation of the
autobiography of Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart,
I was in doubt about my abilities in this sense.
However, a quick reading of the author's words
was for me a source of emotion and reflection on

how a Christian life should be lived: I therefore considered it my moral duty to contribute, as far as my abilities allowed, to spread the knowledge of this woman, a doctor and a nun at the same time, exceptional for what she achieved. So, the keyword that characterizes this writing is Exceptionality.

Exceptionality regarding the context: when I think of someone who dedicates her/himself to writing a work, I imagine the person in her/his study, at desk, in the quiet and in reflection; the Mother Superior commissioned Sister Mary to write her autobiography while she was in the hospital, while she was facing the terminal phase of the disease that would lead to her physical death, while the pain and degeneration of her body prevented her from moving independently, while nurses and visitors alternated in her room. Despite all this, she wrote until she had the strength, with lucidity and serenity of mind.

Exceptionality regarding the text: the writing, in fact, is composed of three parts, different from each other, yet closely connected and, therefore, constituting an organic unity. The autobiography is, as we have said, written by the hand of Sister Mary; the biography, instead, was written by Sister Peter Julian, the secretary, disciple, and compatriot of Mary, reporting the events relating to the death and the subsequent development of the projects started by the doctor in the health and religious field. The third part lists a series of testimonies on the character, the work carried out, and the fame,

that Mary had earned in the world and over time, chosen from the many released by fellow sisters, civil and ecclesiastical authorities, and international organizations: therefore, three parts, which have a single object, that of remembering that the goodness of God gives itself completely spontaneously to those who know how to accept the invitation and, once accepted, does not eliminate the difficulties of life, but gives the strength to face them for the good of others and of one's own soul.

Exceptionality regarding the person: since I am the translator, I will not list the merits, that arise from a cultural, social, or religious interpretation of Sister Mary's work, but rather the moral and spiritual example, that immediately comes to mind from reading her own words. Her writing style is lapidary, and essential, it is not adorned with adjectives, metaphors, or rhetorical embellishments : the words give the right tone to the environment and situations they describe, and they do not dwell on comments or explanations of what is said: the deep meaning arises from the incisiveness of the facts themselves and the reader participates in the emotion that comes from it. For example, when she was a child of five or six years old, she fell ill with diphtheria and was quarantined in a room of the house; when she came out cured, she went to her mother's room and found her in bed, with a box at her feet: inside was a dead newborn, her little sister, who Mary did not know was about to be born, but who diphtheria had taken away. There is no mention of the parents' anguish, of the drama of the story, only one sentence as a comment: God had taken her and left me.

The expressive incisiveness has an almost prophetic value, in the sense that Mary's memories are not isolated or episodic, a thin but tenacious logical thread ties them together and leads them towards a single goal: all events tend, without our

knowing it, to realize the plan that God has for each of us, and we understand this only in hindsight. For example, in the countryside of the Victoria region, a group of Indians would pass by every now and then, to sell tools and various merchandise, in order to collect some money to send to their families back home: Mary's parents would give them a place to camp and would welcome them charitably. Then, this is no longer spoken of. When Mary, at nine years old, was studying catechism to be able to receive her First Communion, she asked herself, who her neighbor was, and who we must love as ourselves. The answer was all of humanity, therefore those Indians too! She felt in her heart. Later, she would go to India. When, in the midst of her medical and pastoral activity, she conceived the idea of establishing a Catholic school of medicine, she said: If I die, it will come true." And so, it was.

The calmness of her expression could seem a form of serene detachment from events, almost as if they did not touch her: the most significant facts and those of greatest emotional impact are presented with the same tone as the most daily and habitual ones, because in each of them the protagonist is the Will of God, she is a mere executor. The lesson that comes from this, is the total entrusting of oneself to Divine Providence, it is a continuous exercise of humility in the awareness that our abilities are not enough if separated from the hand of the Lord, who shows the way.

Let us think of Mary's continuous effort to keep up with her studies, with the need to periodically win economic support, as a consequence of the poverty into which her family had fallen. To pass a certain exam, her tutor had recommended that she study the Punic Wars well, because the question was certain; leaving the classroom, at the teacher's request, she replied that she had spoken of the sophists: but the teacher had not prepared

her on that topic! No, she replied, but she had come across a book on the sophists a few weeks before, she had read it and had been able to answer correctly: so, why congratulate her? Divine Providence had passed the exam!

From page 85 of this publication begins the biography, written by Sister Peter Julian, which narrates the events of Mary's life in St. Joseph Hospital, which she had so desired, her commitment to the Catholic schools of Nursing and Medicine, one built, the other in progress, her illness, her death and the mourning of the international community.

The style changes compared to the autobiography, here it is an external narrative voice that reports facts and events, but it is not the protagonist in the first person. The expression becomes more articulated, rich in documentary details, attentive to the chronology of the facts, which she has witnessed or of which she has become aware: it is no longer Mary, who shields herself from her successes, but rather a fellow nun who follows her with admiration, with devotion, as we see from brief comments that intersperse the text. The narration has now become more emphatic, in some passages almost poetic, but certainly sincere,

because a contagious emotion shines through in it, especially in the parts relating to the agony, to the excitement of the news of the death, which runs towards the convent and does not reach the superior due to a mix-up, to the funeral and, then, to the realization of the great project of a health network for women in India and of continuous training of specialized personnel, in the light of Catholic doctrine.

We have already spoken about the appendix: testimonies about Sister Mary's emotions, her behavior, her commitment to work, the recognition from the lay and ecclesiastical world at an international level: it is a necessary addition because it sheds light on aspects of Mary's person, which she with her humble reticence would never have admitted. After all, she did not consider them important, while instead they are for us, who from this edifying reading can learn not to complain too much about daily annoyances, and to give thanks for the much that Divine Providence continually bestows upon us.

With the hope that my translation does not take anything away from the greatness of Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart.



The Mission that Fosters Hope

Sr. JOSEPH MARY MRUDU RAVALI

Hyderabad



The Jubilee of the Church calls us to be the Pilgrims of Hope. Educing from the journal of my life, I wish to share my journey into the mission of Safeguarding.

Jesus came that we may have life, and have it abundantly (Jn.10:10). Every human person born on this earth deserves love, care and dignity. Unfortunately, not every child enjoys this privilege. Millions of children are deprived of basic care and are even abused. Abuse of children is a sad reality in the society where the victims lose hope. An encounter with young women abused in their childhood and their struggle to cope with every day's challenges, filled in me the passion to be a ray of hope as consecrated religious.

It was during those days when I was writing my thesis on 'Pastoral Care for Young Women Affected by Childhood Sexual Abuse." I came across the book 'Safeguarding' for the first time. Reading the book had kindled in me the spark of light and hope deeply influencing my prosepctive and approcah. It led me through the way of pursuing 'Licentiate in Safeguarding' at Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

My initial desire was to help the victims of abuse, to help overcome their suffering. As the journey continued, it was revealed to me that the scope of safeguarding is much more nuanced than I imagined. Safeguarding needed to be seen with widened vision and is not limited to the protection of children from sexual abuses. It has far surpassed the basic understanding of abuse as pain inflicted upon a victim by an abuser. It is about a system that either promotes abusive culture or culture of care. It is about leadership that fosters synodality

or hierarchically Synodality is where every person is given an opportunity in decision making and to participate in the mission. Safeguarding is not only about intervention and care for the abused victims but also about creating a culture of care that fosters dignity and respect for the human person. Safeguarding is about change of attitude that grows in compassion towards the victims and accountable to one's actions. It is about the behaviour that respects every person without reservations. Therefore, safeguarding encompasses everything that fosters the dignity of human persons and cares for those in vulnerable situations.

