



The

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# ENCOUNTER

*Know... Grow... Flow into fullness*

SOCIETY OF JMJ 1822 - 2022



# CONGREGATION OF JESUS MARY JOSEPH BICENTENARY LOGO INSCRIBED WITH THE THEME: 'JOURNEYING WITH MATHIAS WOLFF - REKINDLING JMJ LEGACY'



The Congregation of JMJ celebrates the Bicentenary Jubilee of the foundation of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph from July 2021 to July 2022, in deep gratitude to God for 200 years of its selfless service to humanity and for being faithful to the founding Spirituality and Charism.<sup>1</sup>

**The Bicentenary Theme 'Journeying with Mathias Wolff -Rekindling JMJ Legacy'** implies that every JMJ sister walking the path of the Founder is a pilgrim on a journey, guided by the Spirit, transforming herself through personal prayer, and reflection; spiritual conversion, and renewed commitment. On this sacred inward journey, she strives to rekindle Fr. Wolff's prophetic Vision, Spirituality, Charism, and Missionary Zeal within oneself and others, building a better world for all humanity that puts the poor and the planet at the heart of JMJ mission.<sup>2</sup>

**Logo in Circle form** - signifies 'God as the circle whose centre is everywhere, and who is the centre of everything; the *Alpha* and *Omega*, the beginning and end.' The Circle represents the wholeness, vitality, eternity, holiness, and well spring of the Spirit of God, in which the Congregation of JMJ lives and grows in a sacred blending with the Divine.<sup>3</sup>

**Holy Spirit in the form of Dove** - denotes the 'presence of the Holy Spirit, who sends us out on mission (*Missio Ad Gentes*); accompanies and inflames our hearts with passion for Jesus' mission'. Empowered by the Spirit, we dare to become the agents of change, revitalising our apostolic and mission priorities, in solidarity with the Church and the World.<sup>4</sup>

**Two Flames** -signify that every JMJ sister ignited by the Spirit, like the Apostles at Pentecost,<sup>5</sup> desires to become a radical follower of Christ, being responsible for passing on and rekindling the rich JMJ legacy to the future generations.<sup>6</sup>

**The Netherlands' Flag colours of red, white, and blue** - represent the roots of JMJ foundation on the Dutch soil in 1822, and our profound respect to the thousands of Dutch sisters, who truly lived and transmitted the spiritual heritage of the Founder un-curtailed, to the successive generations.

**Red** - signifies Jesus' sacrifice for salvation of humanity. Like the Founder Mathias Wolff and Pioneers, we walk the way of Christ with selflessness, bravery, fortitude and courage.

**White** - represents the purity of St. Joseph, and also the distinct traits of intelligence, wisdom, perseverance, obedience, honesty, and holiness of the first JMJ sisters who lived in Amersfoort and Engelen, and continue to inspire us to be authentic to the founding Spirituality and Charism.

**Blue** - indicates the faithfulness of Blessed Virgin Mary and also signifies the heaven, divinity, serenity, submission and peacefulness. Following her example of loyalty and surrender, we let the Founder's flame glow brightly in God's service, as we march forward into the future with hope.

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<sup>1</sup>cf. Lev. 25:10-12 Revised Standard Version (RSV).

<sup>1</sup>cf. Louise van Laarhoven, Spirit and Charism, 56.

<sup>2</sup>cf. Isa. 44:6; Rev. 21:6-7 RSV.

<sup>3</sup> cf. Evangelii Gaudium: On the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World, Pope Francis, 2013

<sup>4</sup>cf. Acts.2:2-6 RSV

<sup>5</sup>cf. Louise van Laarhoven & Laetitia Aarnink, Sent by the Lord,14.

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# Editorial



Sr. Mary Karickakunnel

On 29 July 2021, the JMJ family all over the world remember the 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of our Congregation. Completion of 200 years for any Organization or Institution is a moment of great joy and pride as it reminds the vision, mission, blessings and struggle it underwent during the course of time.

This issue of *The Encounter*, focuses on the Bi-centenary of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph, the root on which the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph exists. As we celebrate this unique occasion of the foundation of our Congregation by Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, we are invited *to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope*, as Pope Francis exhorted us on the Year of Consecrated Life (Apostolic Exhortation to all Consecrated Persons, 2015).

Recounting our history, rich in charism, we are called to follow in the footsteps of past generations in order to grasp the high ideals, and the vision and values which inspired them, beginning with our founder and the first sisters. It helps us to see how the charism has been lived over the years, the creativity it has sparked, the difficulties our pioneers encountered and the concrete ways those difficulties were surmounted.

It will also enable us to challenge our fidelity to the mission entrusted to us and to examine whether our ministries and our presence consonant with what the Spirit asked of our founder 200 years ago? Years pass by, but the ‘ethos and core values’ are the same today as they were back in 1822. We have the wonderful examples of our pioneers who left for us remarkable traces of commitment and dedication.

May the Lord bless us to be patient and courageous in order to keep advancing, exploring new paths, and responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. On this 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Congregation, let us remember the words of Saint John Paul II: “You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things” (*Vita Consecrata*, No. 110).

May this issue of *The Encounter* challenge all the members of our JMJ family to deeper commitment and passion for Christ’s mission! Let each of us enliven ourselves in the light of the 200 years passed glory as members of Soc.JMJ and rejuvenate to cross future miles with renewed commitment.

*The Encounter* of next issue, focuses on the concrete milestones tuned out by each Indian Province and Ghana Region. Thus, we look forward for your more generous and creative contribution of articles focused on the Bicentenary Year. Kindly send the articles for the next Issue by email: [cjmjencounter@gmail.com](mailto:cjmjencounter@gmail.com) before 31 October 2021.

We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of our sisters from all our Provinces and Region for inspiring articles. The inimitable contribution of Sr. Christina Arokia Mary JMJ for editing the manuscript and Mr. Gopi Viswanadhapalli for designing this semi-annual is laudable.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MARY GLOWREY'S SCULPTURE



**Dr Sr Mary Glowrey**

*Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ*

*Sculptor*

**DARIEN PULLEN, 2021**

*Bronze, 26 cm, (approximately 6 kg).*

*Presented to*

**Rev Dr Cherian Thunduparampil CMI**

*Postulator*

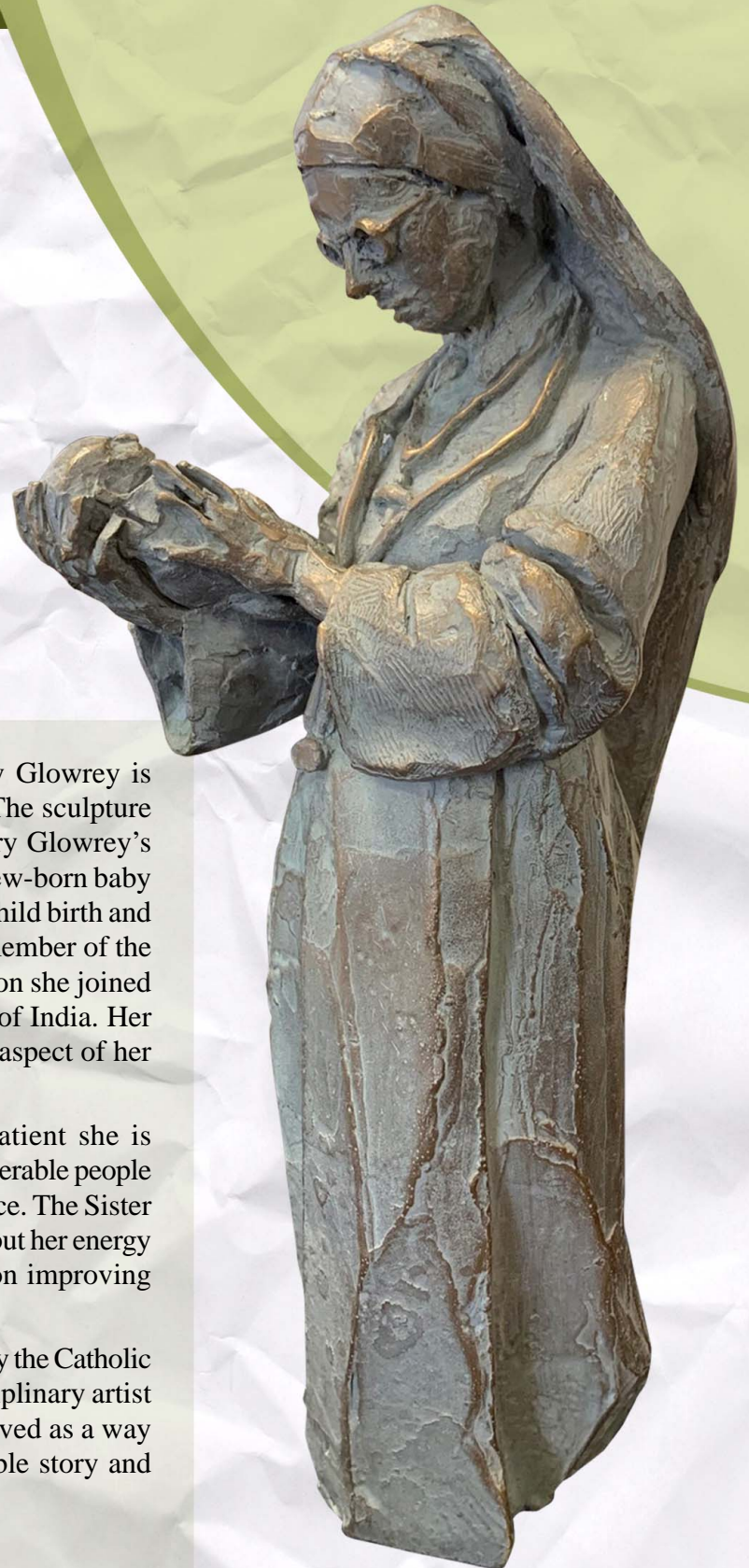
*for the Cause for Canonisation of*

**Dr Sr Mary Glowrey**

**Sr Mary Karickakunnel JMJ,**

*External Collaborator*

*Created with the generous support of  
Australian Catholic University*



Pioneering medical missionary Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey is depicted in her final years in Guntur, India. The sculpture celebrates the miracle of child birth and Mary Glowrey's service to God. It emphasises the size of the new-born baby and Mary Glowrey's focus on the joy of safe child birth and new life. The white habit identifies her as a member of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph, the congregation she joined in 1920 when she chose to serve the women of India. Her stethoscope and cross represent the two-fold aspect of her vocation as a Sister doctor.

Mary Glowrey's attention is on the tiny patient she is cradling, one of hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people she treated in more than three decades of service. The Sister doctor's health and eyesight have deteriorated but her energy and skills are still prayerfully concentrated on improving individual and systemic healthcare needs.

Mary Glowrey was declared a Servant of God by the Catholic Church in 2013. Darien Pullen is a multi-disciplinary artist working in Melbourne. This piece was conceived as a way of acknowledging Mary Glowrey's remarkable story and place in Australian history.

CONGREGATIO DE CAUSIS SANCTORUM  
P.N.3151

GUNTURENSIS

BEATIFICATIONIS ET CANONIZATIONIS  
SERVAE DEI

**MARIAE A SACRO CORDE**

(in saeculo: MARIAE GLOWREY)

SORORIS PROFESSAE  
E SOCIETATE IESU MARIAE JOSEPH  
(1887 – 1957)

POSITIO

SUPER VITA, VIRTUTIBUS ET FAMA SANCTITATIS

ROMAE 2021



**164<sup>th</sup>**

Birth  
Anniversary  
of

**Servant of God**  
**Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart**  
(Dr. Mary Glowrey)

23 June 2021

The sculpture is sent at the completion and submission of 11 copies of the *Positio* on the Life, Virtues and Fame of Sanctity of the Servant of God to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints (CCS), Rome, for further study by the Historical Experts and Theological Consultants. The Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph is grateful to members of the Catholic Women's League, Ms. Fiona Power, the Curator of Mary Glowrey Museum, Melbourne and the Australian Catholic University for facilitating this process and sending the sculptures to Rome!

My sincere thanks to Fiona and team for their great appreciation for the work done by us. Primarily, I thank God for having given me the grace, energy and wisdom to complete the *Positio* with the help and support of many people in Australia and India, Monsignor Paul Pallath, the Relator appointed by CCS, Fr. Cherian Thunduparampil CMI, the Postulator and many of you my dear sisters. I am grateful to God in the first place and express my sentiments of gratitude to Sr. Innamma Yeruva, our Superior General and the General Council for sparing me from some of my responsibilities, so that I could dedicate quality time for the purpose of writing the *Positio*, and WE could together complete OUR task. I am very much indebted to Sr. Regina Chinnappan, the then Provincial Superior of Guntur and the Provincial Council Conference of India in 2014, for providing me the opportunity to do the course in Rome, appointing me the Postulator for the Cause at the Diocesan phase and consenting me thereafter to continue the task, on behalf of the Congregation. I can never forget the constant support and encouragement of Sr. Sundari Singareddy and the Council (Bangalore Province) then, of which I was a part. It was a great learning for me, and I grew in great love and admiration to the Servant of God Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart (Mary Glowrey).

Now we earnestly pray that the CCS be satisfied and acknowledge the virtuous life of the Servant of God and after its verification declare her 'Venerable' and that the Cause goes ahead without much delay and difficulties. We also pray that the Lord works miracles through her intercession, and she will be raised to the Altar of God! Once again immense THANKS to everyone for being part of this noble cause.

- Sr. Mary Karickakunnel JMJ

*"It's up to Him to point the way,  
for me to follow"*

**Sr. MARY OF THE SACRED HEART**  
On this 164<sup>th</sup> birthday of  
Servant of God

**Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart**  
(Dr. Mary Glowrey)

*we seek her intercession for  
the whole world during the pandemic.*

## Journeying with Mathias Wolff Rekindling JMJ legacy



Sr. Innamma Yeruva  
Superior General

Journeying with Mathias Wolff is a **journey of transformation** towards becoming a She-Wolff in heart, mind and spirit and be rekindled with the fire of the founding spirit, charisma and spirituality of our Congregation.

**It is an invitation** for inward journey to explore the path Mathias followed, so that we too may become pilgrims and set off, allowing ourselves to be guided by the Spirit.

The preparation for Bi centenary Jubilee of the Society of JMJ is a heaven-sent opportunity for every JMJ sister to be on a pilgrimage of transformation. It is a process of renewal that leads us step by step to see where we've been, where we are, and where we are heading. A life changing experience is in constant motion taking us through a spiral staircase involving various stages.

