

French

**English**

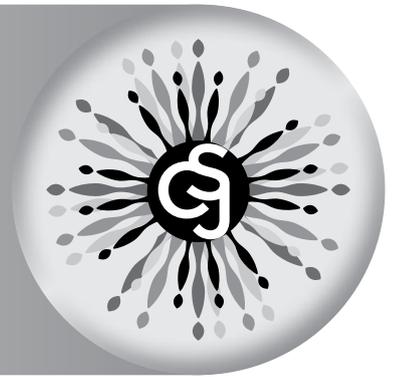
Italian

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# CS JOURNAL

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry  
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## GENERAL COUNCIL

# The Periphery, a Call to the Charism of Unity



The periphery of Lahore, Pakistan

**S. Ieda Maria Tomazini**  
General Council

The General Chapter of our Congregation to be held at Monte Cucco in Rome, October 4 to 29, 2015, has as its theme, "Living the dynamism of unity and reconciliation in the peripheries of our fragmented world." These words have provoked disquiet, reactions and varied reflections, because the words are many, strong, and loaded with various meanings for our international

congregation. One of them is, "periphery." Etymologically speaking, periphery is a word of Latin origin and means the area outside the center, the border or limit. However, in the context of religious life, it is used to designate the areas farthest from the center of a city, a region, or a country, where low-income populations commonly live. Recently, Pope Francis used the expression "existential and social peripheries," extending its meaning and scope. Periphery is a word whose meaning needs to be understood, renewed and deepened in the various countries

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where we, Sisters of Saint Joseph, are inserted. Its understanding can facilitate or impede the choice of common actions that may give better visibility to our charism of unity. In most developed countries, as well as those in development, the periphery, in the full sense of the word, can indicate the place where you do not find the poor, those of low income, those needing unity and reconciliation. In Bolivia, for example, the residences of the more affluent social classes, the richest, are located on the outskirts of large cities. There are many mansions surrounded by beautiful parks and forests. The same is seen in cities in the north and south of Brazil, where there are more and more so-called, "gated communities." These luxurious spaces are not located in city centers, because people prefer silence or "peace," an escape from the hustle and bustle of the urban centers. The social reality and politics of India are different, however. There, the poor and the rich may share the same geographical space in the center

and outskirts of large cities. There is no need to depart from the center to find the poor, the marginalized or impoverished. So what do we mean by periphery? Where are and who are the marginalized to whom we say we want to give preference? What do we understand by "existential and social peripheries?" The word periphery, as well as designating the margin, limit or border of a given area, also designates what is off-center, not only in terms of territory or geography. It refers to what is outside, removed from the means, resources and policies that ensure a healthy life development that is harmonious, sustainable and happy, even if it is not on the outskirts of cities, regions, or countries. The sense of periphery, thus understood, indicates much more than a social or geographical place. The periphery also embraces the different situations of individuals, of people, and countries on the fringes of society, those who do not have access to resources

and means of development, who are not cared for, who have no right to education, to religious expression, to communication, to information, to the economy, to technology, work, housing, health, leisure, or quality of life. The periphery of which we speak, calls for the expansion of our knowledge and the expansion of our concepts of poverty and the needy. As a theme, the word "periphery" wants to provoke and challenge us to meet people and situations in need of the presence of our charism of unity. But this is not enough. We need to understand and to recognize who is in the periphery. We need to develop the ability to rebuild, to heal what is depleted and fragmented by grief, suffering, exclusion, fear, hatred, or lack of means and resources to ensure quality of life. We need to embody, to witness to, and to bring life to the unity of the way of Jesus. What does that require of every member of our Congregation, of our Associates, of those who work in our homes and institutions?

## Our New Sisters in Canada

### S. Sally Hodgdon

*General Council*

Sister Sally Hodgdon and Sister Susan Cunningham, Provincial of the US Province, traveled to western Canada on September 26th to meet the six Sisters of Notre Dame de la Croix who, along with the twenty-three sisters in France and the three sisters in Belgium, are now members of our congregation. Four of the six sisters live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and the other two live in Edmonton, Alberta.

