



*Voices of our Sisters and the Collaborators*

Casa Generalizia,  
16, Via Paolo III,  
00165, Roma, Italia.

**September 2023**



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## *Editorial*

*Dear Sisters,*

*It is a great joy once again to come to you all, with articles that will give you some information, news and activities of our Sisters across the Congregation and its mission. It is a call and opportunity to all the Sisters to communicate with our Sisters in the Congregation and lessen the distances that keep us apart. It is good to share our life, our concerns, challenges, in our different contexts through small articles and a few photos in the Congregation Bulletin. Many of our Sisters especially the elderly Sisters look forward for the bulletin to know more about the life in the Congregation which helps them to live their lives with Hope for the Congregation. They assure us of their blessings and prayers.*

*I thank Sisters who have contributed articles for the bulletin and for their collaboration. I thank Sisters who have helped with editing and translating the articles.*

*We have also the glimpse of the Final Profession Ceremony of our six Sisters from Myanmar in Rome on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023. It was a moment of joy and life for us. We thank the Lord for them.*

*Pope Francis said; "Unity grows along the way; it never stands still. Unity happens when we walk together." Therefore, dear Sisters let us not hesitate to share our stories, stay connected with one another, listen to all and walk together as one SJA body.*

*I am obliged to blur the photos wherever there are faces of the Children and the vulnerable people since we do not have permission to publish them.*

*Sr. Renee Quadros SJA*

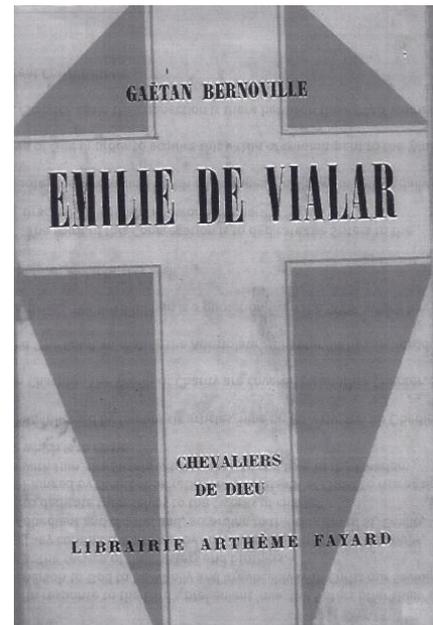
*“Great communication begins with connection.” – Oprah*

## From the Archives

### Biographies of St Emilie De Vialar 2.

Since writing the article in the previous Bulletin several other aspects related to the Biographies of St Emilie De Vialar have emerged. Firstly, thank you to the Sisters who forwarded comments or informed me of other writings or translations. One significant Biography referred to is ‘Emilie De Vialar’ by Gaetan Bernoville published after the Canonization in 1953. It is only in French and referred to by Mother Theresita Moret in her letter to the Sisters in 1951 where she announces that the life of Mother Emilie, written by Gaetan Bernoville is ready for publication – she writes:

*The author has drawn copiously from the records relative to the Beatification of Saint Emilie De Vialar and I trust you will not be disappointed in this work. The writer has endeavored to reveal our Mother’s soul, through the medium of actual events as well as her actual writings .... Such in effect was the life of our Holy Mother, and is not her life the revelation of her soul? Moreover, her correspondence is composed almost exclusively of business letters; in a very few of her letters does she unburden her soul. Her life, by Le Champine Pickard, would seem to furnish an abundance of texts in which her spirituality is revealed. We ask you to receive this book kindly and I doubt not but that the reading thereof will provide a proud admiration of an ever more filial affection of our Saintly Foundress.*



Earlie this year I had the opportunity to visit the Archives at Rabat in Malta and at Bowden in England and as a result discovered many ‘gems’ regarding the life and history of the Congregation. One being the author of the Biography written in Burma ‘by a member of the Congregation’. Following the death of Sr Margaret Markey, (born in Ireland missioned to Burma, returning to England in 1939) her relations requested information about her. In the letter, 29.4.1973, they state that they believed that whilst in Burma Sr Margaret had written a book on Mother De Vialar. This biography is not included in the informative list of writings provided for us by Sr Agnes Cavasino ‘Emilie De Vialar Foundress’ pages 309-312.

