



# Together in Mission

## INTRODUCTION

### ...to Connect and Inspire

—Lorraine Marie Delaney, CSJ/Chambéry, Rome, Italy

All over the world today Sisters of St.

Joseph are engaged in mission and we want to share their stories!

An initiative of the Global Coordinating Group's sub-group on SHARED MISSION, this publication hopes to connect and inspire Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates wherever we are in a renewed dedication to our mission. "Unity and reconciliation", "active, inclusive love", "communion of all in God" – these challenging words come off the page of spirituality

documents every day as Sisters of St. Joseph of diverse cultures, languages, traditions, customs, rites and rituals engage in ministry throughout the world. Whatever our ministry, be it one of action or prayerful support, let us connect, dialogue with each other and

establish ties that will support and energize us in our common purpose. We invite each Sister and Associate on the five continents to read *Sisters of St. Joseph: Together In Mission*, consider sharing your own story, and

participate in the great flow of energy for mission enlivening us still today. ✨

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*To Connect and Inspire*

#### FROM NORTH AMERICA

*Canada — Due North*

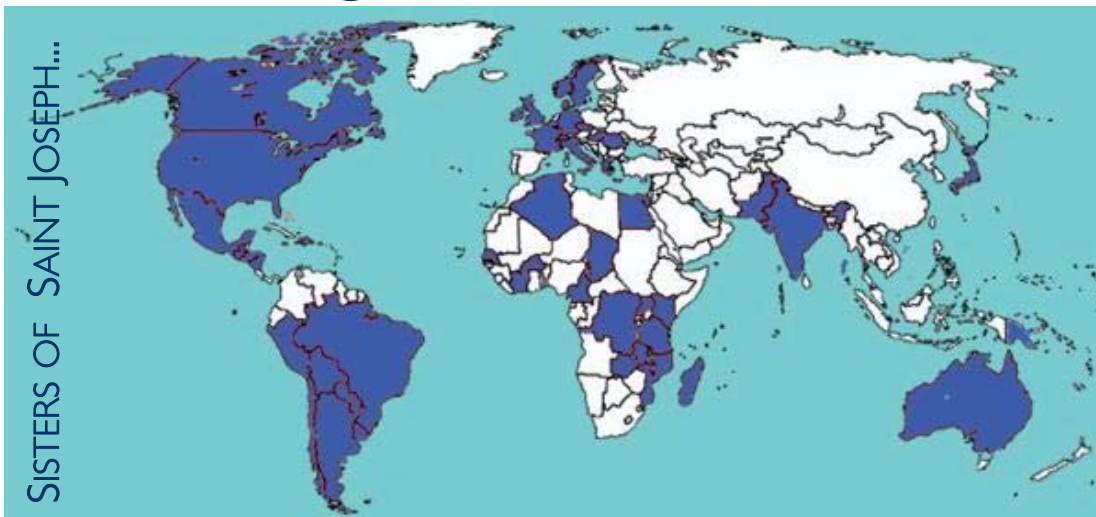
#### FROM EUROPE

*Impossible become Possible*

#### FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

*A Sister of Communion*

# ...throughout the world.



SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH...

Graphic designed by Baya Claire, CSJ/Carondelet-St. Paul

You are invited to study this image of our world. The countries shaded in blue indicate where our spirit and mission is alive and active through the presence of Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates who live and minister in these countries.

# Canada — Due North

— Margaret Kane, CSJ/Hamilton



As a Sister of St. Joseph, you never know where God might lead you and what joy might come from that experience!

Since 2001 Sisters Jude and Susan have been present to the aboriginal community in Pic Mobert, Ontario and have found that there are many unmet needs in this tiny, isolated village of 300 people. It is a community with a lot of

pain due to loss of identity, alcoholism and loss of land, all of which leads to illness as well as abuse.

We are meeting God,  
our Creator,  
through the beauty  
of the land, the people  
and the animals around us.  
We are learning to live a  
balanced, profound life in  
harmony with God.