During the three days with our new sisters, ranging in age from 81 to 100, we had the chance to get to know more about them and how they have been living their mission over these many



*Sister Louise (standing) and Sister Victoria with Sister Susan*

years. Our sisters, all born in Canada, taught students of all ages, worked as nurses in both homes for the elderly and local hospitals in Canada, worked in parishes and in pastoral work. Mont St. Joseph Manor, a rest home for the elderly in Prince Albert, was one of their sponsored ministries. In the early 1990's, in collaboration with the local municipality, the Mont was renovated into a 120 bed residence so it could welcome more of the local residents. At this point, we no longer have sisters living there.

Sister Louise, who lives in Edmonton, still writes a column for the local Catholic newspaper. Sister Victoria, living in a rest home in Edmonton, turned 100 at the end of August and is as active as possible. She loves being part of the parish and being with people.

Sister Therese moved to Saskatoon two years ago when the local community she was living in closed. She now lives in a senior housing unit and creates beautiful handcrafts to sell for the missions. She gave us five dresses for young girls for our mission in Songea, Tanzania, which Sister Mariaelena took to Songea recently. Sisters Marie, Alice and Yvonne have spent the last few months weeding out and packing up the Region's central house in Saskatoon, where they have lived for over 25 years. It is a fairly large house and is where the sisters have had their offices and regional meetings these past years. If all goes as planned, on October 23rd the three of them and Sister Therese will move to Trinity Manor, a newly built congregate living center for seniors



*Sister Sally in background with (l to r) S. Yvonne, S. Marie, S. Alice, and S. Therese (seated)*

in Saskatoon. This project was the idea of six or seven religious congregations who wanted to build something for their sisters. After their initial planning the diocese and others became involved and together they have created this beautiful large residence which will be home to sisters, priests and laity. Sister Marie Raiwet has been involved in the planning

of this center from its inception. During our time with our sisters we had a prayer service, similar to those in France, to welcome and bless our sisters and we gave them their new cross and constitution. Once again these moments were filled with blessing for Susan and me as we witnessed the courage, surrender and love of these sisters.

## Two Communities Become One

### PROVINCE/REGION/MISSION

#### S. Marie-Pierre Ruche

*France*

August 15, 2014, was a day of celebration for the Province of France, which officially received the Sisters of Notre Dame de la Croix as

members of our Congregation. During the Eucharistic Celebration, which took place in the Church of Biollay in Chambéry, Sister Sally Hodgdon, Superior General, gave to each of the new Sisters of Saint Joseph the constitutions and cross of the Congregation. The Church was full of sisters and friends of the

two congregations for this significant celebration in this church, whose circular architecture clearly gave meaning to the forming of a single gathered community. This day was the culmination of a long process of meetings and working together since the time of their foundation, when their first Sisters

received their initial training from the Congregation of Chambéry. In the years that followed, there were many borrowings from the Constitutions of Chambéry, a welcoming of their Sisters for studies, and a group travelling through Hartford to Canada, along with much sharing of community life. After a period of expansion (France, Belgium, Canada, Burundi), their congregation diminished. In 2008, their General Council asked our Provincial of France to accompany them in thinking about the future. In 2011, our Enlarged Council agreed to consider their application to join Saint Joseph, if their own Council decided this. In 2013,



unanimously, the General Chapter of the Sisters of Notre Dame de la Croix decided to present a formal request for a merger. That same year, after informing our entire Congregation and with the agreement

of our General Council, a favorable response was given to their request. Once administrative formalities were completed, the celebration of this merger took place, August 15, 2014, in Chambéry.

