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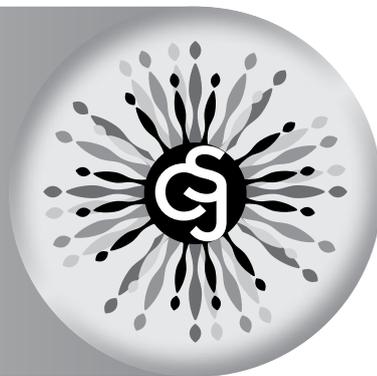
Italian

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CS JOURNAL

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry
July - August • Year 2014 - n. 4



GENERAL COUNCIL

The Challenge of Education



Students gathered outside the hostel

Sr. Clementina Copia
General Council

At the end of June and in early July, Sisters Philomena and Clementina visited the two communities in Tanzania. For Sister Philomena, this was her first trip to this beautiful African land. The continent of Africa is near Italy and is located in the same hemisphere, but to meet our sisters, we had to travel for three days. The two communities are located in the south of Tanzania, near the border with Mozambique. Our visit

was really blessed. With the sisters, we lived intense moments of fraternity and sharing.

Our sisters have been present in the Diocese of Songea for about 10 years. In these years, many things have changed and evolved. One of them is our service to education at the Saint Joseph Hostel. Currently, we welcome 60 Tanzanian girls in this structure, with the aim of promoting education at the secondary school level. We prefer to receive those whose family and financial situation would not have permitted them this opportunity. In the hostel, we try to offer good suggestions for learning

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and development, trying to provide them with a welcoming environment and an integrated formation. The girls attend public or private schools outside the hostel. Our sisters, with their service and their friendly love, have sometimes achieved real miracles.

On June 28, the sisters, together with the young women students, prepared a party for Sister Philomena and me, even inviting their parents. On this occasion, we blessed and inaugurated a new project to bring water to the second floor of the structure. It was a very exciting moment. Parents have thanked the congregations and all benefactors for choosing to accompany their daughters in the arduous journey of growth and education. For the communication and sharing to take place between us and them, the sisters chose a hostel guest who could translate from English to

Swahili and vice versa. For the first time, a student from the hostel translated for us. Is this not, perhaps, a real educational miracle? The challenge of education is a call to each of us, today, more than ever, and especially in Tanzania. Sister Jackie Goodin of the Congregation of Saint Joseph in the United States, together with our sisters, has felt the urgency and challenge in responding to this real need with skill, love and professionalism. In November, Sister Jackie will return to the United States and leave our mission in Tanzania. Her presence in the hostel and the community of Songea along with that of Sister Eliana, who will return to Caxias do Sul



S. Philomena (center) and S. Clementina with the student who translated

in December, was very important and valuable. With Sister Jackie, and for five consecutive years, we have lived a full and complete sharing of mission and a true inter-congregational experience that was very fruitful for both the congregations.

Being with Those in Need, for the Sake of the Gospel

Sr. Ieda Maria Tomazini

General Council

During the months of June and July, Sister Sally and I officially visited two regions that are part of our Congregation situated in South America, the North/ Northeast region of Brazil and the region of Bolivia. In both regions, our sisters live the charism of communion in areas where much of the population has no access to the means and resources necessary for the development of a dignified life.

In the North/ Northeast Region of Brazil, our sisters devote themselves to various activities with the poor, and sometimes take risks through the partnerships they engage in, especially when it comes to land conflicts, the situation of indigenous peoples or legal issues of various kinds.



Currently, the Congregation is visible by the presence of twenty sisters who work in four states. In Marituba, where one of six communities is located, our attention was called to the constant pilgrimage of people in search of potable water. At the back of the sisters' house there is a well that provides abundant water, which

is not normal in the region. Our sisters share this invaluable well not only with the neighbors, but with all who need the water.