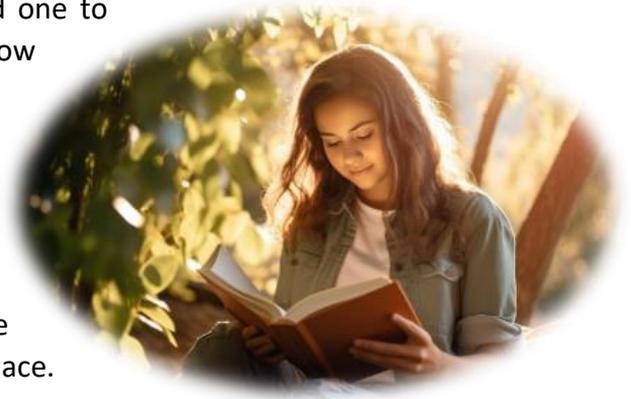
A further discovery in relation to the biography by Chanoine Testas published in French in 1939 is a draft of an English translation dated 1974 and probably undertaken by Sr Patricia Coogan. At present this text is being updated.

Finally, in a rather battered exercise book in the Australian Archives there is a shorter biography of St Emilie probably by Sr Marie Therese Kenny and written sometime between 1951 and 1957. A note attached to it reads:

*My dear Rev Mother, this is not a translation but just a brief sketch of the Life of the Foundress. What do you think of it? Would it be worthwhile printing it? Love S. M. T*

In gathering these biographies of St Emilie, I have discovered that the story line in each is similar. However, different approaches and nuances are found in them, all revealing the prophetic vision of Emilie. The overall purpose of Biographies is to aid one to understand the life lived in a particular era and how challenges were overcome.

In reading these various biographies, we touch into experiences which have shaped the Congregation. Notably is the ever-present impetus to preserve, integrate and promote St Emilie's spirit. Times have changed but, in these texts, we discover and are inspired with hope to change the world for a better place.



*Sr. Margaret Anne Beech*



## Entry to the Novitiate

**“God is present everywhere**

**He carries you engraved on his palm.....**

**You are His child.”**

**-St. Emilie de Vialar.**

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and trusting in the providence of God, fifteen Postulants coming from three nationalities, seven from Myanmar, five from India and three from Thailand, entered the Novitiate in the Philippines. This was a grace filled moment for each of them. On this day they took their first steps in their religious life journey in the family of SJA.

Celebrations began with the Eucharist in the Chapel. The homily encouraged the new Novices to follow Christ whole heartedly and to come to know him more deeply during the two years of their Novitiate. The Initiation ceremony of the Postulants took place after Communion. It was indeed a joyous moment and our minds and hearts were one with them, thanking and praising God for their lives.

Our Delegation Superior pronounced their names and they expressed their willingness to follow Christ. Sister commended each one to God under the guidance of their Novice Mistresses. They were given the Constitutions and a presentation of flowers, a symbol of new life, which was followed by a round of applause. The new Novices sang a hymn offering their life to God all of which created a pleasant atmosphere.

Present at this celebration were the Sisters from the school community and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Novices. The latter, under the guidance and animation of Sr. May Rose and Sr. Bernadette, led the liturgy with singing and inspiring hymns as everyone swayed to the tune of the songs to the delight of all present adding to the atmosphere of the Eucharistic celebration.

Everything went well. Our wish is for the new Novices to fulfil the will of God in their life and grow in the spirit of St. Emilie. In doing this they were reminded to have St. Joseph as their protector. May the Holy Spirit be their guide as they walk in the path of Christ.