## A Tireless Missionary

**S. Jacinta Maria Iob**  
*Region of Bolivia*

Sister Amy Zago, a Sister of Saint Joseph of Chambéry, Province of Porto Alegre, and a tireless missionary, arrived in Bolivia, February 2, 1987, to the community of San Joaquin in the Beni Department. There she remained for two years, being transferred to the community of Alalay, Cochabamba, in 1989. Through the time we have shared together, I found her to be a generous person, very self-sacrificing and giving. Wherever she goes, there are friendships with children, women and the elderly, because of her simple, humble and joyful ways. She is a woman of much prayer and silence. She devotes much time to the service entrusted to her and does it with gusto. In the communities where she lived, she devoted herself to the care of the church, and was also an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and a catechist in the community of San Joaquin. In Cochabamba, she devoted herself to the pastoral care of the elderly, visiting families and helping all those in need. She has always been attentive to the

needs of the community. In the formation house, she helped the young people who entered the postulancy and novitiate, and, with dedication, taught them how to care for the house and the kitchen. Sister Amy was very fond of gardening and also of small animals: rabbits, chickens, quails, and birds, entertaining herself with them when she was alone. Through all this she has been a great example of love of nature.

She has a special love for the Eucharist. Nearly every day, she spent all morning in the church to welcome and pray with people who came to request masses for deceased relatives. Sometimes, there were as many as three morning masses, and she attended each one as if it were the first mass of the day. The same was true for baptisms and weddings where Amy was a strong and discreet presence. Sister Amy is a person who loves the Congregation and her province of origin. Finding herself currently with her health compromised, she personally asked Sister Sally, when she visited Bolivia, to



return to her country of origin. So, on September 23, Amy returned to Brazil, to the Province of Porto Alegre, which had sent her to Bolivia 27 years ago. With a heart full of good memories, we express our gratitude for her 27 years of self-gift in Bolivia as a missionary. We hope that in her new mission in Brazil, God will grant her good health and inner peace, so she may continue bearing witness to the Kingdom of God wherever she is.

# Let Go and Let God Be God

S. Eileen Silke

Ireland

When our Sisters built and opened St. Joseph's Hospital, Raheny, Dublin in 1957, no one dreamed that 50 years later it would be sold. Ageing sisters, lack of vocations and financial constraints made it impossible for the sisters to continue. But, as is so often the case, the death experienced with the sale of the hospital has led to new life. The sisters lost not only the hospital but also the convent where they had lived for over fifty years. Due to a shortage of nursing and residential care facilities in the area, the HSE (Health Service Executive), the owners, decided to build a 100 bed nursing unit and the optimum site for this development covered the Convent area. Thus the sisters were requested to leave their home and move into a new, modern, purpose-built building elsewhere on the hospital site. To watch your home demolished and not quite knowing what the future was to hold was distressing, but "It was time to let go," trust in the Lord, confident in the knowledge that "a new thing was coming to light." Initially, a Chaplain celebrated Mass once a week in the nursing unit but when he left after one year, his replacement could celebrate Mass only on a monthly basis. This was insufficient for the spiritual life of



Residents and Sisters preparing to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist

all concerned. Eventually a small room was appropriated to form a Prayer Room with the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. This was a real boon as it provided an oasis where residents, relatives and staff could spend quiet time in prayer. From this initiative a Service of the Word and Eucharist was established to be held when there was no priest available. Staff were trained, guided and empowered to offer this service, which has become a catalyst creating a sense of family, of belonging and unity. The residents, who are fully involved, choosing prayers and hymns, have commented that they now feel they are a community. There are several different units on the campus. In the Rehabilitation Unit in the main Hospital pastoral care is provided and Mass is celebrated weekly. In the

Day Unit for Alzheimer sufferers, which provides a break for families and carers for a few hours each day, a Sister visits regularly.

Recently a day hospital has opened on the campus, providing assessment and diagnostic services for older persons. From the uncertainty of previous times we are in a new time and place, where God is continually creating something new. We continue our Mission of presence and support, accompanying the aged residents in their illness and frailty. We are with them too as far as is possible in their final journey of "letting go" to meet their Saviour.

