

French

English

Italian

Portuguese

Danish

CSJOURNAL

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry
Oct - Dec • Year 2018 - n . 5



GENERAL COUNCIL

Learning, a Way to Embrace the Newness of the Spirit

S. Ieda Tomazini

General Council

Being part of the General Council is a unique experience of Congregation, Church and the world. The fact that the Congregation is present today in 17 countries and an active member of the International Centre in Le Puy, allows one, directly or indirectly, to have knowledge and involvement with many situations and experiences that challenge us to live an intercultural and prophetic lifestyle. Experiences and situations from which there is much to learn and discern, help us to express, mutually, in life and in mission, the charism of unity in the service of the most fragile, and remain open to newness of the spirit. In these eight years of service to the Congregation, the international perspective makes me realize that many of our Congregational mission initiatives, both as a congregation and inter-congregationally, are a



prophetic response to the challenges of the intercultural, to be a less institutional Congregation and to be more in relationship with more passion for the persons on the “existential and geographical peripheries”, to be a charismatic family, with a commitment to live a more evangelical life, open to welcome and meet the needs of all the Dear Neighbors, with special attention to the poor and marginalized. Congregation wide, communities with international features and faces have multiplied in Bolivia, Brazil, Tanzania, Italy, Norway, France, and Denmark. A growing number of communities are open to including lay volunteers and together experience the charism and

SUMMARY

GENERAL COUNCIL

Learning, a Way to Embrace the Newness of the Spirit

COVER

Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment

2

J P I C

Nagpur: Culture Shapes Life and Relationships

3

Tanzania: Home Coming to a Multicultural Community

4

PROVINCE/REGION/MISSION

Nagpur: Leaders as Leaven – India

5

Italy: A Parish with Charity at its Center

6

Pakistan: Condition of Women in Pakistan

7

Brazil: Ten Years of Making a Difference in Social Work

8

France: Meeting of the Indian Sisters of LAC

9

Tanzania: Seminar Discusses Theme of Non-violence in Tanzanian Schools

10

New Saints

10

Nagpur: Migrant Workers: An Asia-Pacific Experience

11

Brazil: Group Life

12

mission of the Sister of St. Joseph in various realities, as in Goiânia and Espírito Santo in Brazil and in Le Puy, in France. There are significant partnerships on the inter-congregational level, where Sisters of Saint Joseph from two or more congregations live in community in order to expand our charism of unity. Examples are the communities of Santarem, in northern Brazil, and the novitiate, in Campinas, São Paulo, meeting the poor on the outskirts of these sites and attending to the process of formation of novices from Haiti. Other examples are the communities of Bois Joli and Lyon in France, hosting Sisters from

Madagascar, and the International Community in Le Puy, comprised of a Sister of St. Joseph of Chambéry, a Brazilian, and a lay person of the Little Design, an American. The diversity of nationalities, languages, cultures and ethnicities present in our communities add richness, bringing great challenges and situations of conflict. These are inherent in any human group. The important thing is to be able to face the problems and situations that emerge, cultivating hope, tenderness, simplicity, faith and joy in the practice of solidarity in our communities and social surroundings. Our International Center, located in Le

Puy, France, plays a big role in the expansion of a global vision of our presence as Sisters of St. Joseph in the world, disseminating, deepening and sharing our charism, spirituality and mission through significant international experiences. In addition to the emphasis on the sense of being a family and having a common home in the cradle of our foundation, Le Puy, there is the concern for passing on the beautiful legacy that Father Jean Pierre Médaille left us to lay men and women who work or live with us. For 2019, six incredible programs will be offered, accessible on the website www.centerinternationallssj.org.

Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment

S. Sally Hodgdon
General Council

It was a privilege for me, as a member of UISG, to participate in the XV Ordinary General Assembly, Synod of Bishops, held October 3-28, 2018 in Rome, Italy, with its purpose of caring for and accompanying youth in their journey of vocational discernment during this time of “epoch change” in society and the Church. The planners viewed discernment as a pastoral instrument, one that is able to identify pathways for today’s young people to follow. The discernment was not only to help the youth see their path more clearly, but for the Church to listen to her reality as seen through the eyes of the youth, so she might choose to make the necessary changes to embrace the youth with their hopes, dreams and questions, allowing them to be leaders in the Church. Learning the reality of the youth in our Church involved attentive listening to their experiences and their search for how best to follow Jesus, how best to encounter God. It was essential that the Cardinals, Bishops and all participants see the actual context in which the youth live, not what we



S. Sally (4th from R) with some of the US delegation at the Synod

presumed to be their reality. This happened in the Synod Hall, in small discussion groups and during the breaks and outings. I was impressed with the level of openness and acceptance of all of the participants, but especially, the cardinals and bishops, who really tried to listen to each other and to the youth and allow the youth to respond or react in their own way, including with cheers

in the Synod Hall, when they heard what they considered hope-filled presentations. Some of the youth participants at the Synod, and those who were present at Pre-Synod meetings, have not always felt at home or welcome in our Church. While many were engaged in some way with the Church, often as youth ministers or diocesan directors of youth, others were less engaged.

One young woman, raised as a Catholic, named herself now as an atheist, but one who was searching. The youth asked that we listen to them, listen differently without judging them and listen in freedom, being willing to dialogue with them. They want us to spend time with them and to trust that they are not too young to be responsible or to be leaders within our Church. The young people are full of passion, with varied life experiences, some very tough and

painful, such as living daily with war in Iraq, being homeless, having abusive parents. All of them are thirsty to deepen their faith, to know more about God and to be more involved in the Church. From us they expect respect, acceptance, transparency, authenticity, time with them, spaces where they can gather and for us to share our vulnerability with them as they share theirs with us. They want all of God's people to be welcome in our Churches regardless

of their gender, sexual orientation, race, economic status. The youth offer us great generosity, passion for God, service to the poorest, energy to live dreams and to support the Church in good times and in bad. In fact, on one of the last days, when offering the Pope some small gifts, one stated, "and we will always support you and our Church in good times and in bad times." It was a very poignant moment and a call for each of us.

J P I C

Culture Shapes Life and Relationships

S. Jaya Nampally
Province of Nagpur

Culture refers to the pattern of human activity and the symbols that give significance to them. Therefore it manifests itself in art, literature, clothing, customs, language and religion. What, then, is the profound meaning of culture? The way we live and what we believe constitutes our culture. To quote Marcus Garvey, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." Hence our culture plays an important role in our lives by cultivating our minds and widening our spirits. It makes people understand each other better. It teaches us how to share, listen, see, dialogue and accept the culture of others without compromising our own. When I give a great deal of respect to my own culture, I also give due respect to the culture of others. It is essential for life because it gives us an identity of moral values and principles, by which we live. Ours is an International congregation. With members coming from different parts of the world and different countries each with its cultural values, languages, food, dress, colour, etc. We,



Sisters of St. Joseph, are called to live the charism of our congregation with great love and respect in this multi-cultural family. Since culture is not biological, but learned, in the process of living, we learn through our experiences of interacting with each other, living in communion, love and service. My culture gives me an identity, shaping who I am and what I can become in the future. At times we forget our rootedness in the culture from which we have come, and the culture of others. This can lead to conflicts which we don't know how to resolve. But conflicts among the family members, as well as in community and society,

are normal and even healthy. They are part of relationships since people can't be expected to agree on everything at all times. The spiritual and personal growth of a person takes place thanks to conflicts which give us the opportunity to understand, practice patience, accept and respect the ideas and values of others in a healthy way. Why does conflict arise among us? It is because of our differences, our disagreement over values, motivation, perceptions, ideas and desires of others and my giving importance to my own thinking. When I am unable to handle conflict I can harm my relationship with others. But

when handled in a respectful and positive way, conflict provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between two people. There are healthy and unhealthy ways of managing and resolving conflict. Very often we intend to manage it in unhealthy ways with the result that we hurt ourselves and feel disappointed. When we deal with conflict in a healthy way, however we increase our understanding of the another, build trust and strengthen the relationship.