This understanding clarified that it is just a little service when caring for the abused; but it is a noble mission when we could create a culture where there is no abuse. This perspective fosters hope of living in a world as God wanted it to be. As pilgrims of hope in this year of jubilee, may we foster the hope as we follow the path of synodality and promote safeguarding culture.

I believe that it is the Love of God whose heart is full of compassion and mercy that prompts and inspires those he had chosen to reach out to the vulnerable in our missionary activities. I gratefully acknowledge the foresight and futuristic vision of our leaders, Sr. Innamma and Council who accepted my proposal and initiated this mission. This has been taken forward by the Chapter delegates and the congregational leaders. It is being continued by the Provinces and Region with the hope of making each sister, communities and the institutes the safe and sacred spaces for all, especially the vulnerable persons.

SEASON OF CREATION - 2024 "Protecting our planet simple changes, big impact"



St. PHILOMENA'S HOSPITAL St. STANISLAUS CONVENT

Bangalore

The Season of Creation is an annual event where Christians worldwide unite to pray, reflect, and act to protect our common home, with this year's theme: "To Act with Creation."

The Season of Creation invites us to pause and reflect on our connection to God's gift of creation. It's a time to celebrate Earth as God's sanctuary and our home, recognizing the creatures we share it with as our kin. Aware of the environmental crisis caused by human greed and neglect, St. Philomena's family unites to raise awareness and contribute to the larger effort to save the planet.

CREATIVE CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON

The two day's activity began with a meaningful inauguration in the hospital's main reception area. The exhibits displayed in the reception by various departments of hospital powerfully conveyed the message that, creation crafted in the Divine hands was all green, clean, lusty and productive whereas the creation in the hands of human beings experienced lot of destruction because of the human greed and neglect. Inaugural prayer led by Fr. Bacil reminded us about our responsibility as caretakers of His creation.

Enthused with the words of scriptures to be tillers of ground and care takers of His world, we set out on a 'Walkathon - Walk for the earth' at 8.45 am. All the JMJ sisters of the campus, hospital staff, staff and students of college of nursing

took active part in the awareness rally with placards and banner and walked the streets around the hospital covering Austin town, palm groove road, Victoria layout and Richmond Road. The walkathon ended on reaching Fr. Mathias Wolff block at around 10am.

AWARENESS PROGRAM

Hospital staff danced on the theme - elements of nature to bring awareness to the public/patient attenders on importance of saving the planet. Mr. Shiva Prakash delivered a short speech in Kannada on how we can combat water shortage by saving water and breathing fresh uncontaminated air by planting trees. There after D ward staff performed a mime on the theme 'Save the earth'. In later part of the day the awareness talks for all staff on 'Simple changes, bigger impact' was held in blossom auditorium explaining simple steps that can be undertaken to protect our mother planet.

SEASON OF CREATION LITURGY

On October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a Holy Eucharistic celebration was held in the hospital chapel, marking the culmination of the Season of Creation. Jayaraj, in his homily beautifully articulated the theme of season of creation to hope and act with creation. Elements of nature-soil, water, air, fire and mother earth were offered to God praying for various intentions.

During the Season of Creation, members were encouraged to embrace at least two sustainable lifestyle changes not as temporary actions, but as lasting commitments for the future. It was a time to renew our relationship with God and all creation, giving thanks for God's gift, repenting for the harm caused, and committing to protect the earth our common home.

WALK TO SAVE THE PLANET

Mission / JPIC Development Tidings...



Sr. Denin & International Mission /JPIC Commission (IMJC) Team

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) into mission activities is crucial for fostering a holistic approach within religious communities. By aligning our efforts with these foundational Christian values, to respond to the contemporary challenges, ensures that our mission remains relevant and transformative. In this spirit, the JMJ Mission and JPIC Commission is pleased to present an array of initiatives for 2024. These training programs, collaborative efforts, and targeted interventions, all aimed at deepening our commitment to justice, peace, and the care of creation.

Training and Workshops - Capacity building efforts focus on enhancing the skills, knowledge, and resources of sisters to improve their effectiveness and sustainability. Key trainings and workshops include:

- Diploma in Integral Ecology Course organised by Pontifical Gregorian University, seven sisters of IMJC & PMJC from Ghana and India participated from January to June 2024 and are certified in Laudato Deum.
- Three sisters from Raipur Province, India, were awarded with Diploma certificates in Pastoral Care and Human Mobility. The online course was offered by (SIMI) Scalabrini International Migrants Institute, Rome from 2023 October to June 2024.
- Training on the need assessment through Participatory Rural Appraisal Tool (PRA)
 was held for the Provincial Council and the Province Mission and JPIC Commission (PMJC)
 from December 11 to January 13, 2024, with 40 participants from four Indian provinces. The
 training focused on guiding executive teams to identify key findings and actions for each
 apostolate.
- Around 110 sisters from different places participated in the JPIC Promoters' Formation Workshop 22-26 January cunducted by UISG this opened up new vistas on the social analysis of today's world economic, social, political, cultural and ecology etc.





Network & Collaboration - Rapport building has enhanced communication, and fostered meaningful relationships with different entities of the civil society and the church in the following ways-

- The Congregation of JMJ obtained full membership in VIVAT International Organisation, which has UN Consultative Status in dealing with the human rights issues, eradicating poverty, sustainable development and promoting a culture of peace.
- Enrolled as member Organization with Laudato Si' Movement to inspire and mobilize the Catholic community to care for our common home and achieve climate and ecological justice.
- JMJ JPIC sent out international guide with Founders' Perspective on health, water, ocean, cultural diversity, migrants, youth, season of creation and e-news brief of JPIC every week with prayer requests, international days, special news which was shared with JPIC promoters of Asia, Africa, America and Europe through WhatsApp group to share with communities and the apostolates.
- JMJs organised solidarity event in collaboration with the parish of the Basilica of St. Tresa of Avila, Rome on the occasion of Mission Sunday wherein we displayed products made by the vulnerable women from rehabilitation homes in India.





Opportunities and Interventions - Community building is an approach aimed at the well-being and resilience of communities through various interventions below;

- Organised awareness campaigns as part of Global anti human trafficking network.
- JMJ is part of the migrant ministry under the Dicastery of Promoting Human Development to encounter 'people on the move' that have been transformative, reflecting the experience of "God walking with His people." And discussed practical ways for Ghana Region to recognize and respond to Christ in Migrants and Refugees embodying the idea that meeting them is meeting Christ.
- JMJ's involvement with Bridge and Embrace, under the Rainbow Catholics initiative, focuses on providing pastoral care of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- The survey on the work related to Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) encompasses various initiatives and frameworks established by JMJs in line with the Congregational Laudato Si Action Plan, which promoted these values within the communities.