Our sisters have formed many leaders for communities and stimulated many vocations for the Church. By their example, the sisters have spread our

charism in laymen and laywomen, who shine in communities and among the sisters of this region. A sign of this are the seven groups of Associates, who are an active presence in the life and mission of the Church and communities. They are men and women of expansive hearts, of solidarity, of ecclesial and social engagement and deep human sensitivity. In Bolivia, the four existing communities are located in very needy areas, and the 14 sisters devote themselves to the people on the outskirts of the cities and farmers in the countryside. The reality of the lack of drinking water in Cochabamba, one of the places where our sisters live, makes us reflect on how we often abuse this resource, perhaps because we don't feel the impact of a shortage in our everyday life. We saw barrels along the way that are filled weekly by trucks. The water deposited there must be used to prepare meals, for hygiene and if there is any left, for bathing. Our sisters store rainwater to wash clothes and water the plants. On the other hand, in the communities located in the eastern part, called Beni, the abundance of water is visible in the number of rivers we

need to cross to get to the communities served by our sisters. Excess water from abundant rainfall has caused flooding in the villages of San Ramon, San Joaquin, and Magdalena, where our sisters work. The floods destroyed many homes, killed more than three hundred thousand head of cattle, and destroyed the crops and fields that feed the animals. Along the way, we saw the carcasses of hundreds and hundreds of animals, submerged trees and dead vegetation. We also saw many cattlemen driving their

herds to other pastures. Our sisters have welcomed families in their homes until they can rebuild their residences. They have shared food, medicine and clothing, coordinated campaigns and continue to be in solidarity with all those in need. Our sisters work in formal and informal education, in the field and in the peripheries of cities, in leadership training for youth and adults, in soup kitchens, in social and vocational pastoral work. They go where few are willing to go, for the sake of the Gospel.



PROVINCE/REGION/MISSION

A Meeting Attracts More than 70 Young People

Jean Lucas Almeida Pino
Coordinator of SAV-Itu

In late June, the youth group of the Vocational Animation Service of Itu (SAV-ITU), in the interior of São Paulo state, welcomed approximately 80 youth to a meeting called, in other languages, a “Noisy Retreat.” In order to carry the word of Christ in a differentiated manner, the group has worked for the awakening of vocations for more than five years. This year’s theme was, “Humanity under Construction.”



On the first day, the topic was “Good day. What’s happening?” led by the young coordinators themselves. Then the couple, Rose and Jaime Pires, spoke about family living. In the afternoon, young people came together to cheer for Brazil playing against Chile in the World Cup, and after that, Jorge Lima, with his crazy way of being, discussed the topic, “I’m going to skate to heaven; how are you getting there?” The theme has caused young people to reflect on life and their journey as youth, highlighting current youth characteristics, behaviors, social life and technology.

In the late afternoon, we had a party, “Playing on Jesus Christ’s team,” still in the green and yellow “climate” of the World Cup. We finished with the SAV theatrical group presenting choreography for the song, “Everything,” by the band Life House, which helped young people to reflect on their journeys and ways to take action before the world.

After the presentation, already in an atmosphere of prayer, the young people participated in the best moment of the entire retreat, the worship of Jesus. “He becomes alive and present in all of us, in every glance, gesture, human attitude, in moments of joy and pain.” That is how the young people described the experience. On the second day of the retreat, Sister Helena de Passos, a Sister of Saint

ABOUT SAV - ITU Sr. Lúcia Helena Beti *Province of São Paulo, Brazil*

SAV - Itu – Province of São Paulo – aims to awaken vocations to the service of the Church. SAV was born from a meeting of young people and teenagers that happened years ago. At the end of the first meeting we had evaluations, and the participants liked it so much, they asked for a retreat. We conducted the retreat and their evaluation asked for continuity and suggested a meeting each month with youth and male and female teenagers. SAV became known thanks to the young people themselves. Over time, these young people were taking so much advantage

of what we offered that today, there is a team of five young people who, with a Sister coordinator, prepare the monthly meeting. The number of young participants is usually 40 to 45. SAV offers spiritual accompaniment to those who wish this according to the various types of vocations. From the meetings many activities are organized: collecting food, activities in the countryside and with the homeless, supporting youth groups from other parishes, arranging night vigils, etc. There is an annual retreat with the large group and another for vocations. The motto chosen by them is, “That all may be one” (John 17:11b). This choice came from the charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The young people insist on the presence of the sisters which they consider indispensable.

Joseph, went on a short hike with the young people to discuss the theme, “Past, present and future.” Each person drew the contours of their feet in order to see how much they had walked, the path they were following and where they would arrive. Then, the seminarian Daniel Bevilacqua led the young people to think about the way they are living and

journeying in the Church, in the community and in youth groups, discussing attitudes regarding the laws of God and of the Church. During these two days, there was the support of the parents of some young people who prepared the food. Participants emphasized that the retreat had provided unity, new friendships and many blessings.