**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (Rom 12:2).**



**\*RE-TRACING** the steps of Fr. Mathias Wolff, the founder of our Congregation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and tracking our journey through a new scenario of 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges

**\*REALIZING** about oneself, our vocation to JMJ Society and our relationship with God and others in the community and our mission in this world.

**\*RE-CAPTURING** the Founder's original vision lived by him and the earlier sisters who kept it alive down the centuries amidst the emerging signs of times

**\*RE-DISCOVERING** the Founder's charisma and spirit touching mind, body, and spirit into an integrated whole to create positive impact of our Gospel-based life

**\*RE-LIVING** the Founder's spirituality walking down new paths without knowing where they'll lead you, opening up new horizons to allow the Holy Spirit to act.

**\*RESURRECTING** above the obstacles that have held us back in the past; flow with life listening to our inner voice guided by the Spirit and see life with a new vision to move forward.

**\*RE-DEDICATING** with a firm determination to the Founder's mission in today's context to become an exemplary role model for others carrying forward the torch of love handed to us, especially our younger generations.

We need to see the things from a new perspective, a crucial challenge for a decisive action through discernment. This is our calling and the need of the hour. We can't change ourselves. But the Holy Spirit can transform our hearts and our lives, if we accept life as an ongoing process of transformation to become more Christ-like in an ever-changing world. **And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh (Eze. 36:26).**

At this juncture, we might ask ourselves-What is God calling us to? What do people need right now? What can we offer? The way is put before us – by journeying with Mathias Wolff and rekindling JMJ Legacy – walking in his footsteps, devoting our time and energy to explore the process that led Mathias Wolff to transform his life and outlook and reflect over the spiritual patrimony bequeathed to us, imbibing the spirit to its

fullest extent. For this purpose we need to equip ourselves with a deeper knowledge of Mathias Wolff, His person, His Spirit, His charism and His spirituality which need to be reflected, assimilated, personalized and internalized systematically. The study of Mathias Wolff is an essential condition in order to be able to communicate his charism and propose his current relevance. Without knowledge there cannot be love, imitation or intercession; then only love can lead to greater knowledge.

\*As a child of his time, his personality was formed in the circumstances and by the spirit of time. He was a man of the people fully aware of the needs of his time. He was a brave and courageous man, dares take risks; respects the rights and possibilities of people aiming at their liberation (**Spirit and Charism Pg.18**).

\*His spirit is to be understood as the way in which Mathias Wolff received God's Word and responded to it. Undoubtedly, he lived the spirit of St. Ignatius. His whole life is concerned with the greater honour and glory of God.

\*Man directs himself to God in such a way that he does not desire but what God asks of him. In such a state of heart and mind he experiences that everything

is guided by God's providence. In this he finds his peace. His whole being is directed to God's glory (**PM 109**). Mathias allowed God to call him and order his life according to His will. We must surrender to God. Our only prayer should be, Your will be done. In this surrender to God he finds the strength for his heroic obedience. During the visits to our first sisters the main topic he spoke to them was always obedience. Sr. Boniface van Bommel tells: oh, how often did the Rev. Father stir us up to obedience. Obedience, obedience

was all he impressed on us (**Spirit and Charism Pg. 39**). The writings of Fr. Wolff clearly state that for him obedience means: To be prepared to go where we are sent. To be prepared to do what is expected from us (**Spirit and Charism Pg.40**).

\*The Charism of our Founder is his special personal vocation and mission. Mathias Wolff knew that he was called to the service of the Church and his engagement

focuses on the liberation of the Catholics and with a sparkling spirit he works for their emancipation.

\*The foundation of the Society of JMJ has never been for him an aim in itself, but flowed from his aspiration to liberate the Church in Netherlands. Fr. Mathias Wolff saw the foundation, as a sister congregation as an aspect of his mission. A mission which would be carried beyond the boundaries of the tiny Netherlands. In this way the "founding" of Mathias Wolff has been continued up to our days, thus every one of us has the task and the responsibility to continue her founding, not so much by means of expansion, but especially by deepening of and reflecting on the spirit of our mission and the motivation for it (**Spirit and Charism Pg. 40**).

A detailed and an in-depth study of the "original sources" – Founder's writings, meditations, pious maxims, Special Rules –of the founding of the Society and the development of the Spirit and Charism of the Founder has been made phase by phase by the then General Council assisted by FR. Dr.H. Drost S.J. and Fr. Dr.J. Vis S.J and how under the guidance of God's Spirit, the successive generations certainly remained sensitive to the core of the Charism – An ever adaptable apostolic availability –spontaneously adapting and

*And I will give you  
a new heart,  
and a new spirit  
I will put within you.  
And I will remove the  
heart of stone from  
your flesh and give  
you a heart of flesh  
(Eze. 36:26).*



renewing it leading to deepening and further development over the times (**Spirit and Charism Chapter. V**). **This constitutes the heritage of our Congregation and a legacy to be made as one's own as it remains a life's task for everyone.**

\*Down the two centuries it is made clear how time and again we tried to stay tuned to the changing circumstances and

through the General chapters which tested the charism worth in relation to the times and the needs of the people in particular solidarity with the poor.

The newly founded Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph in its First Congregational Chapter of 2018 has appealed to the members through the theme – **Encountering together an emerging future as vessels of Hope**– igniting us to be prophets of hope and agents of change revitalizing every sector of our consecrated life integrating the ever-dynamic charism of our Congregation, responding to the demands of the Gospel based on the signs of times. Especially the global pandemic times bring greater awareness of the possibility of and steering our congregation towards a greater sense of solidarity and respect for the dignity of every human being.

Our Constitution no. 52 states – Our charism, invites us to be sensitive to the signs of the times in the social, cultural, religious, political and geographical aspects. Responding to these, we carry out our mission, listening to the spirit of God who inspires and guides us. The challenging periods, the ceaseless clarion call of Pope Francis to listen to the cry of the poor and cry of the earthurge us to launch into new frontiers opting new missions in tune with our Charism establishing our presence in the world serving the wounded humanity expanding a new world of love peace and joy.

*Encountering  
together an  
emerging future  
as vessels of  
Hope*

Two hundred years have already passed since the founding of the Society of JMJ. Recalling what went through Mathias heart, his apostolic attitude can shed light on the consecrated life as a whole and be reason enough for us to start a new dialogue about our presence and mission in the world.

As we prayerfully inaugurate the opening of Bi Centenary year in July 2021 let us embark on new journey with Mathias inflamed by

the ideal of our spiritual patrimony and the awe-inspiring missionary zeal of the founder and first sisters take on a new step on the new path of fraternal love and charity to witness to the saving love of God. Every one of us, personally and collectively, make every effort in serving, protecting and promoting the precious patrimony of our Founder (Const. No. 171).

Both personal and as a community, we hope that by pondering and studying the spiritual legacy of our Founder and our earlier sisters, we may continue to be faithful to the example they have left us (SBL Pg.15). Life in the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph goes on...

*May we find each other again and again  
In the Lord and around His Gospel,  
Interpreted in the spirit left to us.*

May our beloved founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff, the glorious gift of the Merciful Father intercede for us! May our Holy patrons Jesus, Mary and Joseph be our model and our guide!

*Have a fruitful celebration!*  
**Sr. Innamma Yeruva CJMJ**  
15-06-2021



## Society of JMJ 200 Years Reminisces of 1822



Sr. Vijaya M. Udumala  
JMJ Generalate, Roma

### Our Lord in the Attic: The Clandestine Dutch Catholic Church in 17<sup>th</sup> Century

In 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Dutch Republic was ruled by aristocracy of city-merchants. The main religion was Calvinism, a branch of reformed Protestantism. The declaration of 20 December 1581 officially prohibited the open practice of the Catholic religion. However, while Calvinism became the dominant faith, many Catholics remained faithful. At first, they had to clandestinely practice their faith. Therefore, private churches were common in the Northern Netherlands in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The travelling priests celebrated the Mass in people's living rooms, places of work and warehouses.

Inserted in the heart of Amsterdam's inner city is still a small marvel: *'Our Dear Lord in the Attic'* or *'OnsLieveHeer op Solder'* retells the story of persecution of Catholicism in Holland in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At the time, Catholics couldn't hold Mass in public, so Jan Hartmann transformed the attic of his home to a Church in 1663. Today this Clandestine Catholic Church known in Dutch as a *'schuilkerk'* symbolises the characteristic religious tolerance of the Netherlands.

In addition to the prevailing prohibition, the consequences of the French Revolution also impacted the practice of Catholic faith in public. The Catholics were subjected to petty supervisions, and very severe anti-Catholic laws were passed concerning schools and education in general.



Clandestine Catholic Church, AMSTERDAM

### The Need Discovered for the Foundation of *'Pédagogie Chrétienne'*

In mid-1816 after their noviciate, Fr. Mathias Wolff, and another fellow Jesuit, a priest like him namely Fr. Peter De Hasque were sent on their first mission to the parish at Culemborg, in the Netherlands, that was managed by the Jesuits ever since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. This parish had no priest since the death of the last Jesuit in 1815.

The condition in which a few of Catholics in Culemborg were living was a revelation to them. It was truly a clandestine Church with a shabby presbytery, and the parishioners were dare not call themselves Catholics and were living underground in many ways. Some people even attended the Protestant Church services in order to preserve their religiosity. For both the priests, their first task was bringing to life the slumbering Catholics and building up the parish of Culemborg.

The means they used were: Deepening the life of faith by catechetics and preaching, revival of sacramental life, and promoting devotions of the Church: Rosary and Stations of the Cross.

From the beginning they engaged lay people in their parish work, especially Fr. Wolff with his jovial character approached with great openness the fanatic protestant fellow citizens and gained their confidence. The two Jesuits succeeded building a new brick Church and fostered self-confidence of the Catholics. The finances of the Culemborg parish were in such a deplorable state to build a new Church. Hence, the brave Fr. Wolff went himself to the east and west of the Netherlands for begging to raise money for this purpose. Finally, Culemborg got its new Church!

Besides raising necessary funds, these journeys offered Wolff a great possibility to know better the country, the people and especially the mentality and the state of life of Dutch Catholics. He knew then that there were only a very few priests, no bishops at all, no seminaries and no Catholic school education. The Catholic part of the nation had no leaders.

Fr. Wolff a true follower of St. Ignatius, discerned the purpose of his mission in Culemborg parish. He responded to God's call to liberate the suppressed Dutch

Catholic youth through the means of Christian Education. He worked on himself with single minded devotion and sought in concrete terms the will of God through the transformation of his own life and that of his people. In spite of all odds and difficulties, Fr. Wolff absolutely depended on God's providence to do something for the Catholic children, especially the poor. He had to face enormous difficulties from every side in the process of founding a religious congregation. This in short is how the need to start Christian Education was discovered from Culemborg.



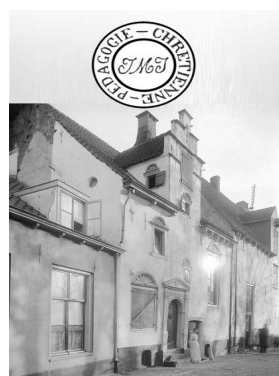
### Genesis of a Great Enterprise: The Foundation of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph

The impact of French revolution affected the Catholic faith to a great extent. It was the miserable plight of the girls and women of Culemborg that moved Fr. Wolff to think in a different way. The oppression, powerlessness, mute endurance of the atrocities and neglect by the society towards Catholics bothered him much. Education of girls was not popular; hence, they were in every way, voiceless. The young and enthusiastic Jesuit priest had a vision, and a dream that gave birth to his prophetic charism. With his inner urge to liberate the Dutch Catholics; he would take every risk and possible means to realize his vision.

Mathias Wolff was a man of God and people, a powerful fighter for the honour of God. He was a man with an open heart, possessed a sound humour, a clear insight and a childlike simplicity. The Church in Holland acknowledged the extra-ordinary merits and services of Fr. Wolff, as the parish priest in Culemborg and Nijmegen and his heroic and selfless service as the faithful priest of Christ in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the liberation of Catholicism out of its clandestine existence. Fr. Wolff known as a zealous giant, would soon encourage and inspire the enthusiastic young girls to become the instruments of transformation through education as a weapon. His brave and heroic personality, his self-sacrificing spirit and exemplary life, and his spirituality and teachings attracted the youthful girls to join hands with him, who would become the pioneering members of the forbidden Women's Congregation.



In this process of founding, he always experienced the hand of God's providence. Everyone who knew him, understood his passion for Christ's mission and his life from Ignatian spirituality of 'finding God in all things' and 'being sent'. The first three candidates Maria Stichters (Sr. Mathia Stichters), Sophie Miltner (Sr. Rosalie Miltner) and Lubuina van Elck (Sr. Lubuina van Elck) attracted by his prophetic vision and apostolic zeal, came from his parish in Culemborg. In 1819 they were sent to Ghent in Belgium for their religious formation under the guidance of Sisters of Our Lady of Namur (Sisters of Notre Dame), and the direction of Fr. Mathias Wolff, as a first step in this great initiative of founding a new congregation for Dutch women.



Fr. Mathias Wolff ignited the flame his prophetic charism of liberation of the oppressed Dutch Catholics and founded the Society of JMJ on 29 July 1822 with the name: '*Pédagogie Chrétienne*'. Later the congregation also was known as '*Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary*' and eventually the '*Society of*

*Jesus Mary Joseph*'. In 1823, a Reglement (first constitution) was approved by the Archpriest of the Netherlands. On July 29 of the same year, the first house was rented in Muurhuizen in Amersfoort. It was there that the first community began, consisting of two sisters who had received initial formation in Belgium, and three girls from Utrecht who had been given spiritual guidance by a parish priest.

Fr. Wolff's undaunted courage, strong faith, unshakable trust in the Divine Providence, his determination to work like a giant with the powerful weapons of prayer and asceticism, and positive outlook to life enabled him, to leave a lasting legacy of obedience to God's will, unconditional availability, apostolic zeal and hard work to his sisters.

***The torch of love is handed over to us!  
Let the fire of the beginning continue to burn  
through us!***

## Journeying with Mathias Wolff Rekindling JMJ legacy



**Sr. Catherine Ravulapalli**  
JMJ Shanthi Nilayam, Hyderabad

*Give thanks to the Holy One, the Most High;  
Proclaiming His Glory (Sir.47:8)*

Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, kindled the flame of liberation in 1822, when he founded the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph at Amersfoort, the Netherlands *to educate the poor and the marginalized girls and to strengthen the faith of the Catholic families* (Preamble, Constitutions).