The original "letting go" by the Sisters has culminated in many, many people being encouraged to trust in God and "let go" thus letting God be God.

S. Marie Genevève Duverney (89)	France	01/09/2014
S. Zenitte Paludo (76)	Lagoa Vermelha	01/09/2014
S. Philomena Whelan (94)	Pachmarhi	04/09/2014
S. Lucia de Fatima Guidetti (90)	São Paulo	05/09/2014
S. Anita Mariadas (79)	Pachmarhi	23/09/2014
S. Angela Clara Bonatto (85)	Lagoa Vermelha	27/09/2014
S. Judith Mary Karuvelil (85)	Nagpur	28/09/2014
S. Gerard Kalapurackal (87)	Nagpur	30/09/2014
S. Mary Declan Foley (99)	USA	08/10/2014
S. Phyllis Campoli (73)	USA	16/10/2014

**NEW**  
**SAINTS**

# Golden Jubilee of the Province of Lagoa Vermelha!

S. Adelide Canci

*Province of Lagoa Vermelha, Brazil*

On September 14, centered on the word joy from the Latin “jubilum,” which means an excess of joy and great satisfaction, the Province of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Lagoa Vermelha celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The celebration commemorated the history built in these 50 years by 139 sisters who have departed to eternity, and the 141 sisters who live the Charism of Communion today, where they are inserted.

These 141 sisters are distributed among 27 communities and three residences, in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Bahia, and Espírito Santo. There are six sisters in interprovincial communities in the states of São Paulo, Paraná, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás, Pará and Bahia, four sisters serving ailing parents and three others on mission in Africa.

Although the province celebrates its 50 years, its history began more than 100 years ago. In 1898, four young sisters left Moutiers, France, to work with the people of Brazil. They settled in Garibaldi, Rio Grande do Sul, in southern Brazil. The province grew rapidly. There were numerous requests for new communities. As communities spread across Rio Grande and Santa Catarina, the Provincial Council had difficulty in providing assistance to all religious in their different fields of mission. In 1963, there was a first reorganization. A group of sisters became part of a new province based in Porto Alegre, and in 1964, circumstances led the sisters to organize a province in Lagoa Vermelha in a poor agricultural region, which needed all kinds of assistance. The first



communities worked in the missions of health, education, catechesis, family education, and arts and crafts.

The needs which the sisters were asked to meet at the beginning of their mission have changed, but the missionary fervor and the principle of the option for Jesus Christ and his Kingdom meant that the sisters took on new missions with courage and selflessness. Currently, the sisters work in various fields including preventive and curative health, and alternative medicines and therapies. The sisters work with drug addicts and with families of drug addicts, in prison ministry, in child care, in projects with children, adolescents, young people and women. They participate in the life and organization of people, training of small farmers and farm women, assistance to street children and prostitutes. There are sisters involved in formal education at universities and in public schools and in the academic preparation of indigenous teachers. The people served by the sisters in mission areas are a poor population, devoid of rights, living on the periphery of cities or as small farmers, with a growing number of volunteers engaging in social projects. The witness and example of the life of many older sisters



of the province has stirred many hearts of lay persons who are engaged with the continuity of our mission.

“Lagoa Vermelha, Vacaria and many nearby towns, places in Bahia and Espírito Santo would not be what they are today without the audacious presence and the ardent work of untiring and generous sisters. The sisters would not have prospered in these sacred places if they hadn’t counted on the welcome, solidarity and the assistance of families and communities of the people. So, all the cities where the sisters are present are celebrating,” said Sister Ieda Tomazini, General Councilor, during a tribute paid to our Jubilee Province.

Also in attendance was Sister Sally Hodgdon, Superior General. Together with Sister Ieda, they visited the communities of the province, as well as the sisters of the province itself, the representatives of other provinces, Associates and collaborators.