Across Borders

Marianne Meyer

Denmark

In the autumn of 2013 when my associate group in Copenhagen met with S. Sally, I was struck by the idea that I could visit the Sisters of St. Joseph in the US province to glean inspiration from the associates there.

After a couple of months I began my trip with an 8 day retreat at a Jesuit retreat house on the Atlantic coast in Massachusetts. Immersed in bitterly cold weather, God’s grace and solid guidance, I tried to deal with the difficult situation



Marianne Meyer (l.) and S. Kristin Johnsen (center) enjoy a meal with friends

that the Catholic Church in Denmark has been going through for some time now. A line from a homily given during the retreat ended up being what guided me during my stay in Connecticut: "Always keep the main thing the main thing". To me this meant keeping in mind that God's grace is at work in our encounters. The sisters and associates in Connecticut welcomed me with open arms, gladly putting things aside to enlighten me and drive me from one meeting to another. It became clear that there's a difference between the associate groups in the US and those in Denmark. In the US, associate groups have existed since the 1980's, but in Denmark only for about 10 years. We are a small country with 40.000 Catholics and about 20 associates. The oldest group has 7 members and the most recent one, formed in January 2012, has 12. Although few in number we find ourselves privileged with a rather low average age and we are served by 5 sisters. On our annual retreat, we are joined by 5 Swedish associates and we hope the Norwegian group might join us. It was interesting to watch how the associates in Alaska could benefit from a presentation on the Maxims through the use of technology. In Denmark, we share in small groups what is important to each of us in the Maxims and the spiritual reflections of Father Medaille. This helps us focus, confronts us with our strengths and weaknesses and, above all, helps us integrate the spirituality in our daily life. During my stay in the USA I had the opportunity to work at the 'House of Bread', one of several projects run



Associates Dee Skovich, Dolores Jaeger, Diane Lamothe and Sisters Judith Mulhall, Donna Hoffman and Maureen Faenza at a monthly meeting of associates

by the sisters. It was just amazing to witness people working so hard for those who have less. It touched my heart and greatly impressed me to see how employees and volunteers had been able to recover from long term unemployment, imprisonment, or drugs. In Denmark, since the late 1990's, recruiting volunteers for more than a three month commitment has been difficult. In Hartford, at the House of Bread, people gladly spent time serving the poor and homeless year after year! Standing beside young people at the job-training program called F.E.A.S.T., chopping potatoes and chilies, an old dream was fulfilled. As a social worker, I was working side by side with people instead of sitting on the other side at the desk. Talking to the teachers at the HOME (Helping Our Mothers through Education) program which offers young women the opportunity to improve their

lives through classes in all the essential academic areas needed to pass the High School equivalency exam, it became clear that there's a difference between our countries concerning integration and educational issues. Immigrant girls from Puerto Rico, pregnant at an early age, have weak role models in their mothers, whereas immigrant girls from the Middle East in Denmark earn university degrees. Because of a rather high rate of PTSD among men from war zones in the Middle-east, and weak contact between fathers and sons due to divorce, the boys in DK haven't been able to use their fathers as role-models, putting them at a disadvantage in school education. Ever since I was a child I've always had a great respect for the rites of passage of Native Americans. February 2014 became a passage into a new kind of life in which I am trying to 'keep the main thing the main thing' together with my fellow associates.

Sr. Angelina Iasi (95)	São Paulo	03/07/2014
Sr. Delma Olga Segat (84)	Caxias do Sul	06/07/2014
Sr. Maria Emilia Simioni (94)	Paraná	13/07/2014
Sr. Maria Isabel Rizzo (90)	São Paulo	22/07/2014
Sr. Erydes Maria Antoniazzi (85)	Paraná	29/07/2014
Sr. M. Stanislaus Kunnamkoth (79)	Pachmarhi	07/08/2014
Sr. E. Gabrielle Nothelle (86)	Denmark	13/08/2014
Sr. Helen Hart (86)	USA	13/08/2014
Sr. Maria Rosa (87)	São Paulo	21/08/2014
Sr. Vilma Filippin (90)	Porto Alegre	26/08/2014