Quoting the above text, I believe that Mathias Wolff had two main objectives in founding the Society of JMJ –Education and Pastoral work. These were the main strings in the mission of our sisters in the past years. Later on, the Medical and Social Apostolate also merged in. Here I place before you the emphasis of JMJ in India (from 1904) and in particular the progress in the field of Evangelization.

When I was studying in Guntur, I remember the Dutch Sisters with big white hat on their heads, travelling in *Jatka Bandi* to the villages to preach the gospel and also to strengthen the faith of the Catholics. Sr. Joannette Oomen, known as *Manthralammagaru*, a committed Dutch sister, was known for her apostolic zeal and charity to the poor. In Kurnool, Sr. Wilhelmina walked about in preaching the Word of God with a Bible in her hand in the streets of the villages and town till her last breath. She was known as *Avvammagaru* and was called affectionately by the people and all the priests of the Diocese.

As junior sisters, we used to accompany the senior sisters and stay in the villages for a few days to teach Catechism and prepare the people for Baptism and other sacraments. In Nallapadu, Sr. InnammaYeruva, Sr. Mary Kommareddy and other sisters in spite of full-time teaching in the Junior College, used to go to villages like Vengalayapalem in the evenings and instruct Christian values to the people. People were eager to meet the sisters and learn from them. In Kurnool,

Nellore and Porumamilla sisters were visiting the villages regularly and bring Christian faith among the people. The method of instruction was direct and oral and also to the groups.

As the time passed on, with the development of media and modern techniques of communication, the method of Catechesis also changed. Sisters go to the villages with LCD projectors and show the Bible stories and project videos and stories of the saints etc. After my retirement from the Junior College as Telugu lecturer, at the request of the Provincial Team, we started a center for Evangelization. The center was named as *SUBHODA*. Various activities were conducted by us to the people of Gajwel and surrounding Catholic villages. We have formed JMJ Lay Association in Gajwel and even the members are continuing evangelization in their own way. At this time of corona virus they are having ONLINE prayers, meetings etc. Now in the Digital world, we are trying to form groups and encourage people to infuse Christian values and Bible knowledge and everything for God's honour and glory.

### Conclusion:

In Mathew Ch.28.18-20, Jesus gave the commandment to go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And He promised to be with us till the ends of the world. This mission is being carried out by the JMJ Sisters from its very foundation, journeying in the footsteps of our beloved Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ.

The method and media may differ as per the changing times but the message is the same. Jesus Christ was with us in all that we have accomplished and will be with us in the future to bring the Good News of Salvation to the ends of the world.

In this way we are **journeying with Mathias Wolff, rekindling the JMJ Legacy** in the field of Evangelization.

## Insights From the Charism of CDMJ



Sr. Regina Zangiti  
Ghana Region

- A**: Ascending to God and going out to the people.
- D**: Deep knowledge of spiritual matters.
- A**: Accepting the will of God in all circumstances.
- P**: Piety and taste for the divine.
- T**: Truthfulness as the path of fruitful service.
- A**: Awareness and respect for the environment evolves from simplicity of life.
- B**: Blooming service as a shining star in building up of the Kingdom.
- L**: Love for the poor – the source of courage and strength in the apostolate.
- E**: Ever renewed search for God's will is the inspiration in spreading the Kingdom of God in four corners of the world.

- A**: A deep spirit of self-denial is the inner attitude that makes us pure.
- P**: Perfect example of Christ motivates us to sacrifice of our will.
- O**: One's trust and confidence in the Lord transforms oneself into His being.
- S**: Silence of heart is the strength of one's union with the Lord.
- T**: Testimonial and Tactfulness are the spirit of the Founder that pushes forward oneself in spite of trials and difficulties.
- O**: Opportunities individuals receive are the times to test one's capacity.
- L**: Love binds us together in perfect harmony.
- I**: Initiation of the spirit of Jesus Christ into the spirit of each community.
- C**: Concern for the aged sister in the community.

- A**: Availing oneself for the needs of others helps us to put oneself cheerfully in the service.
- V**: Valuable guidance and support to the youngsters in the community is very much appreciable.
- A**: Achieve perfection by mortifying all self-love.
- I**: Interpret the signs of the time with the eyes of faith.
- L**: Living as one family by accepting one another, as they are, for the happiness of the community.
- A**: As we live together, the uniqueness of each person is respected, and this results in the beauty of diversity within our unity.
- B**: Being ready for anything is the beauty of community life.
- I**: Improve the quality of life for effectiveness of our mission.
- L**: Let us pay attention to our spiritual journey and continue on it every day.
- I**: Interiorization of the Word of God.
- T**: The Shared Charism, Vision and Mission keep us together with one heart and mind.
- Y**: Yielding the fruit of hard work is prayer.



## Four Pillars of Fr. Wolff's Spirituality during Pandemic



**Sr. Bala Kumari Gopu**  
Bharat Mata Convent, Raipur

At the threshold of bicentenary year of the establishment of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph, it is worth reflecting on the vibrant personality of our beloved founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ and how relevant his charism and spirituality in these trying times of pandemic! Growing up as JMJ, I am always fascinated by Fr. Mathias Wolff. I am enthused to find a close connection between the salient features of our founder's charism and spirituality in those days and our present-day life and mission during the pandemic.

### **Apostolic Availability:**

*The foundation of the Soc. of JMJ was never for him an aim in itself, but flowed from his aspiration to liberate the Church of the Netherlands. (Pearl of Heritage, p. 43)*

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on many areas of society, it has provided all of us with unique opportunity to live out our apostolic availability as sisters of JMJ to build upon and develop new strategies in our mission places/apostolate. It has triggered a much-needed availability and adaptability to embrace the change and to extend our services accordingly and effectively.

### **A Fervent Zeal for All that Concerns Greater Glory and Honour of God:**

*Fr. Mathias' vision is to get us into the habit of always choosing what is for the greater glory of God, no matter how easy, or difficult or humiliating it was. (Pearl of Heritage, p. 44)*

In a way, COVID-19 is also a battle for our souls - a "spiritual battle for the 21st century". Despite the lingering uncertainty, COVID-19 silently offered us an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual impact it has on the world and our communities. It created a worldwide threat but reminds us that we are a global community and one cannot be safe until all are safe. It demanded physical distancing but required unified societal action. It attacked human beings but stirred up humanity as well. It ceased religious freedom but kindled faith. It enforced us to extend ourselves to the suffering humanity choosing what is for the greater glory of God.

### **Seeking God's Will:**

*He formed his attitude and frame of mind and instilled in him the habit of doing God's will. It became a way of life for him. (Pearl of Heritage, p. 45)*

In this time of crisis, each of God's people might ask themselves, "How is God calling me to serve? How can I seek his will?" As religious, we have many tangible ways to let our neighbors know that they are not alone. The Lord has enabled us to listen to others, speak a comforting word, to provide food or other necessities to those who are lacking or to share other blessings with those who are struggling. Even in times of social distancing, we are safely reaching out in mercy and love. God is calling us and it is his will to be a blessing and most importantly to provide hope to those who are fearful.

### **Finding God in All Things, and Taste for the Divine:**

*He who finds God in everything, to him everything is prayer. His deep interest in the world and in people found the source in God, who is present in all people, things and circumstances. (Pearl of Heritage, p. 45)*

The crisis caused by COVID-19 reminds us once again how God works in the lives of every person and in every creature. This may be a pandemic of fear, but God is showing us a glimmer of hope. The hope is that people will begin to seek God in the midst of fear. People who in the past did not give much attention to their spiritual lives started looking within. Our social platforms dedicated for work-related and social messages suddenly got filled with posts of prayers, Bible verses, and inspirational words. There is an atmosphere of intense prayer everywhere. Taste for the divine is increasing day by day.

Living out our charism "An Ever Adaptable Apostolic Availability" with the spirituality of 'an ever renewed search for God's will', we march forward rekindling our lives time and again to become the yeast in the Kingdom of God.

# Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ

## Poem



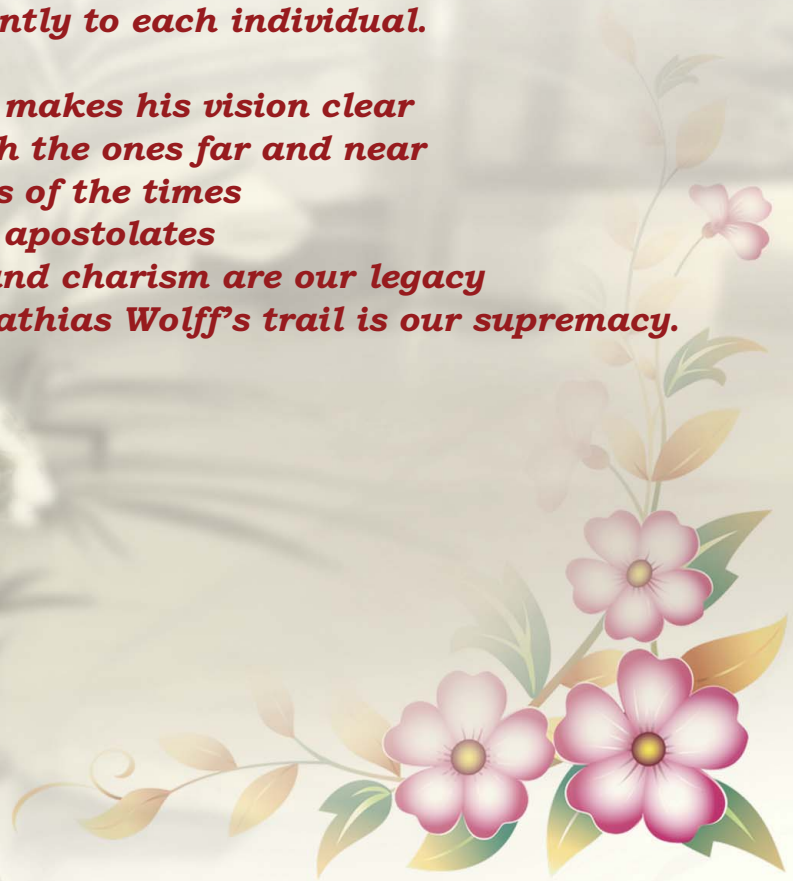
Sr. Thomasamma. P  
Naya Raipur

*Brave and courageous man  
Dares to take calculated risks  
Never gives up on anything  
Opens the doors to new Horizons  
Wishes to work like a giant  
Ready to redeem as many people as he could.*

*Man for the people  
Honored as a prophet of his time  
Man of unshakable trust in God  
Surrendered himself always to the will of God  
His concern is greater honour and glory of God  
His vision and mission is my inspiration.*

*Man of humility and availability  
Found God in all things  
Giving the needy without counting the cost  
Laboring without seeking the rest  
Spends hours in the confessional  
And listens patiently to each individual.*

*Over and over he makes his vision clear  
Reaching to touch the ones far and near  
Reading the signs of the times  
Emerged various apostolates  
His spirituality and charism are our legacy  
Walking in Fr. Mathias Wolff's trail is our supremacy.*



## Celebration 25 years of Faithfulness

- Silver Brides of 2021

With renewed vigor and vitality and with stupendous hearts, we, the Silver Jubilarians (2021) express our heart throbbing gratitude to God Almighty for His benevolent blessings and myriad miracles that we have cherished for the past 25 glorious years of life in the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph. At this juncture, we are delighted to articulate our experiences and encounters, interactions and interventions that we have acquired from various learned expertise and seasoned scholars.



The Promising Paschal Journey began with entreating and beseeching God's humongous blessings upon us through the solemn Eucharistic Celebration. An apt theme "Never Forget the Deeds of the Lord" has paved a way for us to be in tune with the purpose of our coming together. Rev. Sr. Anthony Mary, the Provincial Superior of Bangalore Province and the Council, extended a warm welcome to all the Silver Brides, with a gesture of love and sign of hope. She invigorated our hearts and minds with her thought provoking and reflective message for the upcoming spiritual renewal and refresher program.

The rigorous cognitive learning programme was initiated with a warm up session by prodigiously vibrant person, Rev. Sr. Hrudaya Mary. She has conducted a very enthralling, escalating and stimulating ice-breaking session which ventilated and loosened our muscles to stretch and strengthen our bond of oneness.

We are immensely grateful to note that our inconceivable spiritual journey has started with the most appropriate topic i.e., the *Psycho-Spiritual Integration* by the renowned resource person Rev. Fr. Augustine OFM who has enlightened us on various dimensions of psychological aspects of our personality. Another important topic dealt with was *Emotional Intelligence*, a much needed one as we witness and experience in this wired world where we are more electronically connected and less emotionally. The sessions on *Canon Law, Vows and community Life, JMJ Spirituality, JMJ Constitutions and Spirituality of St. Ignatius* put us into the ground realities of the Church and religious life especially as a JMJ Sister. We realized that the focal point of religious life is nothing but vows and community life. We are convinced and reaffirmed that we need to clothe ourselves with constant prayer and spiritual attitude, joy and sense of humor, boldness and passion as the beloved daughters of Christ in order to be the promoters of the Kingdom values.



The extensive knowledge that we have gained over the years grounded our understanding of the spirituality of the Founder and the Congregation. It gave a bird's eye view of the history, the spiritual tradition and culture of the congregation as entrusted to us in the founder's







writings. It triggered our hearts and stirred our minds by learning and knowing about our beloved Founder and the First Sisters, the Stalwarts of the Congregation who had an ardent zeal and strong urge for Mission, profound love for Christ and the tremendous sacrifices that they have made to become soldiers and co-companions of Christ. As sisters of JMJ, we are delighted to reflect on the road we have travelled and the track still before us. After having been enlightened and inspired in a more comprehensive way, the JMJ Constitutions, we are awakened to revitalize our zeal and to keep intact the spiritual patrimony of our Founder and thus realizing the wish of “giving the past a future”. At this point of time, we aspire to be a sort of splendid torch, wish to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

Through the sessions on Ignatian Spirituality, we are truly enlightened and elated to know that it has the depth and is grounded on the spirituality of Jesus. The resource person Rev. Fr. Joseph D' Mello Sj has undeniably helped us to dive deep into the spirit of St. Ignatius and his life changing Manresa experience in order to understand his zest and passion for God. It was indeed a good preparation for our one month directed Ignatian retreat. The one-month retreat from 13 February to 13 March at Dhyanaashram, Mt. St. Joseph, Bangalore was a time of grace, a lifetime experience and a special occasion that words can't express, unless one savours it by oneself. Our experience on the whole is the grace experienced in general – the realization of core-grace and core-sinfulness, compassion, communion, tears, purification, confirmation to the values of Christ, total identification and total surrender which leads to transformation of oneself. The retreat house with exclusive emphasis on silence, reflective spiritual insights from the scriptures and the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola,

the impressive green campus with spacious grounds and the expansive place provided an atmosphere of quietness and peace.

