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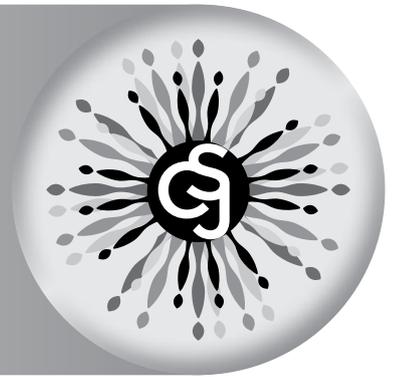
Italian

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GENERAL COUNCIL

Daily Good Byes



Crowds of men leaving Cochin, India

S. Philomena Pazhooraparambil

General Council

Open a magazine or a newspaper or go to a conference today and there is almost always something said about migration or refugees. During the 2015 General Chapter and in the chapters of implementation in many provinces, regions and missions, this topic is often addressed. It is one of the crucial issues of the present time, with almost 60 million people around the world displaced, and Iraqi and Syrian refugees in the news. While attending a recent session on "Migration and Development" one of the key points that attracted my attention was the impact of migration on members of the families who are 'Left Behind'.

I have just returned from India and in the airport of Cochin, in the southern state of Kerala, my home state, I once again saw crowds of people, eyes filled with tears saying goodbye to their dear ones. Migration is a profound experience in the daily lives of people in Kerala and in many other places. The principle reason for a great flow of migrants from India is better employment opportunities. From this perspective, migration is a dynamism that improves the standard of living, which is very positive. On the other hand, it has a negative impact on the individual dependants of migrants, those who are 'Left Behind.' During this last visit to India, I had the opportunity of visiting some of my old teachers and some neighborhood families where I met a young mother who is taking care of her children

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GENERAL COUNCIL

Daily Good Byes

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alone while her husband is working in another country to support his family. There are also families where both parents are working abroad and have left the children with their grandparents. I can still feel the pain when I listened to a woman who said: "It is 25 years since my husband is away from me because of his work in Dubai. I feel left alone." This is not an issue of one family. It is the situation in many families where either the father or mother or even both parents are working outside the country. Often the wives who are 'Left Behind'

suffer emotional consequences. There is loneliness and impending threats to the husband-wife relationship. Another, less spoken-about, effect is a growing tendency toward consumerism. Parents who leave their children behind often suffer from a guilt complex for their absence and try to make up for it by purchasing almost everything that their children request, be it clothing or electronic gadgets. Consumption and desire for luxuries are on the rise. The children pick up this attitude all too quickly. This behavior and the consumption

practices we see in the 'Left Behind' families is different from the practices of non-migrant families. Today more than ever, as we give focus to immigrants and refugees, we also need to support those 'Left Behind' by migration. One way to approach this is through the Family Apostolate, as we plan programs and projects to respond to the calls in new ways. Thus we can respond to the call to bring God's mercy to families in need, to women left behind and to the children pained by separation from their parents due to migration.

PROVINCE/REGION/MISSION

Daring to Make All Things New

S. Andréia Pires

Brazil

January 24 to 30, 2015, was an historic week for the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambéry in Brazil, because the first

Chapter of the new province which unified the hitherto existing Provinces of Porto Alegre, Caxias do Sul, Lagoa Vermelha, Paraná, São Paulo and the North/Northeast Region took place. The delegates totaled 25% of the Brazilian Sisters present in Brazil and in mission locations around the world: Sweden, Italy, France, Belgium, Tanzania and Mozambique.

Approved after study, reflection, and the affirmation of the Sisters in 2014, the new organizational structure of the One Province began with the completion of the chapter. During the Assembly, the 164 chapter delegates reflected, discussed and approved the necessary structures and various teams to boost the life in mission of the Congregation in Brazil. As Sister Ieda Tomazini,



164 Delegates participated in the first chapter of the One Province in Brazil

General Councilor, noted: "The new organizational model in Brazil is already having an impact on the life and mission of the Sisters. First, I believe that the One Province in Brazil will promote the availability of the Sisters to meet the needs of mission, to be inserted among the people of God, especially among the poor. Today there are various needs that present themselves requiring new and creative responses, not only in Brazil but in the whole world. There are, for example, the realities of refugees and immigrants, indigenous communities, youth, migrants, women victims of domestic violence, children who suffer various abuses, education and health needs, among many others. The Sisters, in this new configuration, will have a greater possibility of insertion and integration into new realities. The hope is to grow in missionary dynamism, to set out to create new things and expand the areas of evangelization and of expertise within the country and abroad." The election of the Provincial coordination team for 2016 - 2019 was held in an atmosphere of trust, serenity and openness. During the process of discernment, each Capitulant was listening and recognizing who