NEW
SAINTS

A New Mission – Sign of Love

Sr. Prabha Malayil
Tanmaya Province, India

On June 20th, 2014, Sisters Pushpalata Ekka and Asha Kadamcattu, accompanied by Sisters Regi, Dorothy and Prabha, arrived at their new home in Rengarih, Jharkhand. The Tanmaya leadership responded to the request of Bishop Vincent Barwa of Simdega Diocese, Jharkhand, to take up a promising and challenging mission, that of science education at St. Pius Junior College at Rengarih. The strength of this college is 670 students and 98% are catholic. Srs. Pushpalata and Asha generously agreed to be the pioneers in this mission which is over 1,000 km (over 600 mi) from the provincial house, a train journey of at least 17 or 18 hours.

On arriving at the place of the new mission, the sisters were pleasantly surprised to find everything well-arranged for the new community, their welcome and the inauguration. Two new rooms, attached to the existing dining hall, had been constructed for the sisters. The rooms were furnished and the house well decorated. Bishop Vincent arrived around 5:45 pm and was given a grand welcome by the students of the Apostolic School. At 06:30 pm the blessing of the small house began. Priests and sisters of various congregations serving in the Diocese were present at this ceremony which was grace-filled with prayers and melodious singing. After Sister Regi cut the ribbon and the blessing was completed, we all gathered at the entrance of the Junior College for a cultural program offered by the seminarians and the students of the Apostolic School at Rengarih. During the program Bishop introduced each of us, warmly welcomed us and expressed great joy to have our sisters in his diocese.



Sisters Pushpalata, Asha and Regi with the bishop at the blessing



A group gets ready for the cultural presentation

Rengarih is a very large parish. A century ago the Jesuit Fathers came and sowed the seeds of faith in this remote place and the population is now mainly Catholic. Seven bishops who hail from this parish are serving in different dioceses of North India.

Most of the people are tribals, living in simple, windowless homes, lacking a regular supply of electricity, transportation and other basic amenities. The people are poor as the economy of these villagers revolves around the forest and agriculture. Forest products play an important role in the economic activity of these people who also hunt animals for food. Many are engaged in agricultural activities, working as either agricultural laborers or cultivators. Given their dependence on the rain and the

resulting precarious economic situation, it is very difficult for people to educate their children. As they have very little money, their educational expenses are met with the support of the bishop, priests and sisters through projects.

New beginnings are always difficult and challenging. It is here our presence is needed as many young girls and boys discontinue their studies and migrate to other states for domestic work and labor to earn their livelihood. There is so much to be done for the people and for their development. It is only through education, health care and empowerment, that their living conditions can be improved. Following in the footsteps of our founder and sisters who have gone before us we hope to be beacons of light and hope in Rengarih.

Open Hearts, Hands and Doors, at Any Age

Sr. Bénédicte de Vaublanc

France

In our Province of France, we are many retired sisters, grouped mostly in three houses on the grounds of Bellecombette. This rustic place on a hill three kilometers above Chambéry was handed down to us at the beginning of the 19th century. After successive sales of the former motherhouses and of the convent of Sainte Marie des Monts, which hosted many international sessions and the General Chapter of 1969, it was necessary to find places other than the former home of Bellecombette to accommodate our sisters. The “Clos Saint Joseph” was built in 2005 for the elderly who need nursing care. From early on, this house was opened to the laity or priests.

On the same property, there is now the residence of “Bois Joli,” which will be open to the laity in independent studio apartments when the sisters are less numerous. These two houses welcome the sisters for times of spiritual healing, rest and relaxation as well as our sisters from other countries. It is also open to groups or outside persons, groups of children and their catechists, as well as to chaplains of schools and colleges. During three days in April, there was a local gathering of 600 high school students from several dioceses in the region in Chambéry. Approximately 50 young people were welcomed at Bois Joli for two nights. They arrived after 10 p.m. in the evening and left very early after breakfast, trying not to make noise, leaving the place in impeccable order, even though the housing conditions lacked some comforts. (Most of them slept on the floor.) On the last evening, there was sharing and exchange of gifts



Sister Marie Pierre Ruche with the students in the dining room of Bois Joli

and warm thanks from them and the sisters, who will continue to accompany them spiritually on their journey of meeting the Lord and others. Wherever they are, our sisters are interested in what is being lived in the world, in the Church and the congregation. They are involved with the mission in their prayer and in concrete actions. A small example: the sisters of the community of Bellecombette, although limited by health problems, did not lack for ideas to help infants in a nursery in Senegal. The squares of plastic on which the children were lying were burning their skin in the heat. There was a need to replace these plastic mats with absorbent squares, and the project got underway. The niece of one of the

sisters bought 30 meters of colored terrycloth, enough to make 72 mats, with the help of friends and sisters to cut and hem them.