For us Jubilee is a time for looking back and looking forward. The book of Leviticus depicts the spirit of Jubilee, as an occasion of grateful remembrance of the past events of rejoicing for the graces received; of recognition of God's faithfulness to us. Our journey of 25 years is not simply journey through a string of days and years. Rather our journeys have been surrounded and intertwined by intimacy and relationship, mystery and secret growth. Our journeys have been fulfilling and demanding, risky and exciting. They have been filled with losses and gains, replete with joys and sorrows and in all these the God who called and consecrated us was always with us, enabling us to live the spirit of our consecration and so sing out the glories of the Lord.

As we are celebrating, the silver Jubilee of God's grace and faithfulness, we consider a commitment of 25 years to any unique lifestyle, that milestone is rare, if ever reached. We thank God we have made it with the Lord's assistance. We celebrated our vocation, our call, our life of service but above all we celebrated God, His call, His faithfulness. God did not see our ability or disability but our availability to fulfill our role for the kingdom of God. We are grateful to God for the past 25 beautiful years of vowed life. God's divine power has given us everything we need to live a truly religious life through the knowledge of the one who has called us to share in His glory and goodness. With hearts filled with gratitude we want to relive those special moments, hours, days, months and years. On this day, we remember our Superior General and her team, provincials and their team, regional superior and her council, for giving us this great opportunity to attend the seminar and retreat to refresh and renew ourselves. We fondly acknowledge the love and sacrifice of our superiors and sisters in our communities in relieving us from our responsibilities.



## My Soul Magnifies the Lord My spirit rejoices in God my saviour



**Sr. Damian Mangalath**

St. Theresa's Convent,  
Sanathnagar, Hyderabad

My heart is filled with joy, overwhelming with gratitude for the wonders God has done in my life through our Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph. I believe that every person's vocation is a call of God in different walks of life.

God has called me to be a J.M.J. sister by loving and living the Charism and Spirituality of our Congregation. Our Founder says, *"The Apostolate must be borne by a religious spirit. My intention is not to make you Christian daughters, no I want you to become perfect religious"* (SP & Ch. pg. 46). Jesus was my constant Companion leading, guiding and inspiring me through my formators in my initial formation. I was eager to learn and co-operative to listen to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit to mould me into the likeness of the teachings of our Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff S.J. His whole life was concerned with **the greater honour and glory of God**. To see God in all things and all things in

God inspired me to be a dedicated and committed person. Contemplation and prayers undoubtedly form the foundation of his apostolic attitude. Our Founder was a man of God and a man for the people.

When God called me to be a formator I experienced the closeness of God in every situation. He was my constant companion to guide and lead me to make inspirational decisions. He never left me alone. I was happy to see the formees growing in the garden of J.M.J. in the Spirituality and charism of J.M.J. After finishing my term of office as a Novice Directress I worked in few communities. *"The person who is obedient shall always be victorious and be blessed"* (SP & Ch. pg.48). At present I am working in St. Theresa's Hospital Registration and Medical Record Department. As our charism is an Ever Adaptable Apostolic Availability, I am happy with this new apostolate where I can render my service to the sick and

suffering with compassionate love and care, remembering the words of the Lord, *"Truly I tell you just as you did to one of the least of those who are members of My family you did it to me"* (Mt: 25: 40). By the help of God, I am trying to build up the Kingdom of God with an ever-renewed search for the will of God.

In 2012 while I was under treatment in the hospital, I experienced God's healing touch. In my sickness Jesus was very close to me and gave me the grace and faith to pray continuously and deepened a taste for the divine and longingness for the Eucharistic Lord. Our Founder spent time from early morning until 8' O'clock in preparation for the thanks giving, lasting the whole day. Great was his respect for the Eucharist (SP & Ch. Pg. 24). After the example and teaching of our Founder let all of us as JMJ sisters revive our love for the Eucharistic Lord and spent time in His presence daily.

★ AND MY ★  
*spirit rejoices*  
IN GOD MY SAVIOR  
LUKE 1:47

## “Better a Brain Drain than A Brain in the Drain”



**Sr. Lina Thettayil**  
St. Theresa's Convent,  
Sanathnagar, Hyderabad

Remembering our Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 30<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary (21<sup>st</sup> May 1991), the Caption given in the News Paper was **“Better a brain drain than a brain in the drain”**.

The above Caption made me think much and compare our Congregation as brains of many members. Brain drain is defined as emigration or migration of individuals of talents and skills from developing and under developed countries to developed countries. Brain drain stimulates education. Today it is one of the many problems India is trying to grapple. Brain drain has a socio-economic impact on concerned regions. Brain Drain is Boon for other countries, yet Bane for India. Brain drain is an International migration of educated and skilled professionals from developing countries to

developed countries for better lucrative salaries, better standards of living and quality life style.

Focussing on our own Congregation, we, the committed members see our personal efforts, dedication, commitment and self-giving to develop our **“MOTHER TREE”** in order to maintain, develop, inspire and help in all aspects for our future generation. For this, we have to drain our brain with minute interest that at every effort we make, for the all-round development of the MOTHER TREE, branching out, even making new shoots throughout the world and give credible witness to Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that the Divine Saviour assist us in our sincere effort and lead and guide our every step.

### PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF OUR HOLY FOUNDER



*Eternal Father, source of all good, You alone grant us every blessing in Heaven and on earth, through the redemptive Mission of Your Divine Son Jesus Christ, by the working of the Holy Spirit. In every situation and in every age, You raise up men and women as channels of Your divine election, to contribute to the Mission of the Church.*

*Fr. Mathias Wolff our Founder, with an inexhaustible zeal and integrated spirituality of seeking You in all things and doing Your Will, lived his vocation and mission, in leading all people to the experience of Your fatherly love. His whole life was concerned with Your greater glory and honour. He sought and lived for the same at all times. Gracious Father we pray, if it be Your Holy Will, move Your Church to glorify Your servant Fr. Mathias Wolff. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ Your Son and our Lord. Amen.*

**Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff - Pray for us.**

## Life in Leuven Envisioned by Fr. Wolff

Sr. Anitha Showri Rani  
Belgium

It is now almost two years after I landed in Leuven, a city of books and beer. Leuven has huge churches with mesmerizing architecture, but sadly with few faithful and partially all the churches are turned into museums. Our residence is close to St. Antony's Church cum museum, in which lies the tomb of St. Damien of Molokai, where I intercede for all of you. The *Katholiek Universiteit*, Leuven (KUL) contributed significantly and continues to profit the world in fields of science, technology, philosophy, psychology, religion and theology. I am blessed and fortunate to be a student of this historical and esteemed University, staffed with highly intellectual, deeply spiritual, humane, and God-fearing people.

Until I received God's call to leave for Belgium, my life in JMJ was revolving around my community life, personal life of prayer, and apostolate besides occasionally being at the service of slum dwellers with my fellow sisters. Although I volunteered to be a missionary, never I dreamt of being a student of Theology in a foreign country at the age of 36. I responded to the invitation of the General Council through my prayer, discernment, and obedience to God's will.

Life in Leuven is quite different and exciting. The reality of change was hard and tough. In the beginning every day came to an end with deep sighs of sorrow and sobs, with reminiscences of my life in the community and work, being ever grateful to Srs. Joseph Mary and Arputha Lilly, the best companions I could ever have. The greatest comfort and joy were in our being together. My personal contact with the Almighty, and the inspiration and consolation in my personal prayer brings me greatest solace and strength. It is here, in the presence of God, I realize that my life in Leuven has a purpose as envisioned by Fr. Wolff.

Personal responsibility and determination, finding God in little things with great joy, optimism filled with hopefulness and gratitude for God's marvelous gifts are the greatest lessons that life in Leuven taught me. Here, I learned to see *half-filled glass, instead of half empty glass* and this inner disposition permeated my approach and attitude towards life overflowing with delight. Another hard blow was the outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic. With strict rules imposed in the University, my room was my world. It's too hard to think of life confined to four walls. But every moment turned out to be an experience of God. Focus on my purpose and attitude of gratitude kept me going on. Life in Leuven changed my thinking from, *can I?* to *I can*. This personal transformation is the result of countless encounters with others, with me and most importantly with the Divine. This didn't happen overnight but is an everyday process. The Lord is ever new, and He lets me grow every day.

Coming to my academic experience, truly, I felt hard to get into studies after a long gap. Different teaching methodology, lots to read, learning new languages, different subjects – it was too demanding! Yes, it is indeed difficult to sit up awake at the desk in a freezing

climate. Grace of God is all powerful and mighty. The more I learn the more I realize that very little I know. There is joy and excitement of learning the historical facts, theological developments, the origins and growth of Christianity, Catholic Social teaching, and connectedness of Christianity with other religions, Scriptural foundations, and Pastoral attitude of the Catholic Church.

To say precisely, when you say, 'behold the handmaid of the Lord,' immediately you will hear the words of the Angel 'Nothing is impossible for God.' And this has been my experience ever since I desired to be a JMJ. Despite



difficulties, uncertainties, and unwillingness, obedience to the will of God coming through the authority had been always rewarding and fruitful. The same happened here too. With the grace of God, I am completing Abridged Bachelor's in Theology and Religious Studies. My contact with the Dutch Jesuit archives where the writings and correspondence of Fr. Mathias Wolff are preserved is another memorable experience. Feeling the handwriting of Fr. Wolff and trying to read them had been such a great experience. I experience tears of joy welling up intensely during my visits to Diekirch the birthplace of the Founder in Luxemburg, to the tomb of Fr. Wolff in Heeswijk, and at every encounter with the memories of Fr. Wolff. I am convinced that his zeal is alive, and his holiness is all around.

One of the directives of our first Congregational Chapter is to work on the life and writings of Fr. Wolff and to find possibilities to raise him to the altar of God. Thus, General Council asked us to explore the opportunities for further work on the life of Fr. Wolff. Based on our learning experience, the curriculum and methodology of study, and our consultations with various learned people in and outside the university, the General Council decided that Sr. Arputha Lilly and myself would continue to study in Leuven. Truly, this as a Divine intervention envisioned by Fr. Wolff that on this Bicentenary year of founding the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph, we are beginning the study and research on the life of our holy Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff.



As we continue our Master's in Theology, our focus shall be on the Historical facts, Charism, Apostolate, and Pastoral approach of Fr. Wolff and the Society of JMJ. The projected outcome will be a scientific study

on the life and work of Fr. Wolff, which we hope will be the first foundation stone on our way to further his Cause. Every historical and theological research is undertaken with a vision of its application and its relevance to the present and the future. Two hundred years of service to the world through the Society of JMJ and its history will surely have lessons for the future not only to us the members of the JMJ family but to the entire world. With this conviction, we are hopeful to secure admission for Research Master's programme and scholarship to continue the research.

I was one among those who think that study, research and translations are all waste of time and money. My focus was always on how best can I serve or what can I do for others? During my consultations with distinct Professors, one of them said '*Great visionaries are ever living, even after centuries. Research into their lives and writings reveal and open a way forward to be visionaries to our future generations.*' This changed my attitude and stirred a reflection and conviction to study Fr. Wolff and the beginnings of Soc. of JMJ in a scientific manner to help ourselves and our future generations.

***These throbbing questions at this historical JMJ Bicentenary needs to find an answer –***

**Isn't Fr. Wolff alive for the past two centuries?**

**How can I (we) keep him alive to the future generations?**

**Didn't I benefit from the vision of Fr. Wolff?**

**How can I be beneficial to the Future generations?**

I am convinced and rejoice that God chose me, to go deeper into the saintly life of Fr. Wolff. From the depths of my heart, I am ever grateful to the Congregation of JMJ, General Council, Provincial Council, and all the sisters who supported me through their prayers, phone calls, emails and messages. This is the glimpse of my life changing experience '*Life in Leuven – Envisioned by Fr. Wolff*'. Honestly, I pray that the Bicentenary Jubilee Year may renew, rekindle and revitalize our Consecration as JMJs, to continue Jesus' liberative mission of mercy for many more centuries, walking in the footsteps of Fr. Wolff, a great visionary and missionary. May the fire of his spirit and charism continue to flame the lives of people in and through us JMJs.

## Restoring Broken Relationship in our Communities



Sr. Annet Palatty  
JMJ Provincialate, Bangalore

*“God has restored our relationship with Him through Christ,  
and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships.” -2 Cor. 5:18*

Relationships are always worth restoring because life is all about learning how to love. God wants us to value each person in the community and make effort to maintain them instead of discarding them whenever there is a rift, hurt or conflict. St. Paul wrote “If then there is any encouragement in Christ..... Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit..... Let each of you look not to your own interest, but to the interests of others” (Philp. 2: 1-4). In other words: Agree with each other, love each other, be spirited friends. Paul taught that our ability to get along with others is a mark of spiritual maturity.

If you want God’s blessings on your life and you want to be known as a child of God, you must learn to be peace maker. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called the children of God” (Mathew 5:9). It means that you as a peace maker, seek to resolve conflict because you are formed to be a part of God’s family and the second purpose of your life on earth is to learn how to love and relate to others. Unfortunately, most of us are never taught how to resolve conflict. Peacemaking is not avoiding conflict. Of course, sometimes we need to avoid conflict, sometimes we need to create it and sometimes we need to resolve it. That’s why we must pray for the Holy Spirit’s continual guidance. Peacemaking is also not appeasement. Always giving in, acting like a doormat, and allowing others to always run over you is not what Jesus had in mind. He refused to back down on many issues, standing His ground in the face of evil opposition.

### **How to restore our relationship in our communities:**

God has called us to settle our relationships with each other. Here are seven biblical steps to restoring our broken relationship.

**1. Talk to God before talking to the person:** Discuss the problem with God, Tell Him your frustrations, cry out to Him, He’s never surprised or upset by your anger,

hurt, insecurity or any other emotions. So tell Him exactly how you feel.

**2. Always take the initiative:** It does not matter whether you are the offender or the offended. God expects you to make the first move (Mat 5 : 23-24).