Below are key aspects and activities associated with JPIC both qualitative and quantitative :

- Access to Justice: Access to justice is vital for a fair society, ensuring individuals can seek remedies through various means. Key efforts include:
 - **Vocational Skill Training (21.4% response):** Organized training for school dropouts to enhance employment opportunities and improve livelihoods.
 - **Motivational Sessions (25 communities):** Focused on building value-based lives by providing motivational sessions for staff, parents, and students.
- **Promotion of Peace:** Promoting peace involves addressing conflict's root causes and fostering non-violence. Key initiatives include:
 - **People-Centered, Rights-Based Approach (61.9% response):** This approach promoted respect for individuals' dignity, fostering equality and self-worth, and contributing to a more inclusive, just society.
 - **Inter-Religious Prayers (54.8% institutions):** Inter-religious prayers were held to emphasize the essence of all religions, is to love oneself and care for others, promoting unity and understanding across faiths.
- Response to Integrity of Creation: a) The survey highlighted that 64.3% of institutions placed dustbins in various zones to segregate waste, which is then reused as manure through decomposition, promoting environmental sustainability. b) The sisters across 8 communities cultivated organic vegetables and fruits on vacant land. This initiative reflects their deep commitment to the stewardship of creation and sustainable living.

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation into mission activities is fundamental to living out the Gospel message authentically. This holistic approach ensures that mission efforts are both spiritually enriching and socially responsible, fostering a more just and peaceful world.



Timeless Wisdom from Senior Sisters





In the midst of JMJ Raipur province, a treasure trove of wisdom resides within our senior sisters. These remarkable women of God openly share their stories of faith, hope, and love inspiring us with their joyful spirit, resilience, and dedication. As we learn from their experiences, we are reminded that aging can be a journey of growth, grace and fulfilment.

Life's journey is enriched by the wisdom of those who have walked ahead. Our senior sisters, with their depth of faith and wealth of experience, offer inspiring perspectives. They share: "Aging isn't about losing vitality but gaining wisdom. We've learned to trust God's plan, embracing each stage with grace accepting physical limitations and adjusting to new needs.

Embracing a healthy aging mindset involves adopting intentional disciplines that prioritize health and wellness. This includes recognizing and managing emotions related to aging, cultivating gratitude and positivity, and nurturing meaningful relationships and social connections.

Navigating Life's Transitions with Grace. People say, 'as we age, we face various changes: retirement, career shifts, relocation, empty nesting, and evolving family dynamics.' But for our senior sisters, these transitions present opportunities for growth and renewal.

"Retirement didn't mean stopping; it meant redirecting my energy, shares Sr. Hilary "I now focus on mentoring younger sisters and serving the community."

Sr. Felix expresses "the secret to aging gracefully is discovering her passion and staying engaged. "Never lose your sense of wonder," she advises.

For Sr. Jean Mary, inner peace is the key. "I find serenity through meditation, reading, and spending time with loved ones," she reflects.

These inspiring women demonstrate that aging is not about slowing down, but about embracing new purpose and meaning. they choose simplicity, flexibility, and purpose. Downsizing possessions, streamlining lifestyles, and adapting to new spaces, they cultivate mindfulness and clarity. By sharing experiences and mentoring others, they stir future generations. Embracing lifelong solitude with their beloved, they remain grounded in God's presence, exemplifying a life of balance, wisdom and devotion.

Today, our senior sisters are revered role models, whose lifelong devotion to service has impacted generations. With their steadfast commitment, they have championed social justice, shared their gifts with the world and inspired countless individuals through their remarkable witness. Their selflessness has created a lasting legacy, empowering young sisters and laypeople to continue their mission of compassion, justice and service.

Honouring our senior sisters, we celebrate their profound impact through love, service, and devotion to God. Their legacy of kindness, compassion, and faith inspires and guides us to keep God at the center of our lives.

To our dear senior sisters, I offer sincerest thanks for your tireless service and devotion. Your exemplary lives reflect our Founder's spirit and charism, inspiring us all. We honor your legacy and seek continued guidance from your wisdom and experience.

Evolve with Elegance



JMJ Convent, Nalgonda



At the Silver Jubilee celebration at Bangalore Provincialate, Sr. Joanette Mallavarapu, my role model, remarked about my faith, saying, "She earned her faith" and "She is different." Her words still linger in my ears and I cherish the profound experience that continues to resonate within me. Once, at Prashanthi Nilayam, Sr. Rosina Antony asked, "Bala Showramma, are you happy?" I replied, "No Sister, I am content." For me, happiness is momentary, while contentment is lasting. This faith, contentment and silence carried me throughout my life journey.

My faith has instilled in me clarity, certainty and conviction. I believe that faith becomes mere superstition when it contradicts reason and is disconnected from the deeper understanding of spirituality found in our JMJ traditions, culture, charism, and heritage. I am grateful to God and my second mother, who nurtured me in JMJ spirituality for 50 years.

Inspired by the Spirit, Jesus went about doing good and it is the same Spirit that inspired Fr. Wolff to establish the Congregation. Coming from a remote village, feel privileged to be accompanied by the Spirit, which has allowed me to grow gracefully.

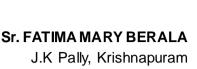
I have earned my faith... I am content and I continue to grow gracefully.



"Rapid of stillness... Your presence is tranquil, words roll without frazzle, move things unhurried, thoughts progress scurried, captivating yet sympathique, Branding existence in harmonique."

(Few expressions from my student)

Embracing New Horizons





I am Sr. Fatima Mary Berala and I come from a rich Catholic spiritual atmosphere. My parents and family members have been instrumental in nurturing my faith with my mother creating a spiritual environment that fostered my desire for spiritual growth. This supportive family atmosphere helped me discern God's will and inspired me to serve in His vineyard. I found the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ) to be the ideal place to fulfill my calling and I am grateful to God for my vocation and for the gift of our Founder, who imparted the Charism of "An Ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability" to our Congregation.

I entered JMJ religious formation as an Aspirant in June 1973 and professed my Final Vows in 1982. I dedicated twenty seven years of service from 1983 - 2011as an aided sister staff at St. Joseph's High School in Kurnool, where I also served as a Hostel in charge for 12 years. My religious life has allowed me to inspire young girls in both the School and Hostel, encouraging them to respond to God's call through my presence, words, and actions. I am proud to have paved the way for my younger sister, Sr. Theresa Berala, to join our Congregation.

God has given me the strength to discern His will and listen to His call in my daily life, bringing me peace and joy. His blessings have enabled me to spread love and goodness to others, allowing me to serve meaningfully in education and Pastoral Care. Now retired from Government educational service for 14 years, I currently live in a community collaborating with the Jesuit Mission in a remote village, where I engage in Pastoral Care.

I visit various sub-stations of the Parish, meet and listen to the people, conduct prayers, teach Catechism, and prepare them to receive Sacraments. I dedicate time to praying for those I meet and promise to keep them in my prayers. I find happiness and peace in my God-given task, and my community members support me in living my vocation meaningfully.