At “Bois Joli,” and at the “Clos St. Joseph,” sisters knit cute slippers and sew small tunics for newborn orphans in Africa. These are just some examples. There are others, like the bingo organized in June at Bellecombette with our friends, for the benefit of building cisterns in Mozambique in Africa, in villages where our sisters work. The main thing is that our hearts and our minds remain open to what is around us and in our world, and that we are involved according to our possibilities to generate a little more justice, love and joy.



Infants in Africa on the mats made by the sisters and friends

Politics in India

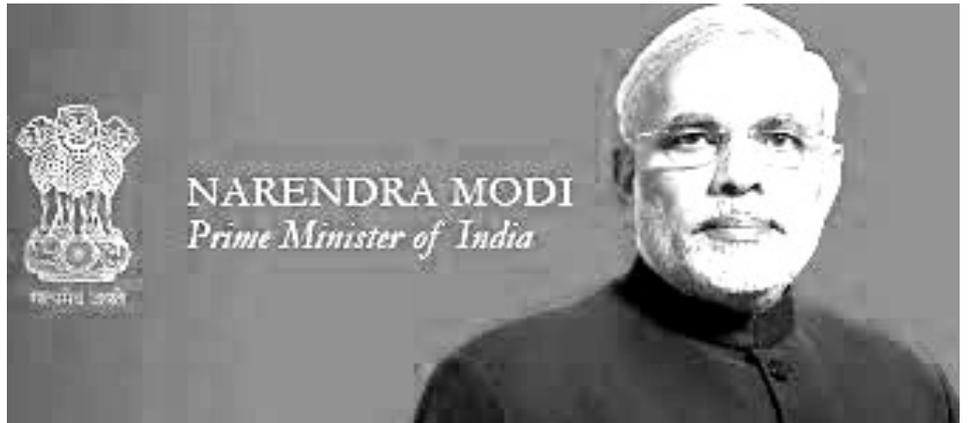
Sr. Olinda Fernandes

Province of Nagpur, India

India has a federal government where power is divided among the central government, governments of states, and other local bodies. The Prime Minister heads the central government, and is leader of the majority group in parliament, forming the government.

By constitutional requirement, elections to the Lok Sabha (House of People) must be held at an interval of five years or whenever parliament is dissolved by the President. The term of the 15th Lok Sabha was to naturally expire on 31 May 2014. With 814.5 million people eligible to vote, an increase of 100 million voters since the last Indian general election in 2009, making this the largest-ever election in the world, the election to the 16th Lok Sabha was held in multiple phases, to better handle the large electoral base and security concerns.

The election was the longest and the most expensive general election in the history of the country, with the cost