# New Wine in New Wineskins

S. Rosalba Scaturro  
*Italy*

**AN INTERVIEW WITH SISTER MARGHERITA CORSINO,  
WHO LED THE ITALIAN PROVINCE FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS**

**Sister Margherita, in the last provincial chapter of elections, the province elected a team of sisters in their forties. What hopes were hidden, according to you, in this unanimous choice?**

“New wine in new wineskins!” This, in my opinion, is the hope that lies in the unanimous choice, made last July, of a team in their forties to govern of the province.

For several years, we have been talking about the future of religious life and the historical situation that is going through a great transformation. The transition from one historical situation to another asks for a renunciation of that which made us comfortable in the past. A new start is necessary. We must live our time of prophets offering new answers to the challenges received.

To this end, in the province in recent years, and also during the preparation for the provincial chapter, we reflected on and discussed the need to be open to new paths, the need to look to new horizons, to make new apostolic choices, and to become, increasingly, a prophetic presence among the people. I am convinced that this new young team, full of energy and of initiatives, accompanied by the wisdom of older sisters and the prayers of all, young and old, and guided by the spirit, will continue to open new paths. It will let itself be challenged by the new and will help us to become more and more “a community moving outward.”



*Center for battered women, Sr Margherita, on the left, Sr Stella, on the right and Sister Rosalba, between them*

**You were sent to a small “frontier” community. What do you think of the service that the community is called to do in the Welcoming Center of Ferentino? What contribution do you wish to make?**

After many years of service in schools, in education, in provincial and congregational leadership, being sent on mission in a “frontier” community was a challenge and a joy. The new provincial team welcomed my desire and I’m happy! I think the small community of Ferentino, where I am inserted, provides a valuable service in one of the “outskirts” of our society, welcoming and giving assistance to women and children who experience violence and

abuse.

I have been there since September 21, and I’m trying to fit into the program as much as possible. We are three in community, and we work in harmony with two lay people. I think that for all of us, the most important thing is an attitude of welcoming, love, and a respect of cultures, since it is a multicultural and inter-religious center. The presence of the community is paramount. The sisters are the constant reference point for guests, day and night.

Besides being a part of the Welcoming Center, I am present at the Caritas Center of the vicariate of Ferentino twice a week. This service also gives me the opportunity to learn about poverty and to collaborate with other workers.

S. Elizabeth Chanato Mopi

Bolivia

05/10/2014

**FIRST  
PROFESSIONS**

# An International Experience in India

S. Ericka Rodriguez Salvatierra

Region of Bolivia

Our family of Sisters of Saint Joseph is a congregation present on five continents. An international experience is indispensable for sisters of first profession, since it helps us to discern and confirm our option to follow Jesus Christ. To this end, the Congregation opens the door to this intercultural exchange. Since the day I heard that I should have this experience, India was the country that resonated in my heart. I chose India because it is a country rich in culture and spirituality.

This experience allowed me to have a broad vision of our mission in another reality and helped me to discover new faces of God. I would say that our spirituality as Sisters of Saint Joseph and our personal experience of God is the same anywhere in the world. What sets us apart are the expressions, the gestures, and the way we organize our lives to move closer to God. In India, people have many expressions and gestures to show their respect for the sacred and devote many hours of their day to prayer. I learned not so much that we must cultivate prayer, but that when we are in tune with God, the desire to be inhabited by him is born in us. Therefore, the need arises to give priority to these moments, based on who we are as a people and the culture that we have. I have noted that, when we talk about culture, there is no better, no worse, no neutral; there is simply diversity. And how it enriches us! The affection and smiles of the sisters of the different communities that greeted me are still present in my heart. Their witness of life and passion for



Sister Ericka, fourth from left, in the Province of Tanmaya, India

Christ and the poor help me to educate myself regarding the options in the Congregation. Being with them, I felt like family and one of them. Our differences of language, dress, food and customs were overcome by the warmth, respect and love they all gave me.