Sr. May Rose, SJA

**Once again Hearty congrats!**

**Dear Novices, May God Bless you all!**

**“Never lose the sight of aim, for which we are united”**

**-St. Emilie de Vialar**

**YouTube link for more photos: <https://youtu.be/Ry56f8-Bgqg>**



## The Joy that Burns in our Hearts

Our journey to Tunisia is like a mustard seed that grew into a tree began in 2021 when we came in contact with the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition. We arrived at the Community in Tunis on the 23rd of August 2022 as aspirants to discern our vocation to the congregation. Our community experience here so far is natural to any community that is multicultural, multilingual, and has a significant generation gap. But like Moses of old in the book of Exodus 3; we have heard the Lord inviting us to "take off our shoes!" This is true because the land which can also mean the people, their culture and land, are 'holy!' This understanding has helped us learn and unlearn some habits to thrive as a community. The most interesting point in this experience is our encounter with the mission of the sisters in a Muslim country such as Tunisia. It remains a surprise that the sisters have in the course of history made such enormous progress amidst the political, socio-economic and religious challenges that besiege the mission.

Like the rest of the sisters, we got involved in the apostolates of the Community in Tunis such as working in schools where we help supervise the pupils during recreation and lunch. We do other things like rendering services at the prison department and Craft Centre for illiterate women in Caritas Tunis. We care for the children in the Orphanage and accompany the sisters who give communion to the sick. We joined the choir and animate weekday masses in the parish. In all these areas we have tried our best to show the incarnate Word to the people we encounter. This has brought so many joys and enkindled our enthusiasm and zeal for the mission of the Congregation. At times these apostolates come with their challenges such as language barriers, cultural differences, misunderstanding of opinions, and sometimes racism.

However, our hopes have not been damped by these challenges, rather like St Emilie who spoke about the mission in Tunisia, these difficulties attract us with joy and cause us to bless the Lord for wanting us to accomplish some good here. Christianity is striving to survive in this country, thanks to the blood of the martyrs that acts as the germinating seed for the faith. It calls for prudence and perseverance in the mission. It is a mission that survives on a silent echo of Christians who preach loudly with their presence. In all these, we have never lost the joy of the Gospel as Pope Francis highlights in '*Evangelium Gaudium*'.

All these joys we owe to the sisters of this lovely Congregation. We extend our hearty appreciation to Sr Monika, Sr Anita and other members of the Council, and also to all the sisters who have visited and shared this joy with us. We express our gratitude to the sisters who have journeyed with us so far, especially Sr Jacqueline, Sr Kalpna, Sr Chiara, Sr Anna, Sr Elena and Sr Oluchi.

May Saint Joseph smile upon us all. Amen

Programme of the Aspirants during the year as presented by them in the following link:  
<https://youtu.be/XhZWWInyDyU>



*By Jaqueline Jones & the aspirants*

## **FEAST OF SAINT EMILIE—JUBILEE-70 YEARS—RENEWAL OF VOWS**

It was a Saturday! Shabbat for Israel... less traffic and easy transportation. Sister Valentina, the Provincial, had sent the program for the day. More than thirty Sisters were able to come together, celebrate, and commemorate St. Emilie and the three Jubilarians:

**Sister GEORGES Sarkis, Sister LINDA Cassar, Sister LODOVIKA Ishar!**

The Community of St. Louis, where Sister Patricia resides, was responsible for preparing the celebration. The younger Sisters from the 5 Communities of Jerusalem participated in this preparation. However, as the Basilica of Kiriath Yearim was under repair, the Eucharist was celebrated at the entrance of the Centre, and the decoration was taken care of by our Filipino girls, one of whom excels in decoration! At the Centre, the planned activities for the preparation of the Feast of St. Emilie also took place. The Communities of the Province were creative in responding to the call "Let's Discover St. Emilie."

A beautifully wrapped gift package provided the recipient with a thought from St. Emilie. A well-prepared quiz was inspired by the life of Emilie de Vialar... all accompanied by music. Symbolic images brought us back to specific dates and concrete actions from the life of St. Emilie!

The Community of elderly Sisters made their presence felt: A short video showcasing their life, including a sister in the religious habit before Vatican II. Surprises... The time pleasantly spent, filled with joy and applause, led us to the Eucharistic Celebration ... everything was ready. The Priest, Superior of the Benedictines of Abu Gosh, was waiting for us!