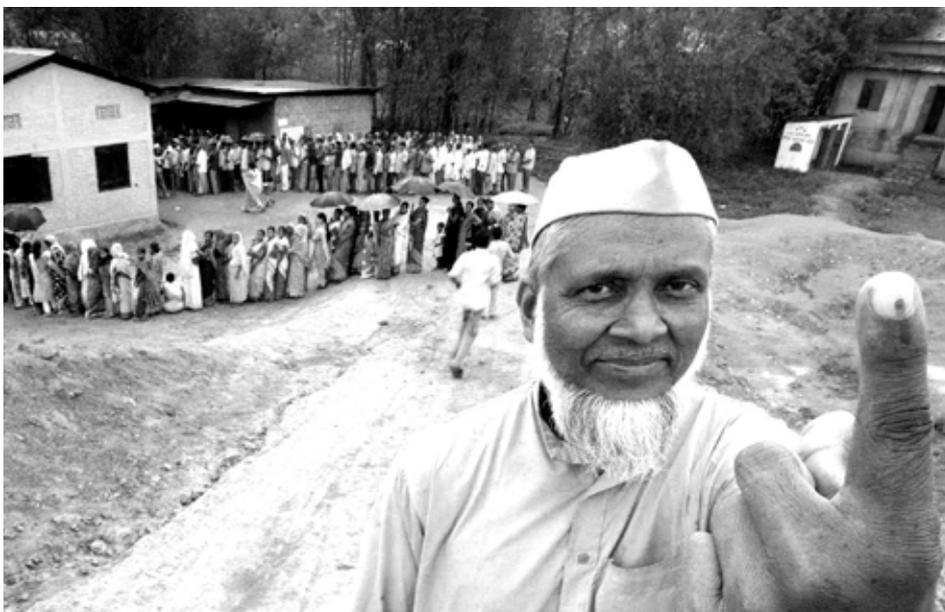
estimated at 3500 crore (US \$577 million). This was three times the amount spent in the 2009 election, and was then the world's second highest after the US \$7 billion spent on the 2012 US presidential election.

The results of the vote were declared on 16 May 2014, fifteen days before the 15th Lok Sabha completed its constitutional mandate on 31 May 2014. The counting exercise was held at 989 counting centres. The National Democratic Alliance, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party, won a sweeping victory, taking 336 seats. The BJP itself won 31.0% of all votes and 282 (51.9%) of all seats. It is the first time since the 1984 Indian general elections that a party has won enough seats to govern without the support of other parties. The

United Progressive Alliance, led by the Indian National Congress, won 58 seats, 44 (8.1%) of which were won by the Congress Party, which won only 19.3% of all votes, the Congress party's worst defeat in a general election. BJP and its allies won a right to form the largest majority government since the 1984 general election. Important issues during the campaign included high inflation, lack of jobs, economic slowdown, corruption, security and terrorism, religious division and communalism, and infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water.

Narendra Modi was sworn in as India's 15th Prime Minister on 26th of May in New Delhi. In what is being called a diplomatic masterstroke, Modi invited the heads of SAARC nations (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation): Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, to attend his swearing in ceremony.

The mandate on the biggest democracy polls in the world is out and it is a historic one. For the first time, a non-Congress government has pulled off a landslide victory & more importantly for the first time all caste factors have been transcended. It is an awakened democracy that has chosen the next government. And hopefully, that zeal will continue through the next 5 years because the job of a true democracy, never ends.



Increasing the Capacity to Love

Sr Clementina Piovesan,
Sr Regina Célia List,
Sr Vanda Célia Gomes Silva
Community of Sidrolândia, Brazil

We, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambéry, living in the Eldorado Settlement of 2,770 households in Mato Grosso do Sul, in the mid-west of Brazil, daily see the distress of people. Faced with this difficulty, and along with Sister Gertrude Salette Beal, we sought help after we heard about a team that works with the Therapeutic Personal Integration process/method of a direct approach to the unconscious (ADI/TIP). With this knowledge, we had the idea of a travelling project of therapists who could give assistance, for free, to people who need and wish to enter into the personal integration process. For this to happen, partnerships were formed with Fundação Fundassinum who sent the therapists, the Sisters of Saint Joseph

ADI/TIP METHOD

The search to reach people's interiority as a way to contribute to reducing, among other woes, their psycho-physical infirmities and social problems has gone on for a long time. Addressing this need, ADI/TIP is a process that allows for the direct investigation of the unconscious. Through a method of questioning, it becomes possible to reach the interiority of the person. The ADI-TIP Methodology was

created by Renate Jost de Moraes, using data emerging from praxis and clinical experience since 1975. ADI aims to bring the person to their physical, psychological and existential equilibrium, assuming that the person is a psychosomatic whole and, as such, becomes ill in isolated parts of their being. When the person undergoes the process of ADI and decoding techniques to rediscover his/her original self, it is possible to find a new opportunity to restructure health, personality and meaning in life.

of Chambéry who contributed with financial resources, and with the Federal College of Dourados (UFGD) which provided the logistical structure. Three professionals: Alcione Jebe, Sister Gertrude Salette Beal and Rosilene Maria Pinto organized this work. Their aim was to first help people discover and experience the potential of their

capacity to love as well as their other capabilities, giving affective and effective meaning to their life. The 18-day working period went from June 28 to July 15. Thirty people were assisted, of whom nine benefited from a complete therapy (23 individual sessions) and twenty-one others had six sessions of individual work.