Keeping in mind the Charism of our Congregation, we can manage and resolve conflicts by growing in emotional maturity, self- control and empathy using the following guidelines: Make the relationship your priority and not “winning” the argument, always being respectful of the other and their view point; Focus on the present, on what you can do in the here-and-now to solve the problem, rather than looking to the past and holding on to old hurts and resent-

ments; Pick your battles, consider whether the issue is really worthy of your time and energy; Be willing to forgive since resolving conflict is impossible if you are unwilling and unable to forgive; Know when ‘to let something go’ and agree to disagree and move on. If we do this we can live a happy and meaningful life in community ready to accept and respect each other’s culture with a true spirit of a daughter of Joseph.

Home Coming to a Multicultural Community

S. Carmeline Fernandes

Tanzania

A person who has immersed herself in another culture helps to make a community, a society, more creative because she is willing to consider alternatives to the way things are currently done and see objects, people and situations from different perspectives. As I started to think of writing my experience of living in a multicultural community with sisters from Brazil, Ireland and India, I became lost in the journey which brought me to Tanzania. For me, it was a great experience of “Home Coming” : coming back to my ancestral land after hundreds of years. I was thrilled and I felt that Isaiah 43 (“I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.”) was coming alive in my life as I reached Ethiopia and then landed in Dar es Salaam. My heart was overwhelmed with joy when I came face to face with my people. Walking out of the airport I saw my loving community there waiting for me, with broad smiles, warm hugs to welcome me. Yet at that moment, I wondered and questioned myself, “Will I be able to live in this community?” Looking back over the year since I arrived, I realize I have gained a great wealth in my life. The talents, experience and sharing of all the sisters has enlarged my inner vision.



L to R: Sisters Carmeline, Lilly, Monica (one of our candidates), Josiane, Nilza, Marian and Valesca

My family became large. We felt for each other, interested to know each other’s cultures. The problems of every sister’s motherland became like my own problems too. Our food habits are different but the sisters adjust according to the food which each one prepares. Even when I cooked the food with a little spice every one enjoyed it, even Sister Marian. All this has helped me to adjust to the food, though at times I do find it difficult to eat boiled food. But the love and understanding of my community has helped me to overcome myself. The words of Jeremiah 1:4 encouraged me and gave me a push to launch into the deep. As I came face to face with my people, my joy had no end. Every one of them accepted me as their own. When I tell people I am from India, they do not believe me but think I am joking.

When I introduced myself in church one morning, people were very happy to know, even in India, we have a tribe called Siddi tribe and it exists today 700 years later. As I interact daily with many people and children I learn and experience many new things: the culture, the unity among the people reaching out to each other’s needs, the Mass of 2-4 hours. The singing, dancing and the great celebration which lasts all day, the fellowship meal shared by the community are very interesting. I love the peace and harmony of Tanzania. When I see the sparkling eyes of the children, their smiles and love help me to go out of my way to give the best I can. I am living the words God spoke to Jeremiah: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future full of hope”.

Leaders as Leaven – India

S. Cecile Coutinho

Province of Nagpur

The Lyon, Annecy and Chambéry Congregations assembled for the opening gathering of Leaders as Leaven - India from 15th to 18th November 2018 in Bangalore, India. It was a group of almost 74 sisters of St. Joseph – 24 participants and their mentors along with the planning committee and resource persons.

The four days were filled with input, time for personal reflection, group work and participant-mentor conversations. In welcoming the group on the first morning, Sister Adaikala (Lyon), a member of the five-person planning committee, noted that “Being embedded in an Indian society that is highly hierarchical and patriarchal, we women religious have to develop our leadership potential and build our capacity so that we are well-equipped to combat challenges and to bring systemic change.” Leaders as Leaven - India is a year-long leadership development program for Sisters of St. Joseph in India between the ages 35-55. The program is grounded in the belief that every daughter of Joseph is called to leadership in church, ministry and society. It includes two four-day gatherings in Bangalore, one at the beginning and one at the end of the year, a 360 Leadership Profile and coaching session for each participant, monthly mentoring, several ongoing learning modules as well as the development of peer-group relationships. This is an important initiative in the development of the leadership potential of our sisters in India, giving participants, and hopefully mentors as well, a different



Table Discussions During the Opening Gathering

understanding of leadership. On the first day, Sisters Flora (Lyon), Flavia (Chambéry) and Regina (Annecy) set the tone by linking our charism and spirituality to leadership, each giving an example from her own congregation of a powerful leader. Kathia Laszlo, a resource person from the Full Circle Group, began the second day by describing the evolution of leadership, moving from an understanding of leadership as hierarchical and controlling to one of leadership as circular, including the wisdom of all in decision-making. Effective leadership is now understood to mean love and service, influencing others rather than commanding them. As Sister Barbara Bozak (Chambéry), program director, reminded the group, two of the greatest leaders the world has known are Jesus of Nazareth and Mahatma Gandhi, neither of whom had a title or

any authority, but both of whom influenced others and changed the world.