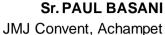








Thriving Through the Years





I appreciate the Charism of our Founder, particularly the principle of "Ascending to God; descending to people." Prayer and work go hand in hand, and I constantly reflect on how I can glorify God in all that I do. In my daily life, I depend on God, and although my formal education is limited, reading the Gospel and the work of our Founder has deepened my spiritual journey.

I strive to thank God for everything and seek Him in all aspects of life, recognizing that all humans are created in His image. A cheerful giver transcends boundaries and I aim to express joy and actively listen to others. If I feel hesitant to give, I turn to God for guidance.

I desire to fulfill God's Will, acknowledging the gifts He has given me to serve those in need. Each morning, I remind myself to act for God's glory, not my own. I pray for the strength to control my tongue, boasting only in the Lord and I often recite,

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me, and on the whole world."

God, the giver of all gifts, send forth Your Spirit upon me so that I may act positively and nurture my spiritual life. Since my retirement, I have found peace in my personal prayer schedule, two hours in the morning and two in the evening. If I miss these times, I make up for it at night, often awakened by God to pray for sinners and the souls in Purgatory.

I long to see the face of God, which brings me profound happiness. The words may be few in prayer, but my joy in His presence grows deeper. I encourage you, dear sisters, to be faithful in your prayer life, in doing God's will, and in reading the Word of God. This practice brings me immense consolation, nearness to Jesus, and joy. May this journey inspire others to embrace every stage of life with a heart full of faith and service.



Consecrated Life: A Call To Service



Sr. MARY MAZZARELLO

Guntur Province

At the heart of consecrated life, lies a deep and unwavering commitment to live out the values of humility, service, and love. As I reflect on these values, a deep desire to follow Christ closely wraps me up, mirroring His love through my actions and interactions with others. The JMJ Charism emphasizes a holistic approach to spirituality. It invites us to see Christ in everyone we encounter and to serve those most in need. This perspective shapes my daily life, compelling me to approach others with empathy and understanding. Each moment becomes an opportunity to live out our mission, reminding me of the importance of being a witness to God's love.

Role Models and Inspirations: One of my primary role models in consecrated life is St. Teresa of Avila. Her unwavering commitment to prayer and reform within the Carmelite order inspires me to cultivate a deep spiritual life. Her writings challenge me to grow in my union with God and to prioritize contemplation in my daily routine. Each time we gathered for prayer or planning, I felt the presence of something greater than ourselves, a collective spirit that propelled us forward.

Additionally, I draw inspiration from the lives of my fellow JMJ Sisters. Witnessing their selflessness and commitment to mission and life in the community reminds me that our work is not just about individual achievement but about contributing to the greater good. It instils in me a sense of belonging and purpose, reinforcing the idea that we are called to uplift one another.

Living out the Charism: Love, rooted in Christ, is the heartbeat of the consecrated life. It challenges me to live a life of authenticity and discern the will of God. I strive to embrace the little moments with joy and purpose, recognizing that every act of love contributes to God's greater plan. I devote my life to be a vessel of God's love, fostering hope and compassion in the lives of children and those I encounter in my teaching ministry. My experience with the children in the school has been nothing short of transformative. Each day, I am inspired by their energy, curiosity, and unique perspectives. I believe in the importance of continuous formation. Engaging in spiritual and professional development not only enriches my own life but also enhances my ability to serve others effectively. I learned that the values of consecrated life are not just ideals to uphold but a way of being in the world. By deepening my understanding of our mission in response to the signs of the time compelled by the spirit of continual availability, I am better equipped to respond to the needs with compassion and integrity.

As I navigate my journey, I realize that consecrated life is about embodying a spirit of love, service, and humility at every moment. I strive continually to cultivate these virtues in my life, knowing that, like most of our JMJ stalwarts, I can be a beacon of hope and love in the world. Through their examples, I understand that my journey is not solitary but woven into the greater tapestry of our shared mission to bring God's presence into the world.

Consecrated life is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life, and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy:

Embracing Grace, Faith and Vocation





I am deeply honored to contribute to the JMJ Encounter, particularly on such a profound theme, "Consecrated Life: A Pilgrimage of Hope."

I heard the whispers of God through my dad who taught me to read the Bible from my childhood as soon as I get up from the bed. I am proud of my parents who raised me up with great values: fear of God, devotion to Mother Mary, obedience and more. The seed of faith from my childhood has grown taller and it was in the year 1988, I joined the Society of JMJ. Walking this path of consecrated life for 36 years has been my personal pilgrimage -a journey marked by deep reflections, quiet triumphs and moments of grace that I carry with reverence. I am ever grateful to the Society of JMJ for preparing me as a worthy offering to my loving God.

Each step, every lesson, has woven a complexity of faith and trust that I feel compelled to share, not just as a personal testament but as a source of encouragement for others on similar paths. I love to reach out my hands and legs where there is need.

In my early years, I struggled with doubt and frustration in ministry, wondering if I was truly making a difference. But God's guidance showed me that even small acts of kindness impact lives. This insight solidified my commitment, teaching me that faith is often quiet and patient but immensely powerful.

Our Founder's charism was a blend of humility, compassion and dedication. It inspires me daily to serve in ways that are unseen but felt deeply. I remember his words: "Serve with a quiet heart, and your deeds will be heard." It's the Spirit that sustains and encourages me to keep serving, even when challenges arise. It is a gift to live this mission, to know that my journey can touch others. By sharing the spiritual blessings, trials and small triumphs of my life, I hope to plant seeds of hope, just as others have done for me. Together, we are called to lift one another, to walk with humility and to find joy in this pilgrimage, trusting that each step brings us closer to the love and purpose that we are meant to share with the world.



Consecrated life -A Pilgrimage of Hope with Aspirants

Sr. LILLY ROSE MARY KOMMAREDDY

JMJ Aspirants House, Raipur



As a sister of JMJ, one of the most rewarding sides of my life has been accompanying the aspirants on their formative journey. Walking alongside these young women, helping them grow in their faith, discern their calling and understand the demands of a life dedicated to service, prayer and community life deepens my own spiritual life. Inspired by Pope Francis' call to "fan the flame of hope with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision," I strive to embody these values as I accompany them on their journey to discern their vocation and embrace the challenges and joys of consecrated life.

Every day with the aspirants is marked by new experiences, insightful questions, deep and meaningful reflections. Some arrive with a clear sense of calling, while others come with uncertainty, seeking guidance and clarity. Their initial doubts often echo my own from years past, when I first embarked on this journey. I openly share with them the pilgrimage of consecrated life is like any transformative path, is marked by both profound joys and daunting challenges. I emphasize that it demands faith, trust and resilience to navigate its twists and turns, and to keep moving forward with hope and courage.

Together, we nurture one another's hope through prayer and community living. I find immense joy in witnessing these young women deepen their relationship with Christ, draw inspiration from the lives of the saints and discover their unique purpose. Their openness, curiosity and selfless spirit revitalizes my own commitment, reminding me of the passion that once ignited my own vocational journey. In their vibrant energy, I see a reflection of my early zeal and it reignites the flame of enthusiasm for my own calling.