In the course of the work, we received many reports from individuals concerning their personal discoveries, which led to changes of attitude towards themselves, others and the world around them. One person who participated in the process related, "I thank God and the sisters for the excellent work they have done for me,

helping me to examine my psyche. I take several medications, but I was ignoring the cause of my depression. This treatment helped me very, very much. I feel like I'm starting my life again. My family noticed my recovery immediately and everyone is happy to see me happy. Here we would never find this form of treatment. We are not able

to pay for it, and it is also difficult for people to move into town for treatment. Many of my friends who received the treatment were sad, aimless, hopeless, depressed, tired, and with a burden on their shoulders. Now they're light, happy, with hope and courage, with purpose and faith that they will go forward with life."

Encouraging Parents in the Digital Age

Sr. David Delaney

Nagpur Province, India

I recently had the opportunity to motivate and guide the senior students of four secondary and senior secondary schools in Mt Abu, Bhilwara, Khetri and Jaipur, Rajasthan. Facing the issues of this digital age they gladly received my input concerning discovering their own identity, effective study techniques, wise time management and preparation for their board exams. The topics addressed included building a sound character, leadership skills, a sound value system and all that makes them ready to confidently encounter a globalised world of competition and opportunities.

Then followed sessions for parents, the majority of whom are Muslims and Hindus, with just a few Catholics, in all these 4 schools, on the theme of parenting children in a digital world. The sessions were for the parents of children from kindergarten through grade 12, divided into four groups, according to grade level. This was the first time that parents were offered sessions on how to motivate and inspire the modern generation, which psychologists entitle the 'Y'



Parents listening to S. David

generation. Using a PowerPoint presentation and a few scripture texts, I focused on the girl child, accenting how precious every child is, whatever their genetic makeup or how this digital era has made them vulnerable, fragile, aggressive, stubborn, selfish and materialistic. It was important to encourage the parents to help their children discover that the parents are the first educators and the home their first school, with the family being a fundamental cell of society. Addressing the issue of families,

I spoke of the importance of a good family life to help the children grow and develop positive personal qualities. With relevant and tangible examples, the parents clearly felt their responsibility and learned the importance of quality family time and honest communication. Equally important for the parents is learning to use modern media in a way that offers them an advantage. Throughout the whole, it was important to stress that the family is the place where the Divine is experienced in one another.

Love and the Gift of a Life in Mission

Sr Lucimar Rodrigues Ferreira

Province of São Paulo, Brazil

Seeking to implement new and more flexible government and organizational structures and to generate more co-responsibility, life and dynamism in mission, we Sisters of Saint Joseph of Brazil are hopeful about the integration process. And, in the beautiful journey of this story, re-reading the wonders that God was writing with the sisters up to the present moment, it is gratifying to realize that this integration process has been happening in a concrete way for a long time.

On December 8, 1975, Sister Irena Pilz, of the Province of Paraná, Brazil, was sent on a mission to Sao Felix do Araguaia, a Catholic prelatry located in the mid-west of Brazil. This mission belongs to the Province of São Paulo,

but Sister Irena, breaking barriers, was open to the call of God and placed herself at the service of this mission. For 39 years, with some interruptions, Sister Irena remained in São Felix do Araguaia, where, with much love and availability, she put her gifts at the service of the suffering people. A woman of great courage, she walked with the people, acquiring their knowledge of natural medicines, which eased the pain of many who had no medical resources within reach. At any time, Sister Irena was ready to serve their physical needs with medicinal herbs, and their spiritual needs with a friendly word and an attentive ear. She helped and empowered people to serve in pastoral healthcare and helped communities with their celebrations. Convinced of her mission, she traveled trails and paths on land and water, on foot, by bicycle or even on a donkey, to be present and to celebrate together with the excluded people from



that region.

On January 18, 2014, Sister Irena returned to the Province of Paraná, leaving a path of joy, life and hope, in the heart of all the people who were with her on this sacred ground of mission. And so in this way, the integration process is coming out of the heart of God and taking shape in the life and mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph located on Brazilian soil.