The harmonium was already in place, and Sister Rosa, a young Burmese sister, provided the accompaniment. Sister Patricia replaced her during the moment of renewal of vows and communion. In his homily Father Jean Louis emphasized the significance of offering and self-giving in our present times. The song of thanksgiving, "He is my friend," gave gratitude to the Lord for this Feast of St. Emilie and the Jubilee of our three Sisters, 70 years of devoted life, and the renewal of temporary vows by our three young Sisters.

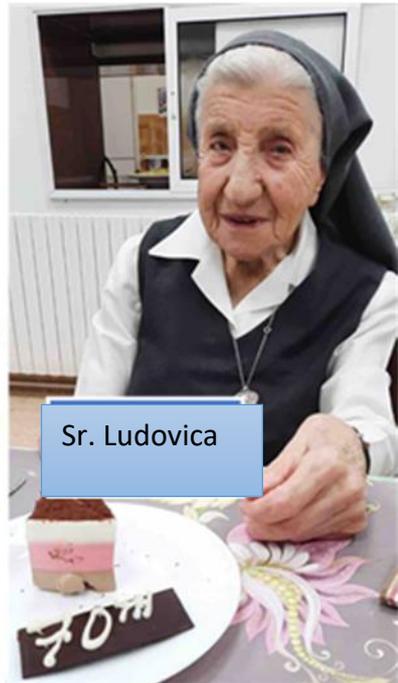
After the Celebration, the large dining hall of the Centre, beautifully decorated, awaited us! A lamb, prepared and cooked in Bet Jala, accompanied by rice with almonds and other delicacies, as well as salads and various dishes prepared at home by our four devoted girls, were all waiting for us. The festive meal included an invitation to the Benedictine Fathers and Sisters, neighbours, and friends. In total, there were about fifteen guests! It was a fraternal, simple, and joyful gathering. The festive desserts and beverages were prepared in the beautiful outdoor courtyard, under the shade of the probably century-old wild rose. Its shade was enough to enhance the joy and thanksgiving of this beautiful day and allow for the multicultural dances that followed to conclude this celebration of Saint Emilie on June 17, 2023!

**"Let them say it, those who fear the Lord! His love endures forever! Psalms 117:1"  
Province of ISRAEL-PALESTINE  
Give Thanks to the Lord: He is good**

Sent by Sr. Valentina Sala



Sr. George & Sr. Linda 2023 - 70th anniversary



Sr. Ludovica



Amman



Nazareth



Kyriat



KY

## **Our Activities in Monastir and Sousse**

We are two sisters in Monastir, Sister Hana and Sister Michele. Our house is surrounded by a large garden where trees and flowers flourish, and three tall palm trees house sparrows. We also have singing blackbirds and cooing doves. We are present too in Sousse, where there is a beautiful garden. In Sousse, there is a large primary school where our sisters have worked with children and young girls for many years. Now, the Egyptian Sisters of the Sacred Heart continue the mission with the students and teachers there.

Our community, now serves in the school in the reception and care for children with autism or various language or mental difficulties. Sister Hana receives these children individually or in groups. Tunisian volunteers and parish members come to help her with group sessions.

In Monastir she receives autistic children and others. The house in Monastir provides French academic support for children aged 7 to 11 years from the neighbourhood and beyond. Sister Michèle takes care of organizing the classes, which are taught by Tunisian teachers. Additionally, in Monastir, there are two groups of women who are learning sewing and sewing methods, with a teacher. With these groups of women and others, we have formed the Friendship Club to experience events and activities such as helping the poor during Ramadan, the back-to-school season, and Eid celebrations.

We also had the joy of two major festive moments. First, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we went on a minibus outing with the members of the Friendship Club to a beautiful green region in Tunisia, visiting the Kélibia Fortress and making a stop at the Nabeul Fair. Then, on May 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the School Support Festival on the lawn behind the house, where the students presented the songs, they had learned throughout the year and performed a play for the older ones. There were games, book distributions, and a snack. All the children and their parents were very happy with this end-of-year celebration before their final school exams.