During their time together the participants were guided in a process to identify where they would like to put their effort as they grow in their leadership and improve how they relate to and influence others. The mentors shared much of this process of identifying where they, too, need to grow. They were reminded that mentoring is not counseling or spiritual direction, but accompanying the participant on her journey of discovering and developing her unique self. An effective mentor knows how to listen deeply and ask powerful questions that will help the other to find her own path.

The first steps have been taken toward responding to the important challenge articulated by S. Adaikala at the beginning.

A Parish with Charity at its Center

S. Maria Cristina Gavazzi

Italy

On Sunday, October 7, 2018, the new community of the Italian Province in Ravenna was officially launched. The community consists of Sister Clementina Copia (a social worker), Sister Piera Di Prima (a nurse), and Sister Teresa Lombardi (a teacher).

The parish church of San Rocco, in which our community is inserted, has 13,000 inhabitants. Charity is very much alive, with the soup kitchen serving an average of 150-170 meals daily; a supermarket in solidarity where provisions are distributed free of charge to local and immigrant families who live in poverty; a dormitory with 38 beds and showers, of which 10 are reserved for "Mare Nostrum" migrants sent by the Prefecture, and with 4 places reserved for women; a counselling center; 2 homes for the elderly; the "Rainbow" family shelter for 8 Italian minors sent by the courts; the "House of the Samaritan" welcoming 10 prisoners under house arrest, and a clinic that offers daily nursing attendance.

The prerequisite for entering into a reality of this kind, is first of all, as Don Ugo likes to repeat, "having graduated in common sense and humanity . . . along with specific skills." A comfortable independent apartment in the parish complex is reserved for the community of Sisters. The parish takes the responsibility for everything, including the monetary contributions payable to the community and the employment of one or more sisters in the social services that the parish offers, or in the diocesan school.

When the council was faced with a request so unexpected and



Sisters Teresa, Piera and Clementina

unforeseen, received from the northeast of Italy, where perhaps we never imagined going, but which responds fully to the calls of the Church and the Congregation to serve migrants and those who find themselves in situations of poverty and strong social disadvantage (immigrants, prisoners, children at risk, the homeless . . .), they appeared to see a clear sign from heaven challenging us to dare and go out with courage and generosity from that which we already lived and experienced to meet the newness of God.

I bring an excerpt of the greeting from the Secretary of the Pastoral Council to our Sisters, "With much joy we say 'Welcome' and thanks for coming among us, for your willingness to live with us the wonderful Christian

adventure of faith, hope and love. Romagna and our Ravenna are a harsh land with regard to the possibility of living the faith. For this we need you to keep the faith and pass it on to our children . . . Our parish carries its banner of charity. Each person who knocks on the door is always the brother or sister that God sends us; every poor person is a gift and not an encumbrance. Our pastor always reminds us that a parish without the poor is like a house without a child. For this reason, our parish has many children, of all ages and all colors. Your presence will certainly be valuable, making the response to the needs of so many brothers and sisters more adequate, the service well done. And the human resources you can certainly guide wisely".

Condition of Women in Pakistan

S. Saiqa Anwar

Pakistan

A woman is a special and unique creation of God in this world. Being born in Pakistan is not a real issue, but being born as a girl child /woman in Pakistan is what makes it different. Women are the vulnerable group who feel their struggles acutely. Leave aside what might happen in the Shopping Centres and offices, they are not safe or treated well even in their own homes. Being a Christian woman is still worse. To give you a clearer understanding, let me share with you a couple of stories of the women with whom I come in contact in daily life.