Yet, formation is not without its challenges. Aspirants inevitably face moments of self-doubt as they navigate the tension between the demands of religious life and their personal desires and aspirations. Some struggle to let go of aspects of their former lives, uncertain if they are truly called to this path. In these moments, I remind them and to myself, that consecrated life is a pilgrimage of hope, requiring total surrender, trust and faith in God's providential plan. My role extends beyond guidance; I strive to be a constant, supportive presence, offering encouragement, perspective and companionship as they discern their own unique path.





Ultimately, our shared journey as aspirants and sisters is a transformative experience of mutual growth. I am enriched by their fresh perspectives, renewed by their vibrant faith and inspired by their courageous commitment. Consecrated life with all its challenges, remains a powerful testament to hope, a hope rooted in Christ. Pope Francis reminds us the need for an open spirit, a trusting heart and a vision fixed on God.

As I reflect on my time with the aspirants, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of accompanying them on their journey. Together, we embark as pilgrims of hope, taking steps each day toward a life rooted in Christ, guided by faith and illuminated by His love.



Young Living the Dream



Sr. SUSHMA GARDIA JMJ St. Joseph's Convent, Gajwel

"Dear young people, do not be afraid of making decisive choices in life. Have faith; the Lord will not abandon you!" Pope Francis.

This saying of Pope Francis is applicable for the young religious too. We as religious very often do not consider the young, saying that they do not have experience of life and at the same time, we are not willing to listen to their point of views in any matter. But today's young religious are coming with great abilities, talents and exposure that they can become an important part of decision making in our communities.

I have to say that I have a different vision for young consecrated people; I believe in the words of Don Bosco who said that young people are capable of great dreams and demanding enterprises, because even in the most wretched of the young there are points sensitive to what is good. Yet, among the many reasons, there is also a lack of knowledge of what constitutes the identity of young sisters, since they are often not identified for what they are but for what they do. Thus, we need to give space for young sisters in our communities to grow and share their responsibilities to build up the society. When we support and nurture our young sisters to grow in healthy relationship and faith within our community, we not only strengthen them but also become role models for one another. In doing so, we inspire each other to live our religious life with greater dedication and commitment.

Today our community needs people who have the courage to do with the youngsters what they proclaim: create space that live what they say, that renounce the idolatry of power and position, and experience the freedom of being loved by God and others, so, have the capacity to love one another.





A RERE TREASURE



Sr. KAMALA SURIPOGULA

JMJ Jyothinilayam



As I stop to count my blessings,
There is one thing which rings true,
I'll always be so grateful,
For as a member I found in JMJ Congregation!

Grateful for the rich Spirituality and Charism We've been following throughout the times, Times that brought us closer to God and people, Through our Vision and Mission.

A gem so precious, honest and pure
My heart beats for Fr. Mathias Wolff a firm determined person
Seeing His smile, my deepest desire,
I'd cross any distance, driven by fire.

If words could convey the depth of the spirituality,
It's in giving my all, love beyond compare.
Expecting nothing but finding God in everything.
My world begins to spin around thee.

For, Charism a treasure, rare and divine,
Offers ourselves in an Ever Adaptable Apostolic Availability
You're the one I chose forever,
And the one I'd choose again.

Mission with JMJ Lay Associates



Sr. SWARUPA JYOTHI Guntur Province

Fr. Mathias Wolff our founder, embodied an inexhaustible zeal and a holistic spirituality in his quest for finding God in all things and doing His will. A man of his time, Fr. Wolff dedicated his entire life in guiding others to experience the depth of God's fatherly love. His only motive in everything was, greater glory and honor of God.

Pope John Paul II emphasized the role of the laity in his apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (2000). He said that we need to rediscover the vocation of the laity who play an important part in the new evangelization.

As JMJ Sisters, we continue to walk in the footsteps of our founder and the pioneering sisters who have laid a strong foundation for us to carry forward. Aligned with the charism and spirituality of our congregation, we actively engage and involve the JMJ Lay Associates in our mission, extending our service to society, the Church, and its ministries. The Lay Associates are vital partners in our work, contributing to the well-being of the marginalized and supporting the Church in living out its mission to be a beacon of hope and compassion.

With great joy, we share the recent revitalization of the JMJ Lay Associates at Snehalaya community, Mangalagiri, under the guidance of Sr. Lourdu Mary Arockiyam and Sr. Swarupa Jyothi. On 27 September 2024, a group of 14 men and women, deeply committed to the charism of our congregation, pledged to walk alongside us as partners in our mission. They have embraced the call to live by our spirituality and extend their hands and hearts to those in need, particularly women, children, and the marginalized. These dedicated Lay Associates serve as a powerful testament to the living spirit of JMJ, bringing our charism of service and compassion to life in their daily actions.

Despite their responsibilities, JMJ Lay Associates have demonstrated remarkable generosity and readiness to serve. Their work includes:

- Initiating and leading spiritual activities within the parish.
- > Visiting the patients in the hospitals offering comfort, prayer, and emotional support.
- Visiting and praying with families and supporting them spiritually.
- Supporting the spiritual activities in substations.

Through these efforts, the Lay Associates embody the JMJ spirit of service, reaching out to those most in need and acting as a voice for the voiceless in society. Their work is a vital extension of our charism, bringing light and hope to the marginalized and forgotten.

We are deeply grateful for their unwavering commitment, enthusiasm and spirit of availability. Their willingness to serve, even amid their busy lives, is a source of inspiration to all of us. In turn, the Lay Associates experience spiritual renewal and growth as they live out their vocation, inspiring others to draw closer to the Lord and live lives of service and compassion.

Driven by Purpose-Missionary in Ghana





"Trust in the Lord, and do good; so, you will live in the land and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." – Psalm 37:3-4

With gratitude and joy, I feel called, much like Moses, to stand on this holy ground for the mission. As Moses removed his sandals in reverence, I have stepped beyond my comfort zone, to serve people of God in Ghana. Experiencing this new land and its people has been humbling and exhilarating. I can still recall my first day, when the community gathered to present their offerings. In a joyful procession of dance and song, they gave thanks to God in their simplicity that moved me. There was no rush, only gratitude.

Our community mission in Sambuli, a remote village in Ghana, is dedicated to evangelism, discipleship, and community development amidst the challenges of rural life. Knowing that God walks alongside us, we are strengthened by His presence to carry on this work.

Our Mission Activities at Sambuli:

- 1. Health Care: We provide care and treatment for the sick, extending compassion to those in need and bringing them a sense of hope.
- 2. Environmental Stewardship: We advocate for justice, peace, and the care of creation, in line with the *Laudato Si* goals. Our teachings encourage reducing bush burning, minimizing plastic use, protecting trees and conserving water. These practices foster respect for the land and strengthen the community's connection to nature.
- 3. Anti-Human Trafficking and Skill Training: We organize awareness programs on the dangers of human trafficking and the importance of safeguarding minors. We provide skill training in tailoring and hairdressing empowering young people with sustainable skills. Currently, 10 students benefited from this project.





Recently, we conducted an Anti-Human Trafficking awareness program for 394 youths and 12 prayer leaders from the Sambuli area. Together we discussed the global reality of trafficking and its tragic effects on lives. The presence of the prayer leaders enriched the program, making it impactful and inspiring.