From the left: Sisters Ieda Tomazini (General Councilor), Adriana Aparecida Romão (Alternate), Katia Rejane Sassi (Councilor), Neuza Maria Delazari (Councilor), Elisa Fátima Zuanazzi (Councilor), Luiza Rodrigues (Provincial), Geni Estegues Pereira (Councilor), Maria da Glória Fernandes Oliveira (Alternate) and Sally Hodgdon (Superior General)

would be able to invigorate the One Province. By secret ballot, Sisters Luiza Rodrigues (Provincial), Elisa Fátima Zuanazzi (Councilor), Geni Estegues Pereira (Councilor), Katia Rejane Sassi (Councilor) and Neuza Maria Delazari (Councilor), Adriana Aparecida Romão (Alternate) and Maria da Glória Fernandes Oliveira (Alternate) were elected. On March 12, the team takes on the challenge of animating the life in mission of more than 500 Sisters in 111 communities in Brazil and other countries. The Provincial House will be located in Curitiba. Sister Luiza Rodrigues, elected

Provincial, directed her first words to the Brazilian Province. "We live in a new moment in the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Brazil. We had five days of mutual listening in a spirit of collaboration that was cordial, lively and committed. As a Provincial team, we assume the mission of implementing this new structure. We will seek ways to achieve the dreams, the actions, and new proposals presented before and during our Chapter. United as a Province and Congregation we will work so that the 'NEW' we have planted these days in joy and hope will germinate and bear fruit."

S. Plautilla Sarandrea (93)	Italy	29/12/2015
S. Marie Philomène Berger (95)	France	31/12/2015
S. Mary Agatha Moran (98)	USA	01/01/2016
S. Josefa Parrokaran (83)	Nirmala	01/01/2016
S. Mary Aquinas Vetticad (93)	Nirmala	04/01/2016
S. Marie Pierre Berchet (85)	France	14/01/2016
S. Tina Aldorisio (91)	USA	15/01/2016
S. Catherine McKillen (98)	Ireland	16/01/2016
S. Edel Winkelsett (91)	Norway	19/01/2016
S. Therezinha Maria Belin (86)	Brazil	20/01/2016
S. Marie Adrienne Ruffier (95)	France	25/01/2016
S. Maria de Lourdes Gayer (77)	Brazil	27/01/2016
S. Mary Priscilla Kakanatt (66)	Tanmaya	28/01/2016
S. Maria Batista Dondé (87)	Brazil	03/02/2016
S. Celestina Erthal (89)	Brazil	08/02/2016
S. Teresinha Godinho (76)	Brazil	09/02/2016
S. Francis Cabrini Victor (79)	Nagpur	11/02/2016
S. Agnes Mermet (93)	France	21/02/2016
S. Maria Palma (93)	Brazil	26/02/2016
S. Eugénie Taravel (99)	France	27/02/2016

NEW
SAINTS

Food and Education for All

S. Bhagyamma Chiluviru

Nirmala Province, India

St. Joseph's convent Bhainsakhar (Chattishgarh, India) is a mission community that runs a school for children within Bhaisakar Village. It is a backward region of Chattisgarh State in India. This school has most of the students coming from far away villages almost 7 to 8 kms from the school, and some from nearby villages. Over the past years we have observed that most of the 1000 children in grades K-12 come with an empty stomach and without carrying any food with them for noon. And when they get sick at the school, it is difficult to administer oral medicines on an empty stomach.

Disturbed by this pathetic condition we looked for possible sources to help us to bring some change. At that time some mission-oriented priests of the Jhansi Diocese brought to our notice the availability of the Mary's Meals Project for poor students. Though it seemed an impossible task to get approval of the project in the beginning, the ongoing efforts of some sisters and priests achieved the herculean task of getting the project sanctioned and to receive the free midday meal. The long process required that we apply, check, counter check and give clarifications on the project before it came to realization. Mary's Meals, so named to recall the charity of the Virgin Mary, is a registered charitable foundation, formerly known as Scottish International Relief, that sets up school feeding projects. It was founded in 2002 and has grown from its first feeding operation of 200 children in Malawi to a worldwide campaign, providing free school meals in hundreds of schools and feeding over a million children daily.

In 2009, the Board for Research in Education and Development was



established as the window for India to implement Mary's Meals project in the country. With its active concern for the children of the voiceless and marginalized sections of society, the organization enables these children to stand on their own feet by ensuring their access to food and education. Begun in 2015 at our Bhaisakar school, Mary's Meals provides food to over a thousand children on every working day. The results are immediately visible. There is smile on the faces of

these children; their physical health has improved; school attendance has become regular, and we look forward to better academic results. Beyond the benefit to the children many poor villagers are also directly benefiting from this project as they are able to sell vegetables grown in their fields, directly to the school authorities dealing with midday meal preparations. Some widows from the villages who are also employed to prepare meals have thus found regular employment through the project.