Bano, a 65 year old Christian widow, was married in Lahore, Pakistan. She has six daughters and two sons. Her husband died when she was young. Though he was working in the Municipal Corporation, after his death the family did not receive any pension from the Government. She therefore has to find work, so she cleans the streets and collects garbage from house to house to meet the basic needs of her family and also to educate her children. Her life is full of hardships, pain and suffering, but she never loses hope – she continues to struggle with life. Being a Christian she has been let down many times by others. She is hurt, abused and humiliated, still she continues to work and struggle. While talking to Summera, I heard a similar story. She said: “My life is no different from any other woman living in poverty here in Pakistan.” Summera belongs to a large family of nine siblings, six sisters and three brothers. As a child, her



Sisters Shakila and Saiqa with Bano

parents rejected her. Her family was so poor that they could hardly get one square meal a day. Often Summera was deprived of that too. She used to pick up food from a nearby garbage heap in order to satisfy her hunger. Though she was not the eldest, she was sent to work and support her family. In fact none of her siblings went to school. When she grew up she was married to a Muslim man and she had two children from him. After his death her life was once again filled with pain, struggles and rejection. She now stays in a rented house near a graveyard with her two children. She wants to educate them because she does not want them to share her fate. Though she does not have any proper job, she goes from place to place and house to house

to work and earn some money for her family. She feels that in Pakistan if you are poor and uneducated, you just have to wait for the day when your life will end. In spite of their struggles and pain, these suffering women are still able to see a ray of hope, as we Sisters of St. Joseph visit, listen to their stories and console them. They believe that one day all their fears, rejection and struggles will be burned down to ashes and they will be able to see the bright light. Often in Pakistan women's dreams are shattered, their hopes broken and their efforts nullified. Still they do not lose hope and keep on saying that they will never give up. They will face all the challenges which life and society throw in front of them and will fight till they get respect and dignity.

Ten Years of Making a Difference in Social Work

S. José Adelina Batista Lacerda
& S. Edilse Bernadete Klein

Brazil

The Crubixá Project - Joseph, a Just Man - is the responsibility of the parish and Diocesan Caritas of Colatina, located in the city of João Neiva, Espírito Santo, Brazil. Two Sisters of St. Joseph, Adelina Batista Lacerda and Edilse Bernadete Klein, coordinate the work of the entity with affection, love, dedication and professionalism. The project serves 55 children and teenagers, ranging in age from 6 to 15 years, all in situations of social vulnerability. They receive food, psychosocial and pedagogical guidance and also participate in various workshops such as capoeira, computer science, pedagogical support, sports, crafts and music. There are also activities that provide interaction, entertainment, cooperation, and the development of talents and skills. With staff, volunteers, and employees, the community welcomes these vulnerable youth, showing them options for the future and opening a space for them to socialize. Amidst the difficulties of everyday life, it is possible to see the charism of unity in action, making a difference, in the faces that respond positively to the presence of the Sisters of St. Joseph. This year, another "Ray of Solidarity" was held, which, in the expression of our collaborator, Jaiza Guzzo Fraga, is a moment where fraternity becomes real and solidarity becomes visible, with the participation of agreeable people, who are humble and happy. "Each year we were fascinated with the wonders of the students being revealed, with



Participation in the walk against dengue fever

beautiful performances of capoeira, which look more like a rehearsed dance with the beautiful moves made by children of various ages. A musical group brings classical music to the most humble, eliminating social stigmas," says Claudio Bitti, uncle of one of the participants in the project.

This dream come true is contributing to the protection of children and adolescents, as they become aware of their rights, which is one way of promoting justice and peace. It also creates "a more just and fraternal world, where each person is recognized in their dignity as a child of God" (const. 65).



Music workshop

Meeting of the Indian Sisters of LAC

Sisters Ignatius (Lyon), Anila (Annecy) and Jayarani (Chambéry) France

From August 30 to September 2, 2018, a meeting of Indian Sisters of St. Joseph from the Congregations of Chambéry, Lyon and Annecy missioned in France, took place at Bellecombette, near Chambéry.