The sisters are present, not as experts or counselors, but simply “as two women who want to help out any way we can, to be on life’s journey with them,” says Sister Susan. They spend time visiting with the elders, sharing stories and laughter. From these visits they become aware of the social and spiritual needs of the community. They regularly visit the school and offer to help the teachers in any way they can. They have a foot clinic (diabetes is common) where they offer support and can talk one on one with people. Their respect for native culture has led them to take part in native gatherings and powwow.

Because the community has no priest, they often help to organize Sunday services but as Sister Jude points out “we are reluctant to run things; rather we prefer to help the community do things for themselves.” The sisters also encourage volunteerism, a part of native life in the past.

Susan and Jude sum up their experience in the following reflections:

“Native people love to tease. You know that they accept you if they tease you or give you fish. We have a freezer full of fish!”

“We have gained so much through the people and their closeness to the earth, their honesty, their trust – so many gifts to give us. We give what we can in return.”

“We are meeting God, our Creator through the beauty of the land, the people and the animals around us. We are learning to live a balanced, profound life in harmony with God.”



## EUROPE

# Impossible become Possible With Jesus on the Journey

— Jasleen Mary Michael, CSJ/Lyon

The communion I experienced this past year in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic fills me with a deep sense of gratitude to God who invited me to witness to our CSSJ charism in a LAC (*Lyon-Annecy-Chambéry*) project.

The usual questions asked during introductory meetings are:

- What is your degree? Are you a Lawyer? Doctor? Engineer?
- What is your age?
- What made you leave India to come to our country? Was it your desire?

I felt confused and embarrassed! These questions challenged me to interiorize the call within a call through another set of questions!

- What is the purpose of my Call particularly to Eastern Europe?
- What is the unique contribution my presence would make for the life of the World?
- If Christ was among us today whom would He serve?

I met people of good will among whom are NGO Collaborators called Cezky Zapad and felt confirmed in my call. Now I am ministering to Gypsies called *ROMAS* who interestingly enough, migrated from India in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. They lived in mobile homes in which they enjoyed total freedom. But so-called civilized society labelled them as *unclean, blacks* and *robbers*.

It is only for the past eighteen years that they have enjoyed stability, living in apartments. Their children are the First Generation to enjoy some privileges of education.

In order to inculturate the mission yet unknown to me I stayed with Collaborators during working days and over the weekend returned to Community to practise “Sharing of the State of the Heart” and “Order of the House.”

Using different methods to help them rediscover their own dignity and self-worth, I minister to pre-school children and the youth. Our motto is *Ethnic Friendship*. The symbol is a human figure — half-black; half-white.

I feel privileged in this mission of communion with the children of God in their long Exodus History. May we all be One as we grow in the Body of Christ. May our global heart embrace the disfigured face of Jesus present among us. ✨



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## THE GLOBAL SOUTH

# A Sister of Communion

— Fátima Rolim Rosa, CSJ/Chambéry, São Paulo, Brazil

This describes Sister Laura Dos Santos, a woman who lives who she is. Her essence is living as a Sister of Saint Joseph. She has been in the provincial house of São Paulo, Brazil for some years, welcoming all who journey there with a smile and with special attentiveness. Being present to all, she soon learns a person's likes and needs and, with her welcoming smile and tireless devotion, she becomes a sister to all.

She is well known in the neighborhood where she lives, presenting a contrast in this great city of 18 million inhabitants where people go about unaware of their neighbors. A sister said, "One day I followed her on purpose just to see her interactions with others. I was surprised to see Sister Laura greeting the homeless, a woman walking her dog and many others. She helped an elderly lady to cross the street and then entered a church. When she returned home she was laughing because the elderly lady had said to her, "I need help but you are much older than I." Sister Laura responded, "let's cross together, because united, we can overcome the difficulties."

Her mission also takes place through correspondence. She writes to the incarcerated, mothers whose sons are drug addicts, and the unemployed. Her guiding principle is to PRAY. In the evening, she spends hours before the Sacrament after a full day of work. This reminds us of Father Médaille who directs us to never finish our day without rereading it.

I asked her how she lived reconciliation. She said, "the more others offend us, the more we need to desire the best for them." Sister Laura lives the joy of unity. ✨

"Open your soul  
into your hands  
and your hands  
to the infinite"  
C. Meireles

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