I had the opportunity to see their work in hospitals and schools, experience a variety of social work with children and young people, in different accommodations and nursing homes and their work with farmers. I was also in Asha Niketan, where, in addition to the activities of the sisters in this hospital, I was able to be present in the area of physiotherapy, my academic formation, and interact with the children and staff. Then I attended two workshops with temporary professed sisters at a center of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Tanmaya. I met 22 temporary professed sisters from different congregations preparing for perpetual vows. I made many friends and shared experiences of life. In other communities, the sisters took me to do physical therapy with some patients in their homes. Another beautiful experience!

The sisters allowed me to participate in their life, community meetings, prayer and leisure. That is how I noticed the charism stamped on every face, every

gesture and in every word I heard. Today, I feel inspired by this rich and wonderful culture and spirituality, and the enthusiasm and self-giving of each sister. This international experience opened not only my horizons, but also my heart, and this makes me happy, because, in addition to living differently, I became aware that in Bolivia, Brazil, India and everywhere, we are a single Congregation. We have the same desire to live communion. I felt like a Sister of Saint Joseph in India with a Bolivian face. This was the best part of my experience. My greatest difficulty was language — there were moments when I didn't know if I was speaking English, Hindi or another language.

Now, after this experience, I believe that we need to cultivate a heart that knows no boundaries, because the wealth that we have as an International Congregation means that we are called to live our charism where the Congregation needs us. I feel happy to see how we are rich in diversity. Being away from Bolivia has helped to strengthen in me the sense of internationality of our congregations of Saint Joseph. It is valuable to have this international experience, to enlarge our tent, to feel different and, at the same time, one body.

# The Nuns on the Bus – 2014

S. Elaine Betoncourt

USA

**N**etwork's Nuns on the Bus are on the road again in 2014 with the mission of urging people to vote in the U.S. mid-term (between two presidential elections) congressional elections in early November when citizens will decide who will fill 36 seats in the Senate and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives. This new initiative of the Nuns on the Bus is aimed at getting more people to vote in the hope that those who will be elected in November will address the critical issues of our day. Efforts to pass a comprehensive immigration bill have stalled in Congress and it is unlikely that any action will be taken in the current congressional year. In the United States there is a need not only to pass comprehensive immigration reform for the 11 million immigrants living in the shadows, but also to pass a living wage, craft a faithful budget that benefits the 100%, secure healthcare for all, and promote non-violent solutions to conflict.

Nuns on the Bus originated in 2012 when the Vatican censure of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious brought enormous publicity both to the LCWR and Network: a Catholic Social Justice Lobby (founded in 1972 by Catholic Sisters to advocate for just policies in government). The staff at Network posed the question: "How can we use this moment of notoriety for mission?" Someone suggested a road trip and thus was born the Nuns on the Bus, who are now traveling for the third time. The first time they spoke to a national budget that included care for those in need. The second time they



*Sister Simone Campbell addresses a group to encourage everyone to vote*

addressed the issue of immigration. This third trip is to encourage all Americans to vote. Schooled in Catholic Social Teaching, the Nuns on the Bus understand that to help lift people out of poverty, systemic change in government policies is needed. And thus, the mantra for this year's bus trip is "We the People, We the Voters," to remind the people that their power lies in their votes. Since in the U.S. typical voter turnout is low with only 50 to 60 % of voters casting votes, the goal this year is to get everyone to the polls. The Nuns on the Bus are collaborating with some new partners for this trip, groups representing the ordinary folks. This is in response to one of the problems in government and in elections which is the influence of corporations or 'big money.' To advocate for what they want and to influence policy, large corporations and wealthy individuals make huge contributions to politicians at election time expecting that this will lead to their voice being heard. This 2014 road trip of the Nuns on the Bus is an effort to help the 100% realize their power, the voice they have when casting their ballots.