This is what we experience amidst a warm and open-hearted Muslim community.







*SJA presence*



## LAUDATO SI'

Laudato Si' week is an important event that brings people together to reflect and share on environmental challenges facing our planet today. During this week people gathered in groups to share the experiences of how they are working towards a more sustainable future. As a member of the Laudato group I would like to share my experiences of the activities we participated in.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, Sr Martina Htoo and I arranged a Laudato Si event for our Sisters and associates in Australia at a location called "Piney Lakes," not far from where we live. On this occasion our main purpose was to look at what we are doing to save the environment and to support each other in this important work.

The theme of the event was in keeping with "hope for the earth and hope for humanity" as was the main theme suggested for the week.

The gathering started with a brief introduction and welcome. All of us have different experiences and perspectives but what brought us together was our shared concern for the environment and our desire to make a positive impact. The event continued with a prayer followed by a reflection on the concept of the "Common Good." It was obvious that those present were concerned about the planet and wanted to make a positive impact and indeed the shared conversation highlighted the need for collective action on behalf of the planet.

Some ideas were as follows.... Not buying new clothes but opting for second hand clothing...Starting a community garden and sharing the produce.... Educating the younger generation on the topic.... Water consumption.... Reuse of plastic bags. Everyone agreed on the importance of making suitable choices in life e.g., being a volunteer in the sustainability and climate action field, sharing efforts to reduce, promote sustainable practices in one's workplace and community.

The day was energizing with beautiful weather ending with a shared meal in stunning surroundings. Deo Gratias. Next meeting in October.

Sr Anne Sureeporn Meesri



## *Passing over the baton.... Delegation of Australia...*

I was lost for words when asked to write something about myself following my appointment as the leader of the Australian Delegation.

Naturally, it is often much easier to write about events or about someone else.

The story of my arrival to this point of my life journey was not something that I had planned for, let alone being missioned to take on the leadership role from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 for the next 3 years.

I grew up in a very ordinary family. My mum was a Catholic and my dad later converted to Christianity. There are only four of us in the family. I have an older brother and now the addition of Kim, my sister-in-law and a young niece! Growing up we were not especially pious, religious or anything like that although our parents ensured that we were educated in Catholic education schools

My mother had a Carmelite cloister nun as a close friend. She would often bring us there when she was in need of prayers for some serious intentions. On one occasion when this Sister celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> religious anniversary, we were allowed to visit and see her fully in person. My mum took me along... Lo and behold, Sr. Mary John of the Cross looked at me and told me, "I will see you here inside this convent in the next couple of years" and that was the beginning of the 'flight and fright' of my life from religious life...

Fast forward to life in my early 20s. Growing up in a moderate Islamic country in East Malaysia, higher educational opportunity goes by quota system of which non-Malaysian and non-Muslim have lesser opportunity to enter the local university. Hence, the opportunity to pursue nursing in Singapore was the avenue that I went for. Dealing with life and death situations on a daily basis enabled me to encounter the real vulnerabilities of the human person in times of sickness especially when a person suffers from life limiting illnesses. I was a senior nurse at the palliative care unit in Singapore prior to my move to Australia. While working full time on 3 rotating shifts of morning, afternoon and night duties, I managed to pursue a Bachelor in Health Science (nursing) externally with the University of Sydney and thereafter underwent a postgrad study in Palliative Care. It was difficult leaving Singapore considering that a career path was very bright for me and leaving behind all that I had built up in terms of friends, familiar surroundings and cultures that I had grown accustomed to most of my life.

Looking back, it was the experiences and encounters with the suffering and vulnerabilities of others on a daily basis that helped shaped me to who I am at present.



I had to start from scratch with nothing following my move to Australia. Again, following my move to Australia, it was not on my bucket list to join any religious congregation. While in Singapore, I did at one stage discern about consecrated life with the FMDM sisters whom I worked closely with. I just turned a deaf ear to consecrated life, hoping that it will go away and I will meet my Prince charming one day!