Our founder Fr. Mathias Wolff urged us to "go to the four corners of the world and proclaim the good news of the Lord." These words are fulfilled in my missionary journey as I serve the people of Sambuli, Ghana. I am immensely grateful to the provincial council of Guntur for this opportunity to experience intercultural community life and embody the charism 'An Ever-Adaptable Apostolic Availability'. As a missionary I am aware that I am not just a messenger of the Gospel, but the living witness of God's presence in Ghana. My life is the testimony of His love and my actions speak louder than words ever can.

As I stand on this holy ground, I am reminded of the words of Rev. Sr. Mary Glowrey: "It is for Him to point the way and for me to follow." With God's guidance and support, I continue this mission of healing and service with joy.

We all wanted a United Africa, United not only in our concept of what unity connotes, but united in our common desire to move forward together in dealing with all the problems that can best be solved only on a continental basis

Kwame Nkrumah

The Encounter X

A Life Chosen -A Path Transformed





Life in religious ministry is a contact sport, a continual journey that requires engagement, heart and a willingness to be led where God calls. Over the years in my religious life, I've had the privilege of serving in various roles, each one opening new paths to grow in love and faith. From teaching kindergarten children to managing school office administration in the past, to now caring for the church sacristy and taking Sunday catechism classes, each mission has been a unique way to encounter God's grace.

I am constantly aware that religious life is woven together by many missions, each serving to deepen my calling and shape my purpose. As a trained teacher, my days are filled with the simple joys and boundless energy of small children in the kindergarten. Their innocence and openness reflect God's love, reminding me that teaching is not just about imparting knowledge but about nurturing their spirits and introducing them to faith. Fr. Mathias Wolff, our founder, believed that the smallest gesture of love and patience holds more value than any worldly achievement. His wisdom has led me to see my time with these children as a precious mission, where small acts of kindness and encouragement help lay the foundation of a lifelong relationship with God. Each day with these little ones is an opportunity to share His love in its purest form.

Now, in addition to my work with kindergarten, I have the blessing of caring for the parish church sacristy. There is a quiet beauty in these tasks and I am reminded of Fr. Wolff's teaching that God is near us in all things and that we can meet Him in the simplest of actions. This ministry of caring for the sacristy has helped me cultivate a deeper love and reverence for the liturgy and I feel privileged to contribute to the prayerful atmosphere of the church.

Guiding children on their first steps of faith formation through Sunday catechism classes is both a joy and a responsibility. I have come to see this as a calling not only to teach but to inspire them of the love of God that will sustain them through life's challenges.

Living in a large community of twenty sisters, I am surrounded by inspiring women who continually lift me up and challenge me to grow. We share meals, prayers, moments of service and I am enriched by the unique perspectives and gifts of each sister. Their dedication and compassion reveal what it means to live in unity, and their presence reminds me that religious life is about journeying together. Through their support and example, I am learning that even the quietest missions such as preparing for community prayers or lending a listening ear are essential to the larger mission of our Congregation.

As I reflect on varied roles, I am filled with profound gratitude for each mission God has entrusted to me. Myriads of missions, woven together, have led me closer to the heart of my calling. With Fr. Wolff's guidance and the Spirit's strength, I pray to live out these missions with love, humility and joy, letting God's love shine through all that I do.

United in Mission: A Journey of Collaborative Service

Sr. LOURDU MARY PALAGIRI, JMJ Ashakiran, Ahmednagar



The heart of mission is collaboration, a gift from God that expands our impact and brings the Kingdom closer to those in need. Through shared spirituality and values, we discover new path ways to serve, while being stretched beyond our comfort zones, allowing the Spirit to renew and energize our communities and mission.

Fr. Francisco Ivern SJ captured this spirit of openness beautifully, and the Jesuit tradition in Pune, dating back to 1854, has embodied it. Over the years, Jesuits have collaborated with various Sisters' Congregations, especially those sharing the Ignatian charism, to serve communities through socio-pastoral and educational ministries. This tradition continues today, inspired by the Synod on Synodality, which calls for greater collaboration.

JMJ Congregation, founded by Fr. Mathias Wolff, calls us to be "ever adaptable," embracing apostolic flexibility. Responding to this, Sr. Anthony Mary, the Provincial Superior of Bangalor with her team, discerned a collaborative mission with the Pune Jesuit Province. Sr. Annie Raphael and Sr. Celena Jeya kumar began our mission at Ashakiran in Pimpalgaon Ujjani, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, on June 15, 2023.

I joined the mission on October 23, 2023, replacing Sr. Celena, with excitement and curiosity. Ashakiran, a peaceful campus surrounded by hills,



fruit trees, and a Mother Mary grotto, filled me with purpose. From October 2023 to May 2024, I focused on prayer and reflection, allowing God's grace to deepen my surrender and reveal His beauty. In May, I conducted a survey across ten tribal villages in Ahmednagar to assess community needs, reaching over 1,000 people. Based on this, we prioritized actions and launched remedial classes for primary school children in four remote villages by June 2024, training four local female teachers to lead them.

With support from Ms. Jaunita Swami, a Pune Jesuit social worker, I oversee the training and monitoring of 16 remedial centres across Pune, Beed, Aurangabad, and Amravati districts as part of the NFE Project. This has allowed me to connect with tribal women in four village centres. The women expressed their interest in starting Self-Help Groups (SHGs). With guidance from Mr. Sunil Chakrey and Ms. Maya Patekar, we held training sessions in July 26 - 27 and are now on track to establish four SHGs this November.

As we deepen our collaboration, Sr. Thresiamma K., our Provincial Superior, renewed the JMJ-Jesuit partnership for another year, beginning October 21, 2024. Sr. Pavithra Gurram has joined us in Ahmednagar, contributing her expertise in finance to the Social Centre. This ongoing collaboration with the Jesuits has enriched my skills and nurtured JMJ charism.

This JMJ-SJ mission at Ashakiran is a profound blessing in my life, offering an avenue for growth, service and deepened spiritual commitment. With heartfelt gratitude, I thank God the Father Almighty for this opportunity to collaborate in His mission and reach those in great need.

"Embrace the Legacy, ignite the Future"





"Commitment is the courage to face the rising sun with a promise to be there at its setting."

I am glad to jot down these few lines about a 'Vibrant Missionary' - Sr. Lawrence Guvvala who is presently in JMJ Nilayam, Bangalore. Being in the company of elderly sisters who are full of missionary zeal thrives me to be and do my best in the work entrusted to me. It was my pleasure to spend some splendid moments with Sr. Lawrence listening to her missionary experiences in Tanzania and I feel it as the best moment of my religious life. Though well advanced in age with failing steps and failing senses specially the sense of hearing, she jumps out her bed when hears someone uttering the word 'Tanzania'. We can see a smile on her lips and a flow in her eyes as she speaks about her mission experience forgetting her pains and aches. She has reels and reels of stories to share about her life and mission in 'Tanzania.'