Pope Francis wrote in his papal exhortation, "I ask God to give us



*Vice-president Biden joins with the Nuns on the Bus as they begin their journey in Iowa*

more politicians capable of sincere and effective dialogue aimed at healing the deepest roots – and not simply the appearances – of the evils in our world! Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good." (The Joy of the Gospel)

It is the goal and hope of the 2014 Nuns on the Bus tour that the caliber of politicians that Pope Francis has described will be elected in the Nov. 4, 2014 U.S. midterm elections.

# Sharing Life and Mission

**S. Angela Paulina Smiderle and  
S. Helena Maria Bianchi**

*Province of Porto Alegre, Brazil*

**W**e are a community of Sisters of Saint Joseph founded by sisters of the so-called, "Golden Age." We are aware that all phases of life need to be based on love and missionary fervor. While time passes for us almost imperceptibly, we seek to continue the storyline of our personal history, already written in many chapters of community and apostolic activities in years gone by. There are countless people: children, youth, the elderly, the sick, who felt the warmth, generosity and devotion of our various forms of presence and service that filled our mission in the years when we were close to the people. Like Joseph and Mary, with our feet planted in the reality, sometimes with precarious means, we were making our contribution to the building of the Kingdom of God. Today, we are a community of 20 sisters, most over 80 years of age. We live the missionary spirit, connected with the life of the province and the parish community. We participate, with commitment and as far as our strength permits, in community endeavors promoted by the province. We give a lot of importance to the moments of daily life, promoting fraternal relations, including mutual assistance and even forgiveness. We follow the path and the teachings of the Master Jesus. We try to be a cheerful and welcoming community, sustained by prayer, giving importance to the moments of Eucharistic presence. Often, we welcome groups who come to our house for meetings, prayer and other activities. Among them, was a meeting of couples from our parish that brought together some 130 people; the parish meeting of consecrated persons

held in August, the month dedicated to vocations in Brazil; and prayer sessions, held each week with the Associates. We keep our missionary spirit alive through prayer and by helping the needy, through different projects: crocheting, knitting, sewing and other crafts, according to the skills of each one. These are times of joyful conviviality and occupational therapy. The money raised through fairs or sales of the products: quilts, aprons, bags, etc., is given to the poor and needy or institutions that lack resources, including our Our Lady of Health Parish. To maintain our physical agility, we have a physical education teacher, who comes weekly to lead us in exercise. We are aware of our limits, and we help each other grow in faith and hope as a way to identify more with Jesus, who also knew the pain and suffering of human beings. For those who gave their life to the service of the Kingdom, there is no retirement, no time to mope, because each moment has its bounty and is a

breakthrough to fullness of life. We are making our contribution. In this climate, the Lord helps us to grow in age, grace and apostolic zeal.

We are celebrating the challenge and the grace that is, "Brasil Integrando," which with great anticipation, we expect to see happen. With joy and commitment we are studying and completing the steps that are proposed.



*Sister Guerina, 91 years, carding wool for making quilts*



*Sisters making different things*

# Working for Peace, Love and Communal Harmony

S. Maria Vaz

Nirmala Province, India

Each year, August 20 is celebrated as Sabdhavana Diwas or “Harmony Day” throughout India. Commemorating the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandi, a social worker who worked to improve the life of those most in need, Sabdhavana Diwas is meant to promote peace and goodwill as articulated in its pledge which says: “I take this solemn pledge that I will work for the emotional oneness and harmony of all the people of India regardless of caste, region, religion or language. I further pledge that I shall resolve all differences among us through dialogue and constitutional means without resorting to violence.”

St. Joseph’s Convent Senior Secondary School in Ranjhi, Jabalpur, celebrated the day this year with a programme honoring the rickshaw pullers who bring so many of the students to school. As has been the tradition, the student members of the National Service Scheme (NSS) take the initiative to organize a community service programme with the goal of getting a sense of involvement in the tasks of nation building.