It was only when I met some of the sisters through a close friend of mine in Perth, Western Australia who invited the sisters and myself to her place that the journey towards consecrated life with the sisters began. I was attracted to the simplicity of the sisters and the spirituality of St Emilie which the Sisters dedicate themselves to (Const 4): *to be a living sign today of the love of God which has become incarnate and which reaches people through human actions.*

I certainly believe, quoting from St. Emilie that *'circumstances manifest the will of God' or 'God's will is shown us through ordinary circumstances.*

Yours in God's service and love,

Lilian, sjc

(Australia)



*(Photo acknowledgement: Top photo creatively done by Sr Sureporn Meesri)*

## Let's meet Sister Ragitho from the Province of Myanmar



It was our pleasure during our visit to the Philippines to meet Sister Rogitho from Myanmar who was on a work trip. She was asked by the Communities in the Philippines to paint and beautify the walls of the convents, schools, grottos, chapels, compound walls, gates, etc. She possesses a natural skill for painting and with great love, and a free

hand does it so quickly. Her work is truly remarkable and admirable. Congratulations Ranjitho. God bless you and may the Lord be praised with the work of your hands.

Sr. Renee Quadros SJA

Here is the link to see some of her paintings. [https://youtu.be/cq\\_mjxJWFK4](https://youtu.be/cq_mjxJWFK4)



## *Mission among the Migrants- Thailand*

### **Marist Centre for Migrants.**

This Mission for migrants was started by the Marist Brothers in the Diocese of Bangkok. We took over this mission in 2017 and continue with it today. There are two SJA Sisters, two Myanmar volunteers, a Thai volunteer and a Pre-Postulant who at the moment look after and teach 160 migrant students at this Center.

We group the children by age and knowledge and teach them just like we would in a school system. Our major concern for these people, who are from Myanmar, includes learning two languages as well as English, Mathematics, computer and other things which the teachers can teach them. We also take them out for other activities and sports.

This year there have been many children who migrated from Myanmar and came to us. As our Centre is not big enough for all and with only a few teachers, we accept those from the ages of 10-17. We have to let the younger ones wait until we have a place for them.

This is my fourth year here and I am happy and joyful with this kind of work. It is challenging and tiring but at the same time gives joy and happiness. I am also responsible for the COERR projects which help the poor in the area. Apart from teaching in the Centre we also visit the families and see to their needs.

We try our best to help wherever we can.

Sr. Christina Tano





## Shine! Listen! Do not fear!

The World Youth Days which took place in Lisbon in Portugal from 24 July to 6 August this year closed a rich and intense year: the end of my five years of mission in Champigny with children for 1 year and then the youth for 4 years. The Champigny delegation was made up of twenty-nine young people aged 18 to 35. Together, we joined and lived these World Youth Days with the 450 other young people of the diocese of Creteil.



After two nights in the bus, we finally dropped off our backpacks at Castelo Branco, the diocese that welcomed us and where we stayed with families. With two other young people, including a Portuguese, I stayed with a widow. The young Portuguese girl helped us a lot with communication because our hostess spoke neither French nor English.

The first week spent in the Diocese was rich in experiences of meetings, sharing, and discovering other cultures because there were other young people from Senegal, Congo, and from other regions of France, all welcomed in this same Diocese.

This time in the Diocese allowed me to discover the generosity of the Portuguese. The families who welcomed us opened the doors of their houses and their rooms to us with trust. They gave us their time and shared their food. This way of welcoming strangers made me think of the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus says to his disciples: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes Him who sent me. And whoever gives a drink, even a simple glass of cold water, to one of these little ones as a disciple, amen, I tell you: no, he will not lose his reward. (Mt 10, 40; 42)

The second week in Lisbon was a completely different experience. There was the "time of the French" which brought together 45,000 young people from all regions of France! It was beautiful and moving to see all these young people present in Lisbon, with joy on their faces. They sang and prayed with all their heart. France is De Christianized, they say! But at that time, all I saw were happy young people singing their joy of belonging to Christ.