The Struggle against Human Trafficking

Sr Nilva Rosin

JPIC, Brazil



Human trafficking is a violation of human dignity and freedom, and it affects a huge number of

persons, hurting bodies, suppressing dreams and violating sacred human rights, regardless of sex, ethnicity, nationality or social status. Therefore, the involvement of the sisters in addressing this issue during the 2014 FIFA World Cup held in Brazil was very important.

In April 2014, after several videoconferences, reflections and an exchange of e-mails, the Justice and Peace Commission (JPIC) sent a "Corporate Statement on Human Trafficking" to the contact sisters, leadership and congregational action coordination. After receiving input from the sisters of different countries,

provinces, regions and federations, the JPIC Commission organized and sent materials to help in reflection, training and action against human trafficking, to which, this year, more people became vulnerable, especially with the World Cup Games. The contact sisters in each province/region received a letter clarifying the proposed work, a template letter to send to the authorities and to sponsoring corporations of the World Cup, the Corporate Statement on Human Trafficking, and a list of sponsors and official supporters of the 2014 World Cup. Each coordinator could choose companies, sponsors and supporters and/or other non-



human trafficking, making donations to organizations that help women and children, as well as taking steps for the prevention of human trafficking and the exploitation of children. The sisters from Ireland sent nine letters to responsible organizations, but received no answers.

governmental organizations and leaders in the different countries, to receive the letter and the declaration, and a list of websites about human trafficking as a source for knowledge and clarification concerning the issue. This work aimed to broaden ethical commitment, giving information about the increase of trafficking in persons, and to generate major mobilization among the Sisters of Saint Joseph in different countries to send the letters, regardless of responses received. The letters gave visible witness to our concern regarding the issue of the traffic in persons, and our commitment, in particular, to women and children. This is surely a process in which all the Sisters of the communities are already participating, reflecting and acting in some way on behalf of the victims. However, it has been possible, at this time and with greater intensity, to unite the whole congregation. The provinces/regions of our congregation participated to different degrees. The Province of France sent six letters to the sponsors of the event and obtained two answers from Adidas and Coca-Cola. Both say their corporations are helping to raise awareness about

The Italian province dispatched eight letters, four to responsible corporations and others to authorities in Italy: the President, and the Prime Minister, the leader of the Senate and the head of the Chamber of Deputies, also with no responses.

Neither Norway nor Denmark has representatives of corporations in their country, but they discussed and reflected with the sisters and associates and continue working on awareness about human trafficking.

The U.S. Province sent 13 letters to 10 of the sponsoring corporations of the World Cup, the President of the Federation of the World Cup in Switzerland, to President Obama and to Ambassador Samantha Powers. One response was received from the President of the World Cup Federation. In India, Tanmaya was the only province to dispatch letters. Three were sent with no reply received.

All the provinces of Brazil referred letters to various entities. São Paulo sent 35 letters to sponsoring companies of the event. Lagoa Vermelha sent five letters to sponsors of the event, and Caxias do Sul also sent 12 letters to the sponsors. In

Paraná, the sisters of the city of Miguel Calmon in Bahia, sent seven letters to sponsors of the World Cup and local authorities, the State Government of Bahia and the Mayor through the citizenship forum. None of these four provinces received responses. The North/Northeast Region dispatched four letters to the Governors of the region, Bahia, Maranhão, Pará, and Amazonas, obtaining two answers. Porto Alegre sent 11 letters, five to local authorities, the Governor, Mayor, police, Ministry of Justice and Social Development and councils, and six letters to the sponsors of the event, with responses received from three local authorities.

In Sweden, the sisters organized reflections with parish groups and schools, with people involved in political parties and women's group. They received four responses in writing from NGOs, the support of a parish priest, and from African women who are in Sweden, who previously have been deceived by false promises. In Tanzania, the sisters read the Manifesto and continue working for awareness regarding the causes of human trafficking and domestic violence. On every level, this was an action of solidarity with people who are victims of the current system and suffering in their daily lives the injustices, exploitation and denial of their rights on a planetary scale. As a congregation, we continue to reaffirm the commitment to work for effective and fair human relations and for active citizenship, breaking the silence in this way, in order to counter trafficking in persons making new victims every day, and to invest in training regarding this reality.

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