This year the programme highlighted the dignity of labour and the sense of service, expressing respect for the hard work of these rickshaw pullers, recognizing that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society as a whole.

Our mission as Sisters of St. Joseph is in line with that of Sabdhavan Diwas and the NSS: to create a community that seeks peace and oneness, which we do through



Rickshaw pullers lined up outside the school in Ranjhi, Jabalpur



S. Maria Vaz and S. Augusta Mylackel, together with a student, honor the individual rickshaw pullers

educating the society to serve the poor and needy. We strive to inculcate in the students the noble ideals of brotherhood, fellow feeling, dignity of labour, hardwork, honesty, truthfulness and love. Sr. Maria Vaz, the principal of the school, together with her team of dedicated staff, takes a keen interest to provide all possible opportunities to the children to develop

into mature, responsible citizens of India. Sr. Augusta Mylackel, the provincial superior of Nirmala province addressed the assembly on this occasion, appreciating the noble work done by the institution. Sister concluded with the words: “Service to humanity is service to God” and emphasized that the very essence of social service lies in really forgetting oneself.

S. Anita Palimala

S. Manisha Silva

S. Ericka Rodriguez Salvatierra

Nagpur

Nagpur

Bolivia

30/08/2014

15/10/2014

09/11/2014

**FINAL**  
**PROFESSIONS**

# Moving Toward the General Chapter

S. Barbara Mullen

USA – General Chapter Planning Committee

What happens when you put twelve Sisters sharing the wealth of six native tongues among them into the same room for five days? Five days of instantaneous translation and plenty of laughter to go around, with impromptu sign language for emphasis. Blessed with Sister Ivani Maria Gandini's (Brazil) translation expertise, and assistance from Sister Ieda Maria Tomazini (General Councillor), we reaped the benefit of twelve bits of wisdom on every topic, twelve ways to express a definition for the word 'fractured' (in the theme of the General Chapter) and twelve opinions on the choice of a logo. Thus the General Chapter Planning Committee faced the complexities experienced at the planning tables of most international congregations. While language may be the number one challenge, the accompanying diversity of cultures brings its own richness to ideas, to expressions of prayer, and to everyone's desire that Sisters throughout the entire Congregation be an integral part of discovering our evolving future. This was the experience at the first face-to-face planning meeting held in Rome last May 12-17. Introductions worked their way around the table as each Sister shared who she was, the ministry

in which she was engaged, why she said 'yes' to being part of the Chapter Planning Committee and what her hopes were for this working group and for the upcoming 2015 General Chapter. Our two General



Chapter facilitators, Sister Virma Barion, CCV, from Brazil/Peru, and Sister M. Victoria Gz. De Castejon, RSCJ, from Spain invited challenging conversations among us. They asked everyone to pay attention to the movement of our hearts as we shared our thoughts on how to break open the theme of the 2015 General Chapter—"Living the Dynamism of Reconciliation and Unity in the Peripheries of Our Fractured World." As the committee came to consensus around some of the possible ways to do this, the group divided itself into smaller same language groups—so each group might work unencumbered with the challenge of language. Thanks to computer translation software, basic working documents and potential letters on reflection materials were made available in English and Portuguese, the working languages of the group. On more than one occasion the direct translations from English into Portuguese created outbursts of laughter as a word was offered that

was totally out of context.

One task was to frame the days of the General Chapter for the delegates: issues, keynote speakers, prayer and reflection on topics submitted by Provinces, Regions and Missions. As the days went on the Planning Committee addressed how to creatively engage all sisters in the Congregation in planning, how to share daily Chapter events and process with the larger Congregation and how to use a process that seamlessly weaves itself together with prayer, content, conversations and deep listening.

Our work aims at making this Chapter, from preparation through its application, be one that responds to the needs of our world, that invites others to live the Charism in a deeper way and that speaks loudly to the call we have received: as consecrated religious, to embrace every challenge and opportunity to be the face of Christ for a world in need of our CSJ presence and Charism.

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