Another highlight is the time of catechesis called "Rise Up" animated everywhere in Lisbon to allow young people to praise, pray, listen to the Word of God, share it with others and be reconciled with God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I was happy to animate, with another young animator the three days of catechesis for my Diocese. It allowed the young people to live times of praise, of welcoming the Word of God, of sharing and of prayer.





1.5 million young people, of all languages and nations sang their joy of believing in Christ and belonging to Him! 1.5 million young people who want to take their place in the Church and in the world. The bigger challenge remains to help them to really take their place in their ecclesial communities after the World Youth Day.

What I remember from these World Youth Days are three

appeals from Pope Francis to young people:

- ✚ The first: SHINE. It is by welcoming Jesus, learning to love like him and to perform acts of love that we become luminous.
- ✚ The second: LISTEN. Listen to Jesus, listen to what he tells us in the Gospel and in the depths of our hearts because He has words of eternal life. He reveals to us that God is Father and teaches us the way of love.
- ✚ The third: DO NOT FEAR. The Lord who knows our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our defeats, our great dreams and our discouragements and calls us not to be afraid: afraid of being unfitted. "Do not be afraid! Be encouraged".

Today, more than yesterday, in this new stage of my consecrated life, this call not to fear resounds in a particular way in my heart. Following Mary who, after the word of the Angel, got up and left in haste. I feel called to cultivate the welcoming of the Word of God; to renew my "yes" to the Lord; to "rise up", with renewed confidence, and to put myself at the service of my brothers and sisters.

These appeals from the Pope, not to fear, to dare, are addressed to young people, and also to all of us, as Sisters of the Province of Europe, of the Congregation! We have so much to give. Let us not be overwhelmed by fear. Let us not be distracted, we are not the future but the present and the future. So, together, let us live and share the joy of the Gospel, the joy of being consecrated to Christ and of being at his service.

Sr. Bed Guerda SJA

*Our Sisters who went to their heavenly abode*

**Sister Marie Armelle LABOUERE**  
**1925-2023**



Dear Sister Marie Armelle,

Today we gather around you in this church. It's here in Plouguenast that you began your journey within the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition.

Upon your return from Tunisia, you wrote in this retirement home of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit where you lived for 19 years, "I remain a missionary, I am interested in the life of our Congregation, and I hold it in my prayers."

Yes, until the end, you remained faithful, preserving your dynamism, and we are grateful to the Lord for having crossed paths with you.

Today, you are close to the One you served all your life. Rest in peace.

Goodbye.

Your sisters in the Community,

Plouguenast, June 2, 2023



## *In Memory of Sister Marie Pascale Pelletier*

May 23, 2023



Our Sister Marie Pascale has just left us. We loved her! With a calm and gentle temperament, she wanted to please everyone and often agreed with what each person said, so as not to cause any distress. The nurses who took care of her would say, "She never complained and always said yes." However, we witnessed her rebelling when an injustice struck someone else.

A nurse since her youth, she had a sense for the sick, knew how to listen to them, provide them with care, and could discern what might bring them joy or alleviate their suffering. In the past 30 years, she served our elderly Sisters, and until the end, remained faithful to this mission as she accompanied Sister Colette BERNARD, watching over her during her final night. It was just last January!

Faithful to her nursing mission, she participated in the REPSA (Religious in the Health Profession) for many years to enhance her knowledge, share her convictions, and rejuvenate herself for better service.

Attentive to those who were suffering, Sister Marie Pascale chose, upon her arrival here, even when she was fully capable, to join the "Trait d'Union 77" association to welcome the families of prisoners who were waiting for visitation at the Meaux penitentiary centre. She used her utmost sensitivity to alleviate the suffering of these families. And she also found numerous friends there with whom she remained in contact, as evidenced by her address book.