Upon their arrival, the Chambéry Sisters, as well as three Indian novices, welcomed their compatriots with glee. It was instant mutual acceptance, visible in the way in which they welcomed each other. Even greater joy was visible when some of the group recognized others that they had had the opportunity to meet previously. This cheerful hubbub soon gave way to the opening session. Around a lit candle, Sister Annie Palimattam introduced a game during which the group shared information about themselves.

The morning of the first day, Sister Marie Pierre Ruche, in a very simple way, and based on her own experience, explained to the group the history of the French Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. This story filled each of the participants with energy, especially when the story ended with a direct challenge: "The seed has been planted; it's up to you



S. Agnes Moussiere (L) explaining the exhibit in the Heritage Site

now to take responsibility, having it multiply 30, 60 or 100 times."

This group was very lively and attentive to everything that was shared throughout the three days, grateful for the blessing to have the opportunity to meet, some for the first time. There was a relaxing evening spent visiting the town of Chambéry in a small toy-like train, much appreciated by each, the day ending with a prayer of thanks.

The next day, during morning prayer in the chapel, each participant was able to enjoy peace and happiness, listening to others express their joy at being there, and being together.

The rest of the morning was taken up in the sharing of their missions. For lunch, the group was awaited by the community of Bois Joli, where a warm welcome was prepared. Here also, there was a sharing of the mission of the community and information on the various activities of the secular residents among whom the sisters live. This completely new type of residence was the subject of wonder and questioning.

In the afternoon, after Sharing the State of the Heart, the group joined the Sisters in the nursing home, Clos St. Joseph, for Eucharist. After the mass, the group offered a short cultural program. The active participation of the elderly Sisters in games and mimed songs was a surprise, an astonishment, and a great moment of joy!

On the last day, with Sister Agnès Moussière telling us the story of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we visited the heritage site. We felt very proud of our missionaries. Recognizing that sisters had come to India in 1851, we were overwhelmed with great joy. We left enriched, with hearts full of joy, desires and trust, addressing a special thank you to Sister Jona and her counselors for the initiative taken to organize this meeting of LAC Indians in France.



The Indian sisters of LAC who are missioned in France

Seminar Discusses Theme of Non-violence in Tanzanian Schools

Séfora Monaco
Tanzania

Starting from the Sisters of Saint Joseph's experience in a village of Tanzania concerning corporal punishment in the school, a seminar involving all the schools of the ward was organized by the Sisters together with the NGO Cooperazione Paesi Emergenti (Cooperation with Emerging Nations) in the village of Nambehe where both have been working since 2007. The Tanzanian law authorizes the use of corporal punishments if students have not performed well at school. With the tremendous damage this brutal practice brings at the both psychological and physical levels, the sisters decided to invite a Tanzanian psychologist from Dar Es Salam to give a seminar for the teachers on how to enhance academic excellence without violence and corporal punishments, and to address the psychological role of the teacher for the improvement of psycho-physical development of the child. The seminar took place from the 4th to the 7th of July 2018 thanks to the cooperation among Sisters, CoPE NGO and the Education officer of the ward who all committed themselves to



Teachers gathered for the seminar

continue offering these seminars and so extend the participation to many more teachers. Putting the child with his/her own background together at the center of the discussion, as well as the influence of the environment in which he/she lives together with the care of the parents as determinant factors for the school performance, has permitted the different teachers to reflect for the first time in their career on the core of their own work. The seminar focused on how wrong it is to think that once can correct the mind of a pupil, by means of lashes, which do nothing but impoverish the child's capacity

to relate. It also addressed the fact that this practice leads to students who constantly live in the fear of being beaten. Thus the facilitator invited the teachers to discuss together the existence of alternative punishment, and not the use of violence. The seminar positively affected the vast majority of those teachers attending. They had never considered the topics the psychologist dealt with. The final discussion included only positive feedback and showed a clear desire on the part of the teachers to do their best to reduce corporal punishment, or to abolish it.