**3. Sympathize with their feelings:** Use your ears more than your mouth. Before attempting to solve any disagreement you must first listen to people’s feelings. It means to pay attention, to focus on their feelings, not the facts and begin with sympathy not solutions. Listening says, “I value your opinion, I care about our relationship and you matter to me.”

**4. Confess your part of the conflict:** If you are serious about restoring a relationship, you should begin with admitting your own mistakes. Since we all have blind spots, you may need to ask a third party to help you evaluate your own actions before meeting with the person with whom you have conflict. Also ask God to show you how much of the problem is your fault. Ask, ‘Am I the problem? Am I being unrealistic, insensitive, or too sensitive? Often the way we handle a conflict creates a bigger hurt than the original problem itself. When you begin by humbly admitting your mistakes, it defuses the other person’s anger and disarms their attack, because they were probably expecting you to be defensive. Don’t make excuses or shift the blame, just honestly own up to any part you have played in the conflict. Accept responsibility for your mistakes and ask for forgiveness.

**5. Attack the problem, not the person:** You cannot fix the problem if you’re consumed with fixing the blame. A soft answer is always better than a sarcastic one. Remember that in resolving conflict how you say it is more important as what you say ( Eph 4:29).

**6. Cooperate as much as possible:** Paul said, “If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably

with all” (Rom 12: 18). Peace always has a price tag. Sometimes it costs our pride, it often costs our self-centeredness.

**7. Emphasize reconciliation not resolution:** It is unrealistic to expect everyone to agree about everything. Reconciliation focus on relationship, while resolution focuses on the problem. When we focus on reconciliation, the problem loses significance and often becomes irrelevant.

We can reestablish relationship even when we are unable to resolve our differences. Religious often have legitimate, honest disagreements and differing but we can disagree without being disagreeable. The same diamond looks different from different angles. God expects unity, not uniformity and we can walk arm-in-arm without seeing eye-to-eye on every issue.

Pause right now for a while and talk to God about that person with whom you have conflict. These seven steps are simple but they are not easy. It takes a lot of effort to restore a relationship.

## ADMONITION BY FATHER WOLFF: JANUARY 4, 1827



It is not my intention to make you into women who want to live a Christian life. On the contrary, if that were our purpose, you might as well have stayed at home to live a life of virtue there. My deepest desire is for you to become a dedicated religious, validating the vocation to which you have been called. You must be critical vis-à-vis yourself and not wait until someone else corrects you. When you sense that you have been mistaken, admit it to yourself and others immediately. Admitting your mistakes can help you on your spiritual journey. Sometimes it can be good for your spiritual life to ask a sister to take a critical look at you. When she does this in a loving way, you must be grateful for it, for you may assume that she is aiming at your spiritual progress. It is not a good thing in that situation to display hypersensitivity for that would be a sign of pride rather than humility (Sent by the Lord, pp. 57-59).

## Divine Call... and My Response



**Sr. Showri Rani Pudota**  
JMJ Sadan, Kantabanji

I was born and brought up in a traditional Catholic family. My parents are God fearing and devoted Catholics. My aunt Sr. Wilhelmina JMJ, was an inspiration to us. She was a teacher by profession and had done lot of evangelization in Kurnool Diocese. She is generally known as 'avvammagaru' meaning *grandmother*. I did my studies at St. Joseph's School, Kurnool and our sisters who lived at that time were also a great inspiration for my vocation. My Sister Mary Catherine JMJ, also was my inspiration to join the Society of JMJ as she lived with commitment and dedication to the Lord. Having realised the call of the Divine, I happily dedicated my life to the Lord.

I recall the early stages of my religious life, and I am very thankful to Sr. Josepha who was so loving, understanding and a great example. Sr. Aldegondis was another great woman, who inspired my life as she was a woman of prayer, sacrifice, understanding and full of compassion.

My active apostolate started after my final commitment. I was sent to Durgi in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh to start the pioneering Telugu medium school. Right from the start, we faced, a lot of problems from the District Education department as well as local teachers. Sr. Josepha, the then Provincial Superior, in all her wisdom, and in consultation with her council took the decision to close the school, as it was not helping the people around.

Sr. Josepha informed me that the Council decided to send me on mission to Australia to work in the school along with our JMJ Sisters. It was a wonderful experience to live with the Dutch and Australian sisters. Sr. Theresa Koreth and myself served for four years in Australia. I am grateful and thankful to the Congregation for all the above blessings.

By and large I worked in number of communities where I enjoyed working with different sisters and people. I learned a lot from each person and realized that each one is precious, gifted uniquely, talented and skilled in a variety of ways. As our founder says: "*be ready to be*

**"The Lord whom I have  
always obeyed, will  
send his angel with you  
and will make your  
mission successful".**

Gen 24: 40

*sent anywhere*", we should be always pliable and ready to go anywhere as the Congregation's mission needs us. Let us keep the much-quoted phrase of St. Francis de Sales in our mind: "*ask for nothing, refuse nothing*". Let us love and be a loyal member of the

mother Congregation, and united in heart and mind let us work hard for the welfare of the Congregation, following the footsteps of Jesus our Master, drawing inspiration from our Founder Rev. Fr. Mathias Wolff SJ, Servant of God Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey and our pioneer sisters. Let us take time for prayer and send the vibrations of prayer far and wide which sustains and keeps us alive and active all through our life.





## Who will Go For Me?



**Sr. Vincy Edathiruthikaran**  
JMJ Provincialate, Hyderabad

**My Vocation:** Divine call came to me when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> class inspired by my parish priest, who preached on the Gospel of the day **“The harvest is plenty but the labourers are few” (Mt 9:37)**. I sensed Jesus asking, *who will go for Me?* I felt Jesus was painfully asking this; suddenly I felt within me, a small mustard seed size ice ball falling into my heart and I whispered: *“Yes, I will go Lord.”* I cherished and nourished this call within me, against all odds singing *“the Cross before me, the world behind me...”* finally realizing a dream becoming a reality as I stepped into the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph. Even today I feel the refreshing coolness of that seed within me.

**My Faith:** My faith roots are from my God-fearing parents who were deeply rooted in faith. In every painstaking situation or otherwise they believed, *“God does all for our good!”* This trust and confidence in the Lord spread every fibre of my soul and body. In all my downbeat circumstances, deep down in my heart, I tell in a low voice – all for my good.

**Living my Vocation and Mission:** I am a religious for 45 years. The secret of my life is contentment. Although, I had the vision to be a missionary in remote villages, sharing the love of God, healing them by my simple faith, prayer and medicines like–holy water, rosary etc., right from the third year of my Juniorate I was placed in the Provincialate office. Great anxieties and fears I went through, being in the midst of senior sisters. My hopes and desires *“Who will go for Me”* could not be realized. The inspiration of an incident in the life of St. Therese of Child Jesus, guided and encouraged me to lead my missionary life quietly and overcome all the struggles. Once while St. Therese was

passing by the side of laundry, her companions were washing clothes, tried to beat clothes with full strength, so that it may sprinkle dirty water all over St. Therese. But she offered each drop of dirty water to save souls.

This incident was in my heart as a driving force. It helped me to offer all the words I type in a day to save souls. It became part and parcel of my life and I overcame my longing to be in the villages, instead, being in the four walls of the office, I do my missionary activities. This acceptance gives me great comfort, inner joy and contentment. After my first profession the provincial superior asked me to go for studies. I was only SSLC then. I told *“with the certificate I came, I want to go to Heaven.”* Many senior sisters encouraged me to study, otherwise later on I would regret. During these long years of my life, I never felt that I did not study like my companions or other sisters. Contented with what I have and what I am, most of my religious life I lived in the Provincialate.

**My Prayer:** *“Ascending to God and reaching out to the People”* is my life’s yearning that connects me with our founder’s charism. As I am growing in age, I feel more attached to Jesus the crucified, longing to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and thirsting for the Word of God. Experiencing inner silence, I tried to speak less and before speaking turn inwardly asking whether what I speak helps the other. I desire growing more and more in wisdom, understanding, patience, peace, love for God and fellow sisters.

I thank God for my vocation which I always consider as a precious gift.



## A Story Never Told Before and Ever After



**Sr. Chantal Sikka**  
Pedda Pendial

It was part of my dream to achieve my goal in life. I would like to share the wonderful story of my life.

### My First Step

It is rightly said "Hope is the first step to win attitude", so I started my journey from home to Guntur. After three years of my efforts in 1953, I got seat for 5<sup>th</sup> class, at St Joseph's Girls High School, Guntur. This was the first step of my journey to achieve my goal. Here I have to place on record the number of sisters through whom I started my schooling, who were my class teachers from 5<sup>th</sup> class - Sr. Josepha Rachamalla, Sr. Agatha Thumma, Sr. Theresita Thumma, Sr. Immaculata and Sr. Clement, the then head mistress of the school. I have to mention the name of Sr. Scolastica Singareddy, the boarding mistress at that time who helped me to choose this way of life. These sisters accompanied me during seven years of my schooling. They taught me good discipline, hard work, ever available service to the people, love and concern. They remained role models for all the students of St. Joseph's.

### My Second Step

Hope being the fundamental hallmark of my life, and after seven fruitful years of my schooling, I was strongly convinced of my call and requested my parents to send me to JMJ Congregation. It was a burning zeal within me and I always cultivated the dream of achieving my goal and put aside all my anxious thoughts, placing my complete trust in the Lord, who takes care of me today and always. I struggled to get permission from my parents and my elder brother was a big stumbling block. Finally, I got permission to join the Congregation. By

then all my companions had gone to Bangalore. I was delayed in joining them. The same elder brother accompanied me to the convent and explained the delay to Sr. Stanislaus Swamikannu, who played an important role to send me to Bangalore to begin my formation. She informed the reason of my delay to Sr. Ferdinando, the Provincial Superior of that time, informing her that I was a promising girl known to every sister in the school and agreed to send me along with Sr. Gemma. It was fortunate that everything came to positive end. Then she told my brother that I had to go very next day to Bangalore. I experienced that the dream of my goal was going to be fulfilled and I sang the song of praise.



Each day offered me golden opportunities to open up myself to something new.

### New Journey of Life:

Dance with the sunshine and go forward, not to look back was the greatest thought within me. I started my journey hopefully to reach Bangalore to join my companions. As I entered the Postulate, it was a great

surprise to note that the Postulant Mistress was none other than Sr. Josepha Rachamalla, who was my 5<sup>th</sup> class teacher; it was an amazing joy, that both of us met after many years. Then she welcomed me warmly together with my other companions, and I experienced my mother in her loving concern and care. I had the joy of meeting Sr. Ambrosine Thumma, who was my companion from 5<sup>th</sup> class to 11<sup>th</sup> class. Thus, I began my initial formation along with my companions, with little knowledge of English under the guidance of Sr. Josepha and Sr. Pauline Yennam. After six months of Postulancy, we entered the Novitiate making eight days of retreat. We began another period of formation for two years, where I could easily get into the life under the motherly guidance of Sr. Aldegondis and Sr. Emmanuella Gopu. During this period, I put lot of hard work in studying and learning about the life of JMJ through the Holy rule, Holy Scripture and the documents of the Congregation. The day of my first vows was a Red-Letter Day in my life and I praised and thanked God for all that he had done during my formation. Just like a flower that opens its petals to the rising Sun early hours of the day, so too my heart responded to the call of God, who accompanied me to reach this state of life as JMJ in 1962.

### My Real Journey Begins

After my first vows I was transferred to Guntur. On 1<sup>st</sup> February 1962 I joined Juniorate and on the very next day Sr. Georgia, our Junior Mistress took me to Sr. Stanislaus Swamikannu, who was still there as a superior. She was very happy to see me and receive me back to the same institution. From the next day I was



asked to help in the boarding as well as in the school. After a year Sr. Stanislaus asked me to go for college studies with a special subject music, but I requested her that I would like to pursue teacher's training for two years, which she gladly consented. After successful completion of this training, I was appointed in the same school as a teacher. Along with the teaching responsibility in 1972, I was also given an extra work to take care of the Aspirants, and I am proud to say that one among them was Sr. Innamma Yeruva, the present Superior General of our Congregation.

With the help of God's grace, filled with the spirit of our founder I was doing well at every level. After 13 years in Guntur, I got a transfer to Kadapa as superior. I knew that the Lord who called me would lead me. Sr. Josepha was the first Indian Provincial Superior of the province, who gave me this opportunity to serve the people there. During this period of six years the community worked as a team to build up the school and hospital with joy, till the school was upgraded to full-fledged high school in 1979. While we focused on developing the school and hospital, we also reached out to the villages in health care simultaneously, with doctors and sisters involved in medical ministry. The missionary spirit and zeal made me to go forward in every aspect of my life, which I considered as the golden era as a result of the hard work of every sister.

After this, I was sent to Bangalore to be in charge of the Aspirants. Then I felt, I would be remaining at least for three years in the formation, but as it is said 'man proposes and God disposes' within a year Sr. Anna Maria Gali, the then Provincial Superior, transferred me to Raipur as a superior in 1982. After 3 years, I was transferred to Gajwel and I worked for five years as a teacher and headmistress, serving the people of the area in teaching, visiting villages, pastoral care and evangelization. In 1990 I was appointed as a superior and headmistress for another five years in the same place.

Then I was transferred to Kurnool as the headmistress of both English and Telugu Medium schools, successfully completed my services, having very good rapport with District Educational Department and public. As a result, in 1997 the District Educational Department asked us to conduct a District Science fair, which was a grand success with the hard work of the sisters and the staff. In 1999 I was awarded the Best Teacher by the District Education Department. I was very grateful to God for

lifting me up towards the greater achievements, but it was He who worked through me. After working for five years in Kurnool in the year 2000, I got retirement from the Government post.

After my retirement I got transfer to Mahabubnagar as superior, but before I could complete my term, in 2003, I was sent to start the pioneering work in Neela Camp, in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, where I continued my services till 2010. This was the time when the province was bi-furcated and Neela Camp was part of the new province. Again, the call came to me to be the superior of Kurnool College community which I accepted in obedience to the Will of God. Sr. Innamma Yeruva was the Principal of the College, we had a good community living experience, and the institution developed as a result of the enthusiasm and interest of the sisters for the golden future of the poor.

After the completion of this task, I was transferred to Hyderabad to help in the novitiate for one year and another year I helped in the retreat house, a welcoming place for all our sisters. I could complete this task fully and actively and again I was asked to go to Mahubnagar as an animator in 2016. Here too we saw the development of the institution as a result of team spirit and hard work of the community members. I completed four years here after which I was transferred to Warangal in the year 2020.