The Bois Joli Project

“Our future certainly includes the responsibility of transmitting the charism, so that it will always be a gift for the Church, that is, for the people of God. There is no better way to achieve this than to invite committed lay people to form community with us, to exercise the Apostolate in new ways...” Sister Sally Hodgdon, Superior General

S. Marie Pierre Martinetto

France

These words challenged the “future project group” in France set up after the provincial chapter of 2012. Comprised of 10 sisters and an Associate, this group met each month since November 2012 to study a new project for the future.

During recent years, and given their situation, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambéry in France have gradually abandoned their large houses in Savoy to regroup in the commune of Jacob Bellecombette, where the original house, one of the first foundations, is surrounded by considerable property. On this land, they opened two houses. The first, Clos Saint Joseph, is a 79 bed skilled care facility opened in 2005 for retired sisters, which is also open to priests and lay people. The other house, Bois Joli, composed of 26 studio apartments was opened in 2011. It was designed for the Sisters but having in view a project to build a life with lay people. This house was designed to promote relations and mutual assistance as well as to be a home for the elderly as long as possible. The fact that it is very close to public transportation allows us to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside and the proximity of the city. Using shared spaces allows for unity, interchange and less consumption, as well as providing energy savings and care for the environment.

Our objective was to create with Bois Joli a home that allows for living a real life of



The former group which carried out the project with the current group residing at Bois Joli

solidarity, through an intergenerational mix and the creation of various activities. Twenty to thirty people will live there: men, women, religious, priests, lay persons both couples and singles, and possibly later, families with children. They share the values of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and wish to discover or learn more about their spirituality. Living together in this type of habitat is achieving a balance

between a life in community and life as an individual.

In agreement with the Provincial Council, 6 Sisters have chosen to live in a community in this intergenerational and intercultural setting. Some building renovations were required to facilitate the implementation of the project. A part of the house is available to the Community (a community room, a chapel, 6 studios), and 4 studios



Sr. Pascale Peronnier, Malvide and Davide (lay persons), Sr. Marie Pierre Ruche, Sr. Marie Jacinta. The three Sisters are part of the Bois Joli Project.

are reserved for visitors staying for a time, for recuperation, a retreat, whatever. These studios are currently managed by the community. Eleven studios are for individuals and 2 double studios are reserved for couples and are available to those who wish to live in this type of arrangement. They are managed by an external entity. Common areas include

underground parking, a dining room, and rooms for meetings and other activities. Three lay people began living here already 2 or 3 months ago. More applications are pending and four others will join the group shortly. All residents accept the Charter which was drawn up to regulate everyday life with the aim of having people come

out of their individualist and consumer thinking. An official status has been given to the project through the Association of la Maison du Bois Joli, which allows for a legal presence and manages all the administrative tasks. What will be the future of this project? We do not know, but we wish "Smooth sailing" to the team at Bois Joli!

Caring for the Displaced

S. Sheila Rose Kollattuthara

Pachmarhi Province, India

The commotion that took place in Pachmarhi just one month before Christmas was very painful for those of us who were in touch with the poor migrants of Pachmarhi. The people who have migrated from the thick forest to the semi-town in Pachmarhi in search of some job for their livelihood over the past 30 – 40 years were the victims of cruel politics. They had been served notice to vacate the place which they had occupied, but to go where? They were in a dilemma. Finally the bulldozer pulled down every little hut they had built up with their sweat and hard work. The place was left as though an earthquake had engulfed everything. We visited the place with tears in our eyes and returned home with a heavy heart to prepare some food for them. We tried our level best to use our influence, but nothing worked out in their favour. Later, these poor suffering people including our Catholics were given a small piece of land in an interior village which lacks water and electricity. Each family was allotted 20 square metres to put up a hut for themselves. Their plight reminded me of Jesus who was born in a stable far from home, as his family was displaced. History repeats itself! Christmas was a time



to remember this, to ponder the displacement of peoples. Pope Francis has called the Church "a field hospital," and asked us to be sensitive to the plight of those wounded and hurting. The work of healing shattered lives is not easy. In his humanity Jesus is in solidarity with them, and so must we be. So we, the community of Fox Rock, unanimously decided to have a very simple celebration this Christmas. Instead of receiving Christmas gifts, we pooled together the amount which we would have spent for our celebration, to reach out in love and to be present to those displaced. We utilized this money for getting medical help for the sick. We also have decided at our regional meeting that we would continue to accompany these people in their

struggles in more concrete ways which would include material help as well as encouraging them to get their due from the government. The Jubilee Year of Mercy will be fruitful to the degree that it generates a closeness which cares, comforts, heals, accompanies and celebrates. In a broken, fragmented and polarized world, to communicate with mercy means to help create a healthy, free and fraternal closeness with all our brothers and sisters in the human family. For us, this was an opportunity at the beginning of this Jubilee year of Mercy, to share love, mercy and the compassion of Jesus with the marginalized who live in the peripheries.