Inspired by the vision and mission of our Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff and emulating his missionary zeal Sr. Lawrence along with Sr. Lucy Chiramel and seven Dutch sisters set out on a mission to the Dark Continent - Africa to spread the light of Christ. The country chosen was Tanzania, East Africa for its missionary activities through educational and medical services. Sr. Lawrence Guyvala was asked by then Superior General whether she is ready to go as a missionary, without a second thought she said 'Yes' and prepared herself to travel to the unknown land with mixed

feelings of fear and anxiety. After few months on initial preparation in Holland and on completion of paperwork nine missionaries (seven Dutch sisters and two Indians) left to Tanzania. Sr. Lawrence was put up in an International School as a teacher. This school was one of the famous schools in the locality and since it was international school the children were of black, white and brown of different races. In the words of Sr. Lawrence people were very hospitable and respectful. Specially they considered elders as their saints and deeply revered them. They were co-operative. In the initial periods Sr. Lawrence was asked to learn the local language 'SWAHILI'. Nothing kept her from doing all that is asked of her because of undaunted missionary spirit. With a unified focus to be fruitful in the mission she excelled in the study of the language and obtained certificate making herself fit for teaching. Sister spent twelve long and fruitful years as a missionary bringing

> about lot of transformation in the lives of her students. She quickly won the people's hearts and became deeply involved in their lives. When life was moving on in the path of progress and contentment there broke out a civil war, a part of the school was destroyed because of the bomb drop. There came a call from Holland asking the missionaries to move to safety that is to go back to their respective countries. Sisters prepared themselves to handover their flourishing mission to the native sisters.



Tanzania Missionaries

Three convents of JMJ sisters were handed over to three native congregations along with the assets, buildings including the bank balances with a motive to continue the good work that was began for the benefit of the people. With a heavy heart in the midst of tearful farewell JMJ sisters left to Holland and India in the year 1973. Sr. Lawrence even today holds these memories very fresh in her mind and



cherishes every moment spent in Tanzania. She still remembers and talks Swahili, the language which she learned. When one patient from Tanzania was admitted at St. Philomena's hospital, she made it a point to visit them and shared her memories talking to them in Swahili. Such great was her missionary zeal. This indeed is a call for us younger generations to embrace the legacy left behind by our elderly sisters and form a conscious that is purely missionary to be ready to move out of the comfort zones.

May our Holy founder intercede for all of us to be missionaries of heart with a great desire to bring good news to every corner of the earth.



Nature uses human imagination to lift her work of creation to N HIGHER LEVELS

LUIGI PIRANDELLO

A Transformative Experience





Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord Himself will go before you and He will be with you."

I begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty Father, whose grace has guided me through this transformative journey. Attending a special course for the visually impaired has been both challenging and enlightening and I am deeply thankful to everyone who has supported me along the way.

The experience of learning alongside my blind and low-vision classmates has deeply shaped my understanding of disability. Initially, I was curious about how they could lead fulfilling lives despite their challenges, participating in activities like basketball and chess. Over time, I realized that these individuals are defined not by their disability, but by their resilience, courage, and determination to live meaningful lives. One inspiring example is Shekar Naik, a blind cricketer from Karnataka, whose story demonstrates that determination can overcome any obstacle.

As a student in the special education program for the visually impaired, I've learned valuable lessons about tools like Braille and the abacus, which help blind individuals navigate their world independently. I also learned about the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD) of 2016, which emphasizes inclusion and dignity for all individuals with disabilities.





Three key life lessons have stood out to me during this journey:

- 1. You Don't Need Sight to Have Vision: Vision is about seeing possibilities, not just with the eyes but with the heart and mind. Blind individuals have proven that passion and purpose transcending physical sight.
- **2. Nothing is Impossible**: Many blind individuals, like Mahantesh G.K., a social change agent and founder of a major NGO, have shown that with determination, no goal is out of reach.
- 3. The Value of Blind Friends: I've come to understand the importance of forming bonds with others who share similar challenges. These friendships provide support, advice, and encouragement, enriching our lives in ways that go beyond physical abilities.

This journey has reshaped my views on disability, teaching me that blind individuals are not limited by what they cannot do, but by what they choose to do with their lives. Through faith, determination, and the right opportunities, there are no limits to what can be achieved. Let us remember, blindness is not the absence of vision, but the ability to see the world in ways others cannot.

Know Us by Our Ability, Not Our Disability

She Wolff radiates God's Healing





I feel greatly privileged to be part of Jesus's healing ministry through the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph. A significant part of Jesus' ministry was healing various kinds of sickness and rescuing people from demonic oppression. Matthew summarizes Jesus' ministry "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people" (Matt. 4:23, 9:35)

With immense joy I share my experience being a nurse rendering my service to the sick for the glory and honor the Lord. Most of the time I got the opportunity to work in the operation theater and also in the labor room in our hospitals. While working in these departments I have experienced the healing touch of Jesus. Jesus healed the man from paralysis and he said to him "Your sins are forgiven" Jesus' entire ministry was directed towards spiritual ends. Whenever patients were seriously ill and brought to my care, in total faith I surrendered the patients to the healing hands of Jesus.

I have the joy of giving my service in the delivery ward. At the moment of difficulty in conducting the delivery, I place my trust in the powerful intercession of our beloved Mother Mary, the mother of good health. When the high-risk pregnancy mother comes for the delivery, I make the Sign of the Cross over the patient's abdomen with the Holy Rosary and never leave the patient till the delivery is over. Caring for newborn babies reminds me of Jesus saying to his disciples, "Allow the little children to come to me." The cry of the newborn brings immense joy to the mothers and all of us.

Fr.Wolff's Spirit "Ascending to God and going out to the people" is the source of my strength in my ministry. As I recall, I was privileged to work with Sr. Veronice the Dutch missionary, and Dr. Gladys Lobo, whose life and legacy, have created greater impact in my life and service in the healing ministry. As consecrated persons following the path of Jesus, who is the physician of our souls and bodies, we are called to continue "His work, work of healing and salvation."

God loves you as a father loves his child infinitely more even.

Then be glad that you have such a father.

Relate to Him in child like trust and do not be afraid to speak to Him. He is always ready to listen to you.

TEN YEARS OF MISSION IN GHANA





AKWAABA

The first word I learnt in Twi is AKWAABA which means welcome. My mission country welcomed me on 18/10/2014, I entered the new country with fear, anxiety, uncertainty, and facing cultural challenges, but totally depending upon Jesus. I underwent cultural shock during my initial stages but now it has become part of my life. With God's grace, I got adjusted to the people, culture, and food habits. Whenever the children addressed me, "OBRUNI" fondly used for whites, I became excited. I realized the meaning of Reverend Sister in Ghana. People consider the religious very special, so they call us Rev. Sr., Br. and Fr. The vocabulary Roman Sister, I heard for the first time when children call us "Roman Sister Good morning." I remember an incident where a little boy of two years was going to school crying but he still managed to greet me "Roman Sister how are you?" in his cry. Oh! how lovely! I appreciate Ghana. Yes; it is a peaceful country. I have tried to stay healthy despite the challenging healthcare system. I have enjoyed my social and community life and religious freedom.