I came to Warangal and started my work as an animator of the community. This was another experience of my life which taught me to be there where you are sent and do the will of God. With this firm confidence in God thinking within, what could be done in this pandemic situation where the whole world is suffering with the Covid-19, I am fully confident that the good

Lord will lead me in any situation of that kind to do my best.

**After looking at the long journey of my life, from the hind side, I still await for God's inspiration to go forward to continue in His Mission with open heart.**

#### **Present Joureny of my Life:**

With all the experiences of life, living in the Congregation as JMJ for more than 62 years, I still continue my services to the Congregation. As a consecrated person I protect, promote and preserve the charism and spirituality of our Founder, try to fulfill the mission entrusted to me by my authorities to bear a living witness to love of Jesus. The good example of many sisters inspired me to live as a sincere, loyal member of the Congregation, to remain ever active, with full of responsibilities, growing in wisdom and love availing myself to the needs of the people and to accomplish the mission of God. I have completed 80 years of my gift of life on 13<sup>th</sup> May, as a joyful, fruitful and effective member of JMJ. With all fond memories of the past, gratefully acknowledging the great goodness of God, I thank Him profusely for His marvelous blessings throughout the long span of my life. I bow deeply with my folded hands and owe my deep gratitude to my Congregation and all those who moulded me to be ever active, ever creative and ever growing into full person of JMJ. I conclude with the statement: "Hope is a source of constant energy, Hope fosters a positive stand towards life". THANK YOU

“  
BE WHO GOD  
MEANT YOU TO BE  
AND YOU WILL SET  
THE WORLD ON FIRE

- St. Catherine of Siena



## In His Footsteps Forever



**Sr. Agnetha Sequeira JMJ**  
JMJ Convent, Porvorim, Goa

*Religious vocation... God's call*  
*Religious vocation... Being part of Jesus*  
*Religious vocation... Gift of the family*  
*Religious vocation... Most precious gift*

Every celebration in life is like a music player which plays the music, rewinds the memory and present the dreams to move forward to reach the destination with the grace of God. My heart is filled with joy and gratitude to Almighty God for creating a marvelous milestone in my life. It's indeed a time of jubilation, thanks giving and praise to the Creator who has done all the wonders in disguise in my life through the precious gift of my religious vocation.

As it is said a thousand miles journey begins with a single step and that's true of my life. At the age of thirteen, a burning fire of being someone different in life was enkindled in me by the edifying life of the priest and religious of Aldona, Goa-a call which I was not able to explain to anyone, a call for being in the company of the Lord was nourished through my family and parish activities, a call in the form of a whisper in my ears telling me, "***You are mine I have called you, forever to be mine***", a call that attracted me to embrace the company of Jesus who is poor, chaste and obedient. I have spent days, months and years to make this my way of life as I was not clear about how to achieve my dream of being with the Lord always.

As I go down my memory lane, one of the homilies which stressed on the Gospel of Mathew 16:26, "What will it profit if you gain the whole world and lose your own soul? struck me very deeply causing me to believe that life presents before me plenty of golden opportunities to dream and to make it into a reality, for offering my life for the greater glory of God which will be the greatest gift that I can ever imagine to give Him. The inner urge and the thirst within me caused me to discern my life more seriously. But it was not an easy task that God placed before me to make a choice between religious life/proposals for married life/a good job etc. All these choices only disturbed me badly until

I came to the realization that God's plans are different from my own. ***He has chosen me from all Eternity to be a part of Him through the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph*** just like Abraham who was called to an unknown land and among unknown people to build His Kingdom of love and peace. At that time I realized that God has His own way of getting His elected close to Him. Hence He led me to JMJ Hospital, Porvorim, through my own Professor, who became a sign post for me, to lead me, to a place of work which I didn't know at all, neither the place where it is situated and more than that I was a person who never lived alone or went anywhere without my mother. I joined in the hospital as a lab technician the first place of work and the JMJ Hospital Porvorim paved my way to be a member of the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph. All these things are still a great mystery for me. Always pondering on "How is all this possible in my life?" I believe He had plans for me, a plan to pull me out of the world, for the world of the Lord; like Prophet Jeremiah He anointed me before I was born to be His and to fulfill a dream which I had dreamt to make it into a reality forever.



The journey from novitiate through final commitment was bumpy and uneven. Instead of the movie version



of entering religious life with shining eyes and holy music, the Holy Spirit had me fumbling around at the side door, peering inside, hanging around at the threshold, eventually reopening the door and finally stepping through with the recognition that I belonged to this life and that I found joy and fulfillment in it. The sayings of St. Augustine “Our hearts are made for you, O Lord and they can never find their rest until they rest in You...” was my feeling to be His bride forever as I walked towards the altar listening to the angelic singing of the Choir. I experienced the presence of Heavenly glory and beauty in the Parish of Holy Family, Porvorim. A word of thanks weighs less but it means a lot for me because there were so many people joined along with my family members who helped me to reach to what I am today by their constant accompaniment, prayers and encouragement.

I truly believe that it is the Lord who created me, called me, strengthened me and will continue to sustain my vocation to be a blessing for the whole humanity. I

believe that this Life is not only a bed of roses but it has all the roses and thorns to a life worth living. I believe that it is the Lord who gifts me with everything, every moment and every meaning to my life. When I look at my life in a nutshell it's my Lord's gracious love that drew me towards Him from all eternity not because of anything I have done but because He has done great wonders in my life especially through my total 'Yes', through the beautiful covenant of marriage between the Creator and a creature. A wonderful message I received in the homily at my Perpetual Commitment was Phil 1:6: “The Lord who began this good work in me will bring it to completion”. No matter in what situation of life I may be, He is there beside me because He has called me to embrace the humanity holding my hands, leading me in His footsteps forever, to build a community where love and peace will reign forever.

My desire is that I may act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with a cheerful heart in the footsteps of our dear Lord forever.



Renewing our love story with God  
would be good for our consecrated life

*“With Jesus we find again the courage to carry on and the strength to remain firm. The encounter with the Lord is the source. It is important then to return to the source: to retrace in our mind the decisive moments of encounter with him, to renew our first love, perhaps writing down our love story with the Lord.*

*This would be good for our consecrated life, so that it does not become a time that passes by, but rather a time of encounter.”*

*(Pope Francis, Homily, 2nd Feb 2019)*

“Do not be afraid of  
what God asks of you !  
It is worth saying yes to God !  
In him we find our joy !”

-Pope Francis



## Growing Joyfully in Response to God's Call



**Sr. Amrutha Pani**  
JMJ Provincialate, Guntur

It's indeed a great blessing to be a nun in the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph and I am glad to share about my life and vocation. I am convinced that my vocation is a divine call and truly a gift of God. Being the eldest among three children in my family, I had the privilege to study in Loyola High School for 6<sup>th</sup> class. As life has its ups and downs, the death of my father on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2008 was a traumatic experience for me and my family. After my father's demise my grandparents opted to put me in Auxillium School and hostel run by Salesian Sisters in Guntur and continued my schooling from seventh to tenth standard.

My life in the hostel with sisters created in me the desire to become a nun. When opportunity arose, I expressed my heartfelt wish to my grandparents which they gladly accepted as they were traditional Catholics. Then I joined at St. Joseph's College Nallapadu for intermediate course and was closely associated with the JMJ sisters. I got inspired by their dedication and committed service. All these helped me to surrender myself to the Lord and the encouragement from my family was a boon in my vocation.

All went well till my first-year novitiate when my loving mother became unwell and passed away, leaving us in the hands of grandparents. It was a time of crisis in my vocation and I underwent so much of agony,

disappointment and distress. I began to doubt my vocation and I was so down with the thoughts, 'why all these things happen only to me' as it was a time of grief and pain. But there were sisters who stood by me, especially Sr. Prameela Rani Puchakayala, the novice mistress and Sr. Chandra Thainese, the then provincial councillor in-charge of formation. They comforted and encouraged me to respond to the divine call by accepting the reality.

At present I am happy in my religious life. As I look back over the years as a JMJ, I feel that I have chosen the right path and I could experience God's loving hands

*Oh Lord,  
more than anything  
else, I thank you  
because you are my  
Father and Lord.*

guiding me in my good times and bad times. In moments of distractions and attractions God didn't leave me alone. He strengthened me a lot in those moments of suffering and pain and helped me to understand my religious call. The assurance of the Lord: "I have called you by your name; you are mine" (Is 43:1), gives me life and strength.

I love my Congregation and I feel grateful to God for calling me to labour in His vineyard. I am sure that God who called me will grant me the courage and insight in future and to continue to learn from the past. I would like to set the best example as a sister of JMJ, depending on the grace of God.



**GOD  
CALLING**

Will you answer?



## Consecration: Grace to Higher Purpose in Life



Sr. Showri Polanki  
Kanchili

The meaning of *Consecration* is to make holy or to dedicate for a higher purpose. The life of Jesus is the ultimate example of consecrated life; every word and deed of Jesus revealed His consecration to His father. Nothing that is set apart for God can be desecrated. Even though we are given a mission through our baptism by God himself just as Jesus was, we go a step higher in promising to God to be faithful to that particular mission by embracing the consecrated life. In this state, a person freely, willingly and, consciously decides to dedicate one's soul, mind, heart and body to God as a loving sacrifice to God for the salvific mission. However, only, the individual makes the decision. Could there be any individual, following Jesus the Master, who does not know His demands? Certainly not. This means that the consecrated person commits to doing everything and anything in God's service as a loving response to His love for him. As consecrated persons, we try to discover our own identity and find profound peace. We grow more attentive to the daily challenges of the Word of God, and allow ourselves to be guided by the original charism of the chosen Congregation. What makes the consecrated life more meaningful way of Christian living is the public religious vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience according to the Gospel.

Unlike the situation in the Old Testament, when the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments" (Ex 19:10), at present consecrated life is a choice of an individual intermingled with God's invisible grace and invitation. In the recent past, the consecrated life is not much appreciated by the majority, yet it can never be diminished from the face of the earth as its origin is from God.

I would like to confess that I neither had a miraculous vision to become a religious sister nor experienced the person of Jesus like St. Paul. But there was the hand of God following me all through my life. Infact, I tried ways and means to escape from Him, but the inescapable God was everywhere as it is mentioned in

Psalm 139. So, I could never fly away from His sight. My journey to religious life is undoubtedly a perfect design of God. God has a knack and a way of convincing His chosen and whom He willed. I profoundly believe that my vocation to religious life is one of the tangible gifts from the Lord that I could really see with the eyes of faith and I admit that there is no day in my life without thanking God for keeping me as the apple of His eye in my beloved Congregation. I take pride in addressing JMJ as my Congregation because it made me always feel at home. I feel deeply the joy of belonging to the religious family. I cannot but ever remember, the immense work of my formators as well as my spiritual Sister who always stayed with me, holding me up from the darkest valley of spiritual blindness.

My life is one of complete trust in the providence of God, especially as I work with the students of different capacities, I find myself chiselled in the process of shaping the wards entrusted to me. I am in awe realising that every individual is a different world in himself/herself. As a consecrated person, I often feel the greatest responsibility towards my ministry, for I believe that I came not to be served but to serve and fulfil the purpose of my call.

At present, the consecrated life faces one of the biggest challenges of rescuing people from desperation and defencelessness, as the human race is challenged by the covid-19 pandemic. Here, I feel like raising my voice questioning God, 'should I protect myself from this dangerous virus or the affected?' At this juncture, I wish to fight with God to save people from this panic and pandemic as Jacob wrestled with God not letting Him go but to bless.





## You Did Not Choose Me, But I Chose You



**Sr. Dr. Swapna Rani Boreddy CJMJ**  
Naturopathy Physician  
Kurnool-1

***“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will last” - Jn 15:16***

Human being is the masterpiece of God’s Creation. God in His wisdom chooses the people and fills them for certain works. He would not call the qualified rather He calls and makes the people qualified (cf. 1 Cor 1:27). Right from the beginning of the history –from Abraham till now people were called by the Lord not because they are great rather God wants them to be His servants. What the individual who is called needs to do in order to respond to the call? When Abraham was called, he had to leave his own people (Gen 12:1). When Moses was called, he had his own difficulties (Ex 4:10). Even after the call from God, saintly people like Mother Teresa of Calcutta had her own doubts about the call. Saints had their own dark nights of the soul. Therefore, it is not an exception to me when I was called by the Lord at the very young age through various signs and symbols and when I felt that I was called by the Lord; I knew that my Lord would not leave me in vain.

Like others, I too had my own difficulties. I thank God and the Congregation of CJMJ, who took care of me and accepted me as I am in spite of all my weakness and weirdness. I express my sentiments of gratitude to all who are part of my journey particularly in my spiritual journey and to my God for all his consolation especially in moments of temptation and dark night of spiritual journey. I feel the need to express my special gratitude to my mother who always supported and guided me. My life is so close to that of Saint Rita who had her own dark moments in life, yet the advices of her mother would help the life of the saint. So too, my mother played a huge role in my life. I thank the Lord for giving me such a good mother who always stood by me in all my good and bad times.

Temptations as well as deviations are common in the life of any human being. I am not exempted either. Jesus was tempted in various ways and He always knew that He had to do the Will of the Father. Therefore He offered Himself completely to the Father. He always spent time with the Father (Mk 1:35). In spite of all

His works, He was always in union with the Father and He also cared for the human (Mk6:34).

My life as a nun in the Congregation too was in the same way as my Master’s life. From my childhood I promised that my personal prayer, daily Mass and Rosary are my strong weapons which would help me to live a holy and happy life. Even today in spite of corona and very many other blocks I love to spend time with the Lord, and be a part of His Calvary journey by participating in the Holy Eucharist.

Saint Paul, before his conversion was persecuting the Church. Yet when he was called by the Lord, he gave up all he had and followed the Lord till his death. Yet he never took fame in the world. He always considered himself as least as possible. But the words of Jesus as we see in Acts 9:15-16 “This man (woman-me) is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their Kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name” are very much true in his life.

I joined the Congregation with sole motivation of becoming a servant of the Lord to work in the vineyard of the Lord and the Lord made me worthy of it. I always feel happy and enjoy my call when Priest utters the words, “you made us worthy to serve You in Your Presence”, after the Consecration. I thank the Lord and the Congregation who gave me an opportunity to study and become a Naturopathy Doctor and serve the Lord as Jesus the Healer. Even during my life at Mangalore as a student, I never missed my spiritual practice of personal prayer, Rosary and Holy Mass. My profession as doctor made me to move a step closer to the Lord who called me as to join my soul with the *Paramatman*. May the Lord bless all the people who help me to become what I am today and may He continue to assist me in my life.