Change Continues: Detachment as an On-going Process

S. Rose Marie Dubay

United States Province

Change can be exciting. Change can be trying. Change can be good. Change can be bad. But change can also be life-giving. Change has been the norm of our provinces worldwide. The aging of community members, fewer new members, the rising cost-of-living and the needed changes in lifestyle, have made it necessary for us to constantly accept changes whenever and wherever necessary.

This has been the experience of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chambéry of the United States Province during the past, but more so, these past few years. A major change for our Sisters at the Provincial House will be the eventual move to a newly renovated assisted living facility in one wing of the original Provincial House. Other changes have occurred already, the first being that of moving the Provincial Offices from the provincial house building in West Hartford, Connecticut to a former school convent in a neighboring city, a huge project in itself. Now we must say farewell to our Library, founded in 1944. The 6000 volume library was a place where all questions could be answered, for there were books from



every category under the sun: spirituality, biblical studies, world religions, philosophy, social justice, history, literature, science, medicine, biography, autobiography, novels, mystery, and so many more. With such an extensive collection, the Sisters really did not have to make use of the internet for their research. There was also a Reading Room which provided a quiet place for everyone to keep up with world events from the newspapers and magazines available there. It was also a place for some sisters to fall asleep in the comfortable chairs when overcome by tiredness.

The library, having been in existence for 72 years, was filled with history and literature books from our university days. In October, 2015, we held a book sale with those coming to buy delighted to purchase such books at reduced prices. Although hundreds of books were sold, we were still left with many books which we distributed to places such as the Veterans, second-hand stores, church and seminary libraries, and to a group of Vietnamese Visitation Sisters who are studying in the United States. As of January 29, 2016, the last of the 6000 volumes (130 boxes) were picked up by



Big Hearted Books, a company which accepts books for various causes. Now our library stands empty, as empty as the wing of our former Provincial Offices. We are now living our daily prayer asking God for courage to help us let go of what was and to look towards the future with faith and a belief that God will continue to be our strength and support. We are members of the worldwide human family who are now experiencing homelessness on many levels, while knowing that these daily events makes us stronger and more loving towards each other for we are all in this together. We hope to be more open to God's Spirit as we say "yes" to these endings and new beginnings and this hope extends to all our provinces, knowing that change is continual and detachment an on-going process.



Sister Rose Marie Dubay

Violence in the Name of the Sacred Cow

S. Navya Neelamvilail

Pachmarhi Province

Violence in the name of religion is becoming more common in India as seen in a recent attack on a Muslim. A hate campaign in the name of preventing the slaughter of cows (an animal considered sacred by Hindus) led to the murder of 50 year old Ikhlaq when a mob in his village in Uttar Pradesh, India, beat him to death after rumors that his family stored and consumed beef. His 22-year-old son Danish was also critically injured in the attack and the family of Ikhlaq has left the village in fear. The other Muslim families of the village fear that they too will have to leave their houses because of the 'sacred cow'. This and similar incidents show how the weapon of rumor about beef eating can be used to foment hatred. The attacks have shocked the country, but they aren't exactly a surprise. For the past several months, beef has been a matter of major debate in India. The opposition parties have shown outrage at this incident, alleging that such incidents are a result of the "climate of hatred" propagated by Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling party, to polarize society. However, it appears that enforcing the law banning the slaughter of cows is less for the protection of the cow than it is for targeting the Muslim community. This agenda also requires the rewriting of history and the creation of a narrative that cow slaughter was introduced by Muslims. Even the work of eminent historians, showing how beef was an integral part of the dietary preferences



Prime Minister Modi feeding a cow

of ancient India, is brushed aside as the "propaganda of Leftists." Many are convinced that the cow is just a symbol used by the Hindu fundamentalist groups to achieve their long-desired dream of making India a Hindu nation. They will try anything to achieve this during the regime of Prime Minister Modi. The minority communities of India, like the Muslims and Christians, are beginning to experience the pressure of living in a country that is democratic

on paper but pro-Hindu in reality. In the words of India's President Pranab Mukherjee, after the killing of Ikhlaq, "We cannot allow the core values of our civilization to be wasted; this civilization has celebrated diversity, promoted and advocated tolerance, endurance and plurality." The question is, where is India heading under the leadership of Modi and the BJP: to greater development or to greater destruction of core human values?



People protesting against serving of beef in the commonwealth games in Delhi

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