Different denominations of faith exist in Ghana, but each one exercises their way of worship in full freedom. Ten years of my stay in Ghana was

not an easy task as I faced many challenges. I was attacked by armed robbers in a four-hour stint. The robbers kept their guns on the chin, head, and chest. I could have been shot with the slightest provocation. Oh! I cannot forget that incident. I could be dead

and buried by now but God intervened and I am still alive. God gave me the strength to face all these situations with faith. I encountered 3 to 4 accidents, but he preserved my life and He wants me to continue to take care of His people. All these experiences made me very strong in my missionary life.

Oh! It is wonderful to be with our own lovely JMJ fraternity. We feel the mix of internationality as we mingle with sisters from different provinces. Their support, encouragement, prayers and up holding of each other's dignity as well as constant inquiry into my well-being boosted my confidence to stay back. I have never regretted being a missionary, in fact, it is definitely a rewarding experience of life. It never crossed my mind to go back to my motherland. Wherever we are, we are working for God, not for people.

m JMJ sisters have been in Ghana for the past 35 years, and I am happy with my small contribution of 10 years in Ghana. I have given assurances to the people, and comforted them that there is someone who cares and prays for them. We pray for the missionaries, their health, and their tireless efforts in spreading the gospel through their very way of life. As I complete 10 years of my stay in

Ghana, I am filled with gratitude to Jesus, who is the real missionary as HE supplies my needs. I am content with what I am and what I have. My missionary life taught me to live a simple, happy life and love the people because they are Children of God.



JOYOUS ENCOUNTER





"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good". (I Corinthians 12:4-7)

This is the process of Synod that took place in the path along with which the people of God Walk together. The meaning of Synodality in the Church and in the Magisterium of Pope Francis is, The

Synodality is not a decision-making process but a fundamental feature of the Church's identity, in which, the Church deposes all its members to have co-responsibility in the bonds of fraternal love. *Lumen Gentium* says the importance of the laity in the life of the church. They are called to participate in its government. The idea of Pope Francis is, synod is a visible form of communion in which, all baptized can participate and contribute to the life and mission of the Church.

I am indeed glad and privileged for this rare opportunity to assist as volunteer in the Synod on Synodality (Walking together) which was held at Pope Paul VI Hall, in Vatican City from October 4th to October 29th 2023 and October 4th to October 27th 2024, in Rome. The representatives of the synod were the Successor of Peter, His Holiness Pope Francis, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Consecrated men and women, Theologians, Experts and laity from different continents. I would like to express my experience as follows:



- ➤ Idea of Inclusiveness of all as people of God was Impressive.
- ➤ Innovative arrangements for synod were Indomitable.
- ➤ Incredible sharing's about the realities of the Church were Impactful.
- Interactions with different cultures and languages of the participants were Insightful.
- ➤ Input sessions that I could attend and assist, ignited me to have broader understanding of Communion, Participation and Mission.
- > Involvement of the members in the group discussions of the Synod was Invigorating.
- ➤ Importance of each Individual and their openness was Ineffable.

Assisting them technically and materially was a learning for me, their simplicity was to be admired and their approach was praise worthy. They were always with a beautiful smile on their faces and with never tiring vigor to do something good for the Church, captivated and enthused me to render my services wholeheartedly.

The Gospel of Luke 1:39-56 speaks about the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. The meeting of these two holy women was a joyful and unique event in the Bible, and the child in her womb leaped for joy. So too my heart also throbbed into joy and happiness at the very gracious moment of meeting His Holiness Pope Francis in person for the first time in my life, and I felt like *The Chosen* one to receive his Apostolic blessings, especially on my Birthday. Therefore, I acclaim...



Thanks to Almighty God for the Thrilled moments with the Pope Francis at the great event of Synod of Bishops

 $oldsymbol{H}$ eart busted out with unlimited happiness

Excited to share the feelings of Joy by capturing photos with Papa.

Chosen to have a glance at the cheerful charm of Papa at the closer view.

 $oldsymbol{H}$ ypnotized by his harmonious sweet smile

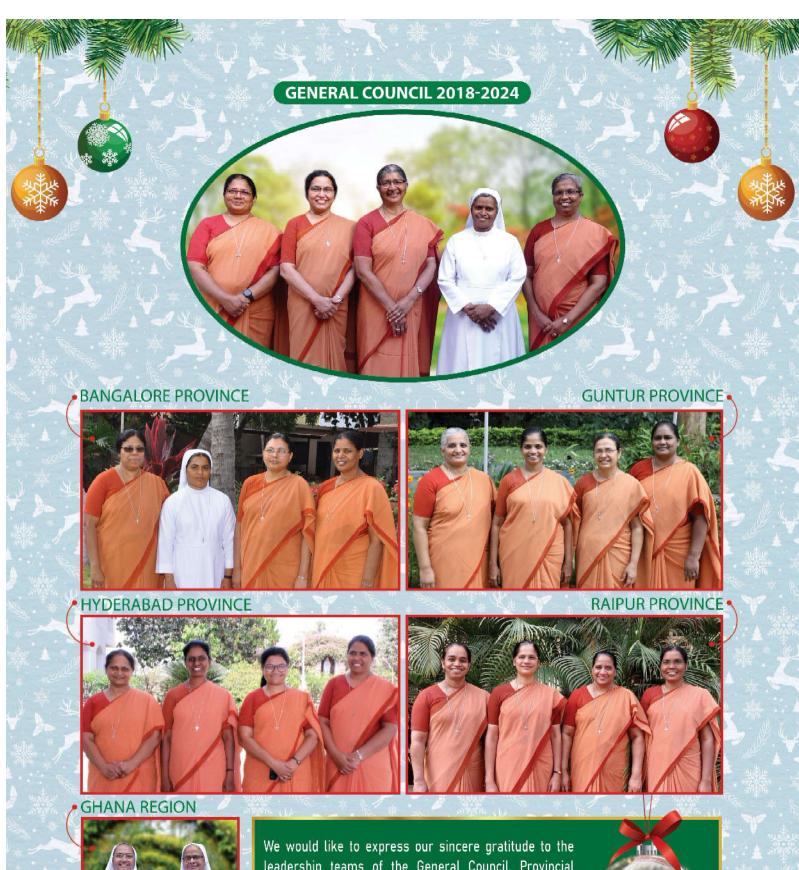
Overwhelmed by his conversation and gesture of love and kindness

Spellbound by his simplicity and commitment to the Church

 ${m E}$ nergized by his holy touch and apostolic blessings.

 $oldsymbol{N}$ ever ending memories captured for life long with our Indian traditional greeting of Namaste

Treasuring all these sweet memories in my heart which will remain in the annals of my life, I wholeheartedly thank our Previous Superior General Sr. Innamma and her Council and the new Superior General and her Council, who availed me this great opportunity, to participate as a volunteer at the synod. I do owe a big thanks to my community members for their constant support and encouragement and for their generous help in my absence. Now, I conclude with the Bible verse "I thank Him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He judged me faithful by appointing me to His service. 1Timothy 1:12





We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the leadership teams of the General Council, Provincial Council and Regional Council for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment. Your guidance and support have been invaluable in shaping our Congregation and achieving our goals. We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated leaders. Thank you for everything.