At last I express my gratitude to God for His unconditional Love, to my family members, Congregation, sisters, priests, friends and well-wishers and all who help me in my spiritual journey who made my life a memorable and self-sacrificing one.

## Abide in the Lord



**Sr. Suhasini Pasupala**  
Mathias Convent, Ranchi

### **As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. Jn15:9**

I professed as a JMJ sister in the year 2008. I was so joyful and excited. I thought it was my total 'yes' to the Lord, I would never turn back and I belonged only to the Lord. As I grew in life as religious and with the growing times I encountered with difficulties of life in the communities and apostolate. I realized that they stood in stark contrast to my learning in the novitiate and the realities.

The ups and downs of real-life situations led me to ask questions like (i) Will I be able to serve the Lord? (ii) Do I really have a vocation to there ligious life?

But God never left me. I experienced the closeness of the Lord more in my difficulties. He led me through and strengthened my faith in Him. I believe that God reveals Himself to me in different ways.

I feel so blessed to be part of the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph. In all the stages of my formation, my mentors were a great help to me in handling my life's situations and in supporting me to grow in the love of God, our Founder Fr. Mathias Wolff and the Congregation. Every step of my life in the Congregation offered me ample opportunities to build a strong bridge between me and my Lord.

My personal experience of God and relationship with Jesus Christ is established upon my life's experiences. I have faced many challenges, but God has been gracious to me. He has blessed me with strength, courage and gifted me with much joy and fulfillment. Each day I live out my consecrated life with commitment to love of God and for His people.

In 2016, my mother became seriously ill and was admitted to the hospital. I was informed by the doctor that my mother's chance of survival was slim. Amid such great pain and sorrow, I felt all alone. I did not know how to accept the sad reality of life. I prayed to the Lord, kept all my hope in Him, and surrendered my mother to Him. The Lord stood by my side and I experienced a tremendous support from JMJ fraternity, friends and family members who helped me to be emotionally brave and strong to accept the will of God. This led me to a deeper relationship with God and I felt I am precious in His sight. My desire to know Him more and have total dependence on Him in loving surrender grew in my religious life.

God works wonder every movement. Now I am able to realize them better. All these experiences of life have fostered the deep bond that I have with the Divine. The joy of this religious life awakens me each morning and causes delight and excitement for what Love may have in store for me that day. Therefore, I am happy and grateful!



## Suffering Beauty - Ray of Hope



Sr. Joyamma Chanikuzhy  
St. Stanislaus Convent

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. For when I am weak then I am strong” (II Cor 12:9-10).**



Human life is a mystery with so much twists and turns and a mixture of joys and sorrows – experience of pain and healing. Every now and then when I look back in to my life I see all of these experiences. Every event and experience that I went through has made me to realize the power of God in my life. In the year 2012, I was diagnosed with severe osteoporosis due to which I was unable to walk; I had to depend on others for every need. It was not so easy to accept. Doctors were not able to give me treatment as I have so many other complications. Every doctor would say that this is a steroid induced osteoporosis and there is no medicine for this, for lifelong I will not be able to walk as normally as I would. They had counseled me to accept this fact. More than the physical pain I went through so much of mental torture and loneliness. But ultimately it is the power of God which took control of me, where I realized the words of St. Paul, “For when I am weak then I am strong” in fact these painful events have helped me to experience the miraculous power of God working in my life for the past 23 years. It is only through the grace of God that I was able to accept every suffering, here too, the moment I surrendered to God I began to experience the healing power of Jesus. I began to say to myself, **“Don’t tell God you have a big problem, tell your problem you have a big God. There is no problem too big for the Lord.”**

As I share this I can vividly remember the darkest moments of my life, the loneliness and pain I had to go through. But one thing I want to acknowledge is, because of the support of the Society, the Ray of Hope and encouragement of each one that enabled me to accept sufferings gracefully. My sufferings have not ended here, every time I am encountering with new pains, sometimes it is difficult for doctors to decide for the severe issues that I am undergoing. The grace of God has overtaken all my pains so I have no fear to face anything that comes in future. I am grateful to all for every whisper of prayer for me, ultimately this is the only source which gives me comfort and healing and keeps me go on.

Above lines are written by Sr. Anandamma Ponnapati JMJ, a few days before her farewell from this world to the Eternal reward.



According to me, SUFFERING BEAUTY is the most beautiful and appropriate crown of Title could be given to our dear Sr. Anandamma. True to her name she was the Mother of Joy irrespective of her intense and agonizing pain and discomfort. Certainly anyone who looks at Sr. Anand’s life of suffering caused by her illness will admire at the beauty of her suffering in **“Total Silence”**. Sr. Anand is my just junior and am proud to describe about her holiness in suffering. As per the public memory Sr. Anand has been suffering since 1998 but only she knew the actual date and year of her suffering with the particular illness of renal failure. Ever since

the diagnosis was made, the number of hospitalizations, surgeries, and procedures, done on that weak and fragile body never kept her back from her Mission till the end. She always wanted to labour, come what may, with the spirit of the Gospel message; ***“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”*** (Mt 20:28). Such dedicated and service minded religious sisters are rare and is a blessing for the community and Congregation. During and after her periodic illness and constant physical soreness and struggle if she was left with a little energy, she attended her office with charming enthusiasm. Sometimes the intake of medication was more than the food and so the intermittent side effects of it. Once she said with a beaming smile “My body is full of medicines” true dear Sr. Anand but you were filled with, heroic endurance and patience. You were an embodiment of humility, prayerfulness unshakable trust in God, generosity and commitment. Her swollen feet were never an obstacle to progress in her spiritual, community and apostolic life. She took maximum effort to be the part of the mission entrusted, unbothered of her torment.



Great devotion for the Holy Eucharist boosted her to have a regular attendance in Holy Mass. Even when her whole-body ached, she found joy in participating in the community activities. Her gentle smile blooming out of her excruciating pain was very much soothing, comforting, motivating and inspiring. Her spirit of contentment and composed gesture amidst the many needs of her ailing body was heartening and encouraging to be serene and self-controlled amidst suffering. Her sacred silence replacing complaints and demands were laudable and persuading for those of us who waste time in gossip and chit chatting.

Sr. Anand's last days were very peaceful, even though the unexpected demise of her younger brother Suresh

added to her physical and mental suffering. She shed much tears for him as she spent her last home holidays with him in Pune. She whispered to many “instead of my brother God could have called me”. During her last days of hospitalization even though she was suffering very intensely I could see her, always calm and resigned to God's will. Often, she said “You are all doing so much for me, I am so grateful to everybody but why God is not calling me”. So earnestly, and happily she received the Anointing of the Sick. After being diagnosed with corona viral infection I visited her for the last on 12 May 2021 in CCU with my batch mate Sr. Lourdu Mary Nagothu. While taking leave of her she asked me to pray for her and I asked her back what I should pray. She replied “Tell God to call me fast” again when I asked, whether she is prepared for it, so confidently without any fear she responded “Yes I am ready”. Well prepared and resigned to God's will our dearest Sr. Anand bid adieu to all of us on 14 May at 1. 10 pm. As she lived she died, gently, lovingly, quietly, she was like a candle burning till the end giving light and heat, illumining the mind of all of us with her great patient endurance and perseverance and warming us with her optimistic attitude amidst suffering and pain. Her gentleness, acceptance, authenticity and courage were incentive and a driving force for all of us to foster optimistic attitude even in the face of obstacles, challenges, and setbacks. Dear Sr. Anand, you were like the fragrant rose among thorns, spreading the sweet scent of service and charity. Your life of suffering without muttering teaches that there is beauty, joy and illumination in suffering too.

## ADMONITION BY FATHER WOLFF

July 30, 1827



*The sisters who have made their vows must not be spared. On the contrary, they must be an example to the young ones and hence not spare themselves either. I must be able to count on you, for to the girls who want to enter our congregation I must be able to say: ‘Just look at the other sisters and do as they do’. You must really know that I want what's best for you.*  
(Sent by the Lord, p. 62).

## My Life Experience in Ghana Mission



Sr. Rosy Kolattukudy  
Ramachandrapuram

My life is a journey of faith and trust in God's providence. November 2000 to February 2017 was a special chapter in my life as a missionary in a foreign land. Leaving my boat behind, relocating to a different country was always a challenge. But the biggest challenge may not lie so much in the practicalities of moving, as in being happy in one's new environment. I stepped into an unknown land with great enthusiasm and zeal for mission. When I recall these years of life in Ghana, I have both amusing as well as repulsive reminiscences as life is a combination of both. I had dreadful time in the initial years in Ghana particularly in the school. Though it was eleven years old government aided boarding school, there were only eighty students and seven staff. I had an opportunity to challenge myself to work efficiently for the development of the "Our Lady of Providence Senior High School".

We had the difficulty to get smart students and efficient staff because of the deprived village area. All the elegant students choose the city schools. In the initial years we had only three smart students; low aggregate students who were rejected from other schools were the students admitted in our school. Since we had no accommodation, aided teachers didn't turn up to work in our school. We depended on the National Service teachers and volunteers from America. The tradition, culture, customs and language were other set back for us. We did not have any overseas seminar about it.

As couple of years passed by, we were much familiar with the people and Education department to tap the available resources from the government and other departments to improve the infrastructure of the school.

The Government officials were kind in need and approved a four-unit staff bungalow, a twelve-unit classroom block, and a girls' dormitory. The District Assembly helped to build a Home Economic Lab and two classrooms and an Administration block. Ghana Education Trust fund assisted with a pick-up vehicle, and a 48 seated bus. The Parent Teachers' Association of the school helped to build a computer lab and a library. The Communication Department gave us hundred computers; the Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence helped us to build two staff bungalows.

We worked like giant to spread the values of Gospel and to raise the standard of the school through our Institution. In the year 2005 we organized School Day for the first time thinking that it would be great advertisement for our school. The name of the school reached far and wide for its discipline and standard and thereafter, there were qualitative admissions from all over Ghana. We started different programmes. In 2013 we got another bus for the school; in 2014 we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the school which was equipped with all facilities.

As the superior of the community for six years from November 2000 to June 2007, I was able to adjust and understand the sisters, and to challenge the situations. We had to travel thirty kilometers to make a call or to send a message or fax, no roads and public transport facility to our place. Thanks to Sr. Cletus, the then Superior General and Council for their concern, we got a vehicle and radio phone connection. In 2005 I could get the death news of my brother-in-law only after seven days while I was travelling to Kumasi.



As we had eleven acres of land, we started cultivation and planted oranges, cashew, mangoes and other vegetables. In 2005 we got permission from the Generalate to renovate and extend the convent building with five more rooms. Now we have all the facilities in KBK and it is the best place with regard to climate and vegetation than all other places where our communities are. I was appointed as Assistant Regional Superior in the year 2013, the responsibility I carried out along with the school work.

I was retired from the service on 20 April 2014. After my retirement and after 14 years of my service in KBK, on 12 June 2014, the school organized a send-off program for me in the midst of many VIPs from Ghana. It was heart touching moment to say farewell to all. I had the fulfillment and great satisfaction for working in Our Lady of Providence School which turned out to be like the Garden of Eden, even though it was like a forest when I went there.

After my retirement I was appointed as the superior and correspondent of Attebubu community in 2017 which I continued till I left Ghana. I feel accomplishment of my passion for mission in Ghana. I never thought of coming back to India. I always worked for the glory of God selflessly. The support of my sisters in the community, colleagues and other social contact with authorities and people outside gave me strength and courage to do my work. I considered Ghana as my mother land and loved Ghana and the Ghanaians as my own. Working in Ghana brought change in my attitudes and I became more broadminded. I often think of St. Mother Teresa, who said, "Smile, no matter what comes in your way!" and I believe God will fulfill me with whatever I need. The more I emptied myself, the more God filled me with His graces. God loves me so much and I am a happy religious.

## OUR LADY OF THE BROOM THE SYMBOL OF MARY GLOWREY HOUSE

- ❖ The symbol of Simplicity and Humble Service
- ❖ One who delights in the Ordinaries of work
- ❖ One who is Faithful and Reliable

### Prayer to Our Lady of the Broom

Mother of Hope, Mother Serene, open your own pure heart as a sanctuary of serenity to all who seek your gentle help. Welcome us as we come to you with our hopes and dreams, with our frailty and brokenness.

Teach us to walk serenely on the breath-taking heights of God's mysterious Will, believing that He can work His Divine wonders even in our littleness. Nourish the seeds of faith and hope implanted in each heart; help us to grow in inner peace and to reach out in confidence to the blessings of life, of love, of joy promised to us even in this world, as we await their fulness in Eternal Glory.

O Lady of the Still Heart, bring to our world of shattered dreams and uncertainty, the dear, deep promise of the healing grace of Jesus. Show us how to open our hearts fully to His transforming love, so that we may become for one another instruments of His gentle mercy, of His abiding peace. Hear our humble prayer, O Mother of Carmel, and bring our needs to Jesus, who is forever our Way, our Life and our Eternal Home. AMEN.

Our Lady of the Broom is the patron saint of the Mary Glowrey House, the headquarters of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc. at 132-134 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065, Melbourne, Australia.



## In Memoriam Sr. Margaret Thekkekara JMJ

René van Hees

Rome



When the Dutch sisters of the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph, who carried out the household tasks in the Dutch College in Rome, had to be replaced in 1985 because of their age, it turned out that they no longer had members in the Netherlands who matched the set profiles. The general government of Soc. of JMJ then came into contact with its provinces in India, which then, and still today, managed many hospitals, schools and care homes. Their provincial authorities immediately responded positively, selecting a group of six sisters, who arrived in Rome on March 6, 1985. After an induction period, the Dutch sisters, led by their superior Sr. Agnes de Hoog, leave with peace of mind, and devote themselves to their new quiet tasks in the Netherlands. Only one Dutch sister continued to work at the College until the day of its closure in 2005: Sr. Jacinta Schoenmakers; but she mainly worked externally, for the International Union of Superiors General (UISG).

Sr. Margaret Thekkekara JMJ was one of those six sisters who arrived in March 1985. She was entrusted with the management of the two college chapels, the first of which has a beautiful carved walnut panelling, as well as a masterful painting by the Utrecht-born A. Gresnigt O.S.B. who also worked in the Abbey of Monte Cassino, and in the crypt of St. Peter's, designed and built the entombment chapel of Pope Pius XI.