**NEW
SAINTS**

S. Renate Hanish (90)	Denmark	25.09.2018
S. Zilda Hilda Marino (92)	Brazil	26.10.2018
S. Lucy Scata (86)	USA	04.11.2018
S. Igenes Aurora Oltramari (95)	Brazil	22.11.2018
S. Virginia da Imaculada Scapin (93)	Brazil	22.11.2018

Migrant Workers: An Asia-Pacific Experience

S. Philomina Pichapilly

Nagpur Province

S. Molly Manikatt

Tanmaya Province

Faith based international NGOs at the United Nations, New York, organized an Asian level conference on “Migrant Workers: An Asia-Pacific Experience” from 09 to 11 September, 2018 in New Delhi, India. This was the 3rd conference on migrants, each held on a different continent. Organized in collaboration with regional, national and local organizations working at the grassroots level in Asia, it gathered 161 participants, including 28 Sisters of St. Joseph with 14 sisters belonging to the four Indian provinces of Chambéry. The purpose of this conference was to understand migration and migrant workers in global and Asian contexts and to develop a deeper understanding of the issues and policies connected to migration as well as to provide a forum to share and learn from each other best practices to address the issues. It also promoted and strengthened collaboration, partnership and networking at local, national, regional and global levels. Also, since the United Nations has developed a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be adopted in Morocco, December 10-11, 2018, the organisers felt that this was a great opportunity for civil society to be involved in its implementation. And so, this conference was held in Delhi to meet, discuss and find a way forward together to make migration safe, orderly and regular for all and especially for migrant workers. In her inaugural address, S. Justine Senapati, who represents the Congregations of St Joseph at the UN in New York, said: “Migration and migrant workers currently draw global attention in international policy



S. Philo at the Panel

and practice. . . Global displacement is at a record high, with the number of internally displaced at over 40 million and the number of refugees more than 22 million according to World Migration Report 2018. 48% are women. Present realities of migration including displacement, unsafe and forced migration, are not only prompted by economic situation, but also ecological crises, natural disasters, conflicts and war, as well as inadequate development policies”.

There were panel discussions and sharing of best practices on trafficking, domestic workers, internally displaced persons and migrant child labour. Sr. Philomena Pichappilly, CSJ, Provincial of Nagpur province and an advocate for justice, as a member of the panel, shared her experiences of working with the migrants in the slums of Nagpur. Other panelists included Sisters Leena Jacob, and

Dominic Muthiyaparayil, both of the Anney congregation and Sisters Arul Vinnarasi Antonysamy and Lilly Therese Lourdu, of the Lyon congregation. The last panel included group discussions, planning & networking and sketching a roadmap for collaboration to promote and strengthen networking at local, national, Asian & global levels. The participants also had the opportunity to hear the voices of survivors and grassroots experiences of domestic workers, those caught up in child labour, trafficking, and those displaced by conflict. In the words of one participant, “The sessions enriched us and deepened our knowledge of the issues. We hope to better understand migration and migrant workers in both Asian and global contexts and to take up the challenge of working for these migrants in our local and regional level.”

Group Life

S. Ana Paula Ribeiro

Brazil

The project Group Life was developed in the Santo Antônio and Agha District in the city of Veranópolis/RS, Brazil. Thirty low-income elderly women participate in this project. The goal is to provide the elderly training in crafts and manual labor in order to increase their income.

The project is maintained by the municipality which provides the material resources for accomplishing the crafts and training. It also has the support of the Federal Institute through the work of interns performing research in the area of health, the parish of São Luiz Gonzaga, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Community of San Antonio and Aparecida, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry. The group meets on Wednesdays at noon. In addition to the manual labor, there are moments of dialogue, sharing, reflection, exchange of experiences, practical jokes, stretching and relaxation exercises, among others. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Veranópolis in southern Brazil mark their presence with volunteer work of support, encouragement and dialogue, providing moments of



spirituality and reflection, through activities like stretching, relaxation techniques and health tips. This project helps these elderly people in their search for a dignified

life, thus ensuring access to conditions needed to supply basic human needs and promotion of the human persons as protagonists of their own story.

EDITING

Barbara Bozak
Eliana Aparecida dos Santos

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Navya Neelamvilail

TRANSLATIONS

Agnès Moussière
Cristina Gavazzi
Joyce Baker
Margherita Corsino
Maria Elisabete Reis
Anette Jensen
Marie-Pierre Ruche

CIRCULATION

Rossella Galli
www.csjchambery.org

E - MAIL

icc@csjchambery.org