Sr. Margaret also associated with many of the student priests. This is certainly true of the College's former students, many of whom are now bishops, all over the world. Perhaps the most famous of them is Cardinal Peter Turkson from Ghana, who is now affiliated with the Vatican Curia, but a number of current Dutch bishops have also experienced her as students in the College. To these students she was like a mother. The Dutch bishops of yesteryear also all knew and appreciated her, because the Netherlands College, in the person of its Rector, represented the Dutch dioceses at the Vatican. For that reason, the College had seven apartments for the Dutch episcopate, and the College was the *pied-à-terre* of the Dutch bishops in Rome.

Due to the financial crisis that recently hit the Dutch Ecclesiastical Province, the College was lost forever in 2005, but in 1989 by the Rector Mgr. M. Muskens, a new Dutch place was created in Rome, just adjacent to the St. Peter's square: the '*Friezenkerk*'. This Frisian Church is the continuation of a Dutch historical presence in Rome, which was then restored. At the time, Rector M. Muskens could not have suspected that the Netherlands College, which had undergone structural and substantive renewal during his rectorship, would pass away.

From the beginning, Sr. Margaret committed herself to the Frisian Church. She always made sure that the flowers from the college chapels were brought to the Friezenkerk by Mario, the driver and caretaker of the Dutch College, well before Sunday Mass. She also cleaned the church building with a few other sisters. And the coins from the offering blocks and collections were taken to the College Vault, because the Friezenkerk only later purchased its own safe. The sisters would then accurately count all the coins, and did so in rolls, because the Italian bank only took it that way. And those were liras! A veritable sea of coins. Sister Margaret has thus been an important volunteer of the Frisian Church, and for that reason it is dedicated “in Memoriam” to her memory.

In 1998 there were no rumors at all that the Netherlands College could close. Yet this must have been felt by the general council of the Society of JMJ, perhaps inspired by the Holy Spirit, and not by people. Because they commissioned me to investigate the possibilities of buying a large villa with garden in Rome. It was found in 1999 on Via Monte Senario in Rome, and JMJ then established a procuration and study house there, which still exists today: the JMJ Convent of Rome. So, the College is gone, but the JMJ sisters are not. In that year, on October 31, 1999, Sr. Margaret JMJ was appointed the first superior of this house, a task which she courageously undertook. Her voluntary work for the Friezenkerk then came to an end, because from that time she no longer lived in the Netherlands College.

She has therefore been a volunteer at the Friezenkerk for a total of ten years. On August 15, 2003, she was recalled to India, much to the chagrin of many. We haven't seen her since because we knew that very well then, it was difficult to say goodbye.

After a long working period as a superior in various locations in India, she died in Hyderabad on the night of April 7, 2021 at the age of 78. May she rest in peace.

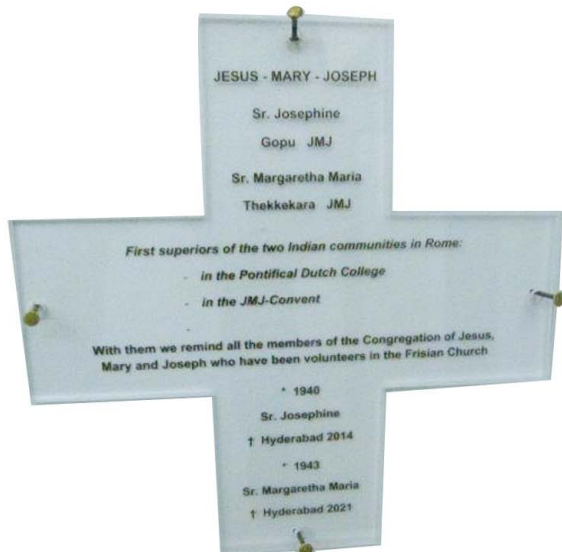


Mr. René van Hees was secretary, bursar, archivist, and librarian of the Pontifical Dutch College, Rome from 1982 to 2005. He was also responsible for the maintenance of the College buildings, who worked together with the rector and with the JMJ sisters. He was involved in the contacts with the Dutch dioceses and with the Vatican. From 1989 to 2008 he was the bursar of the Frisian Church, the National Church of The Netherlands in Rome, and from 2008 to 2018 he was the treasurer of the Frisian Church, and entered into its directing council. During the restoration of the Frisian Church, he was one of the four members of the restoration commission, and wrote a booklet in which the whole restoration process of the Frisian Church was described. After the closure of the Pontifical Dutch College, he has his own enterprise called “MCS & Tours”. He works for religious organizations like the UISG, and for Italian travel agencies, as a tourist guide. His doctoral studies in regional and environmental planning and in social geography at the Catholic University Nijmegen (The Netherlands) enable him to carry on these responsibilities efficiently.





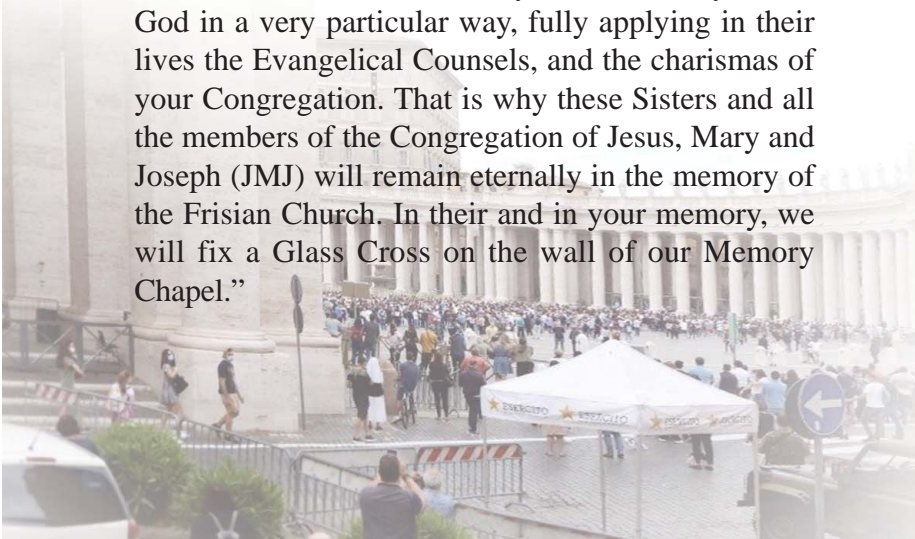
## News From CJMJ Generalate, Rome.



06 June 2021 was a red-letter day in the annals of the history of JMJs in Rome when the Dutch community in Rome installed a Glass Cross, *in memoriam* to honour Sr. Josephine Gopu JMJ and Sr. Margaretha Thekkekara JMJ in the Frisian Church, the National Church of The Netherlands in Rome. Sr. Josephine was the first superior of the first Indian JMJ-community in Rome at the Pontifical Dutch College, which was located on the Aventine Hill. In the Frisian Church the Sisters took good care for many different duties, and they have been the first volunteers of this National Church in Rome.

Mr. Renè affirmed: “Sr. Josephine and Sr. Margaretha were Sisters who have been very dear to us. They served God in a very particular way, fully applying in their lives the Evangelical Counsels, and the charismas of your Congregation. That is why these Sisters and all the members of the Congregation of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (JMJ) will remain eternally in the memory of the Frisian Church. In their and in your memory, we will fix a Glass Cross on the wall of our Memory Chapel.”

After the Holy Mass, celebrated by the Rector, Fr. Antoine Bodar, Sister Innamma, the Superior General of JMJ, brought the Glass Cross to the Memory Chapel and together with Father Tiemen Brouwer OP, she fixed the Glass Cross symbolically and permanently, as a sign of the great and unforgettable contribution of the Congregation of JMJ to the Frisian Church in Rome. 12 JMJ sisters representing the Generalate community, community at Via Monte Senario and Via Vignaccia were privileged to attend the programme. After the installation ceremony we shared the coffee together and the sisters had the joy of attending the *Angelus* and receive blessings from Pope Francis.



# SALUTATION TO ST. JOSEPH



Sr. Bala Sundari Yeruva  
JMJ Convent, Kallurupalli, Nellore

*O Marvelous wonder worker  
Who lived simple and humble style of life  
That attracted millions in the world  
As a protector and guardian of souls.*

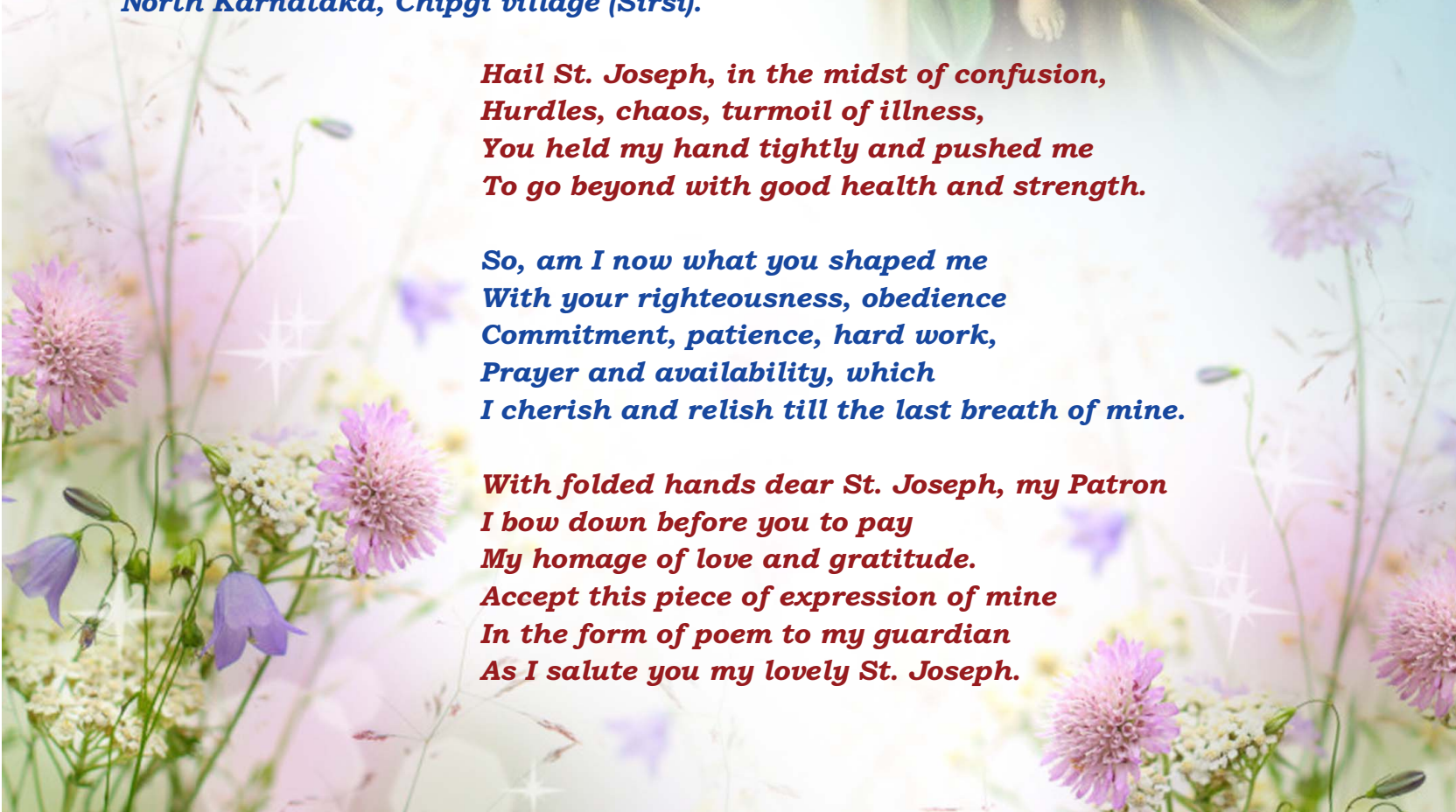
*Oh! St. Joseph, how can I express  
Gratitude and gratefulness to you  
Timely miracles you worked in the Institution  
With amazing hands you touched the ground  
Thereby burst forth the water  
To quench the thirst of school children  
In Vijaya Marie campus, Siruguppa.*

*Ah! The guidance and the instructions  
Of yours, melt the heart hardness of the officials  
To grant permission and recognition  
To sow the seed of education  
In the poor backward area of  
North Karnataka, Chipgi village (Sirsi).*

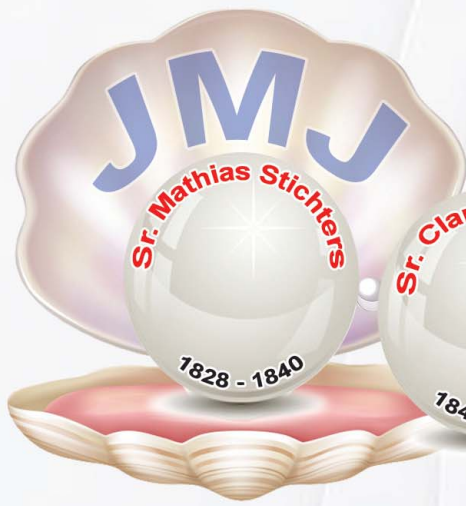
*Hail St. Joseph, in the midst of confusion,  
Hurdles, chaos, turmoil of illness,  
You held my hand tightly and pushed me  
To go beyond with good health and strength.*

*So, am I now what you shaped me  
With your righteousness, obedience  
Commitment, patience, hard work,  
Prayer and availability, which  
I cherish and relish till the last breath of mine.*

*With folded hands dear St. Joseph, my Patron  
I bow down before you to pay  
My homage of love and gratitude.  
Accept this piece of expression of mine  
In the form of poem to my guardian  
As I salute you my lovely St. Joseph.*



# SUPERIORS GENERAL OF JMJ (1828 - 2018)



CJMJ

CSJMJ

# Presence of JMJ in the WORLD

from 1822 - 2021



**Tanzania, Africa**  
(1960 - 1974)



**Australia**  
(1960 - 1982)



**Afghanistan**  
(2007-2008)



**Nepal**  
(2008 - 2016)

**The Netherlands**  
(1822...)



**Indonesia**  
(1898...)



**India**  
(1904...)



**Rome, Italy**  
(1931...)



**Ghana, Africa**  
(1990...)



**New Mexico, USA**  
(2013...)