Sister Marie Pascale had chosen religious life to live her relationship with God and her brothers and sisters. Within the community, she was a pleasant companion and full of attentiveness. She remained faithful to prayer, both communal and personal, to contemplation, and to reading. Open to everything that could nourish her faith, she shared her life and mission, especially with the Sisters of her congregation in the "Group on the Move". With words full of poetry, she knew how to write small texts for celebrations or significant events that reflected the subtlety of her heart.

However, it was a bit risky to ask her to drive you to a specific place in a car. You were certain to end up going in the opposite direction or to wander around for a while before reaching your destination. Similarly, especially in her final days, it was difficult for her to find a document among her belongings, as she wanted to collect everything to ensure she wouldn't forget anything!

Today, and since the announcement of her departure, we entrust her to God, through the intercession of Mary, the Handmaid of the Lord. May He welcome her with all the beauty and challenges she experienced. May He reveal to her His face of light and peace.

Les communautés de Vanves et de Meaux

May 23, 2023

**Poem read at the end of the Mass**

Someone dies and it's like footsteps that cease...  
But what if it was a departure for a new journey?  
Someone dies and it's like a door slamming shut...  
But what if it was an opening to new landscapes?  
Someone dies and it's like a tree falling...  
But what if it was a seed sprouting in new soil?  
Someone dies and it's like a silence that screams...  
But what if it helps us hear the fragile music of life?  
Someone dies and it's like Jesus on Calvary,  
And what if it's communion with His resurrection and eternal joy?



## *Sister Rolande LOBRICHON*

**1927-2023**



Rolande Marie Lobrichon was born on December 27, 1927, in Ain, in the vicinity of Bény near Bourg-en-Bresse. Her two brothers, just like her, were familiar with the farm work. The times were tough back then, and life wasn't easy. She grew up in a profoundly Christian and dedicated family, acting in the name of her faith, always ready to offer various services to the parish or within the village. In her old age, the mention of the passing of her two brothers and parents would evoke in her a feeling of solitude and occasionally sadness, "I am alone."

The nurturing family environment, characterized by love, generosity, faith, and openness to others, enabled Rolande to heed the Lord's call to dedicate her life. She desired to become a missionary and chose the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition, just like her cousin, Sister Jeanne Françoise.

She left her family in July 1948 and journeyed to Marseille for her religious formation. After taking her first vows, Rolande was supposed to go to Syria – she enjoyed recounting this event that brought her joy - but due to an unforeseen circumstance, she couldn't travel to the Orient. Following this disappointment, all her missionary energies were channelled solely within France, primarily in pastoral roles, in various places marked by the challenges of agricultural labour. She was comfortable in this environment; one she knew well and that had shaped her.

In particular, her extended stay in Aisne - an area with a dwindling Christian presence - for 23 years allowed her to truly showcase her abilities for evangelization, not without encountering numerous challenges, especially the shortage of priests. For instance, when the priest of Condé en Brie passed away, Rolande "became the priest," as the Christians would say. She had been entrusted by her bishop with the task of baptizing children and young people. A family from that place still holds a special bond with her, as do a few nuns, the Clarisses of Cormontreuil.

Every Sunday afternoon, she would routinely visit an abbey to rejuvenate herself, ensuring that her enthusiasm and missionary zeal remained refreshed when working with children and young people. How many kilometres would she not travel from Condé to Notre-Dame de Liesse during youth gatherings?

Rolande would pray extensively to St. Joseph and St. Emilie, actively introducing others to them. Wherever she went, she was cherished for remaining simple, open and welcoming individual, characterized by gentleness and fervour in her apostolic endeavours.

Upon arriving at St Affrique "in the house of our elders" in 2010, she faithfully engaged in community life and the activities of the house. Gradually, she accepted the support offered through tailored and respectful assistance until the day of July 10, 2023, when she departed from us.

May Sister Rolande now pray for us who are on the journey towards our definitive encounter with Jesus.

The community of St Affrique,

July 11, 2023

## *Sr Anthony Ann Nolan*



Sr Anthony was born in Ireland and raised in a Catholic family who taught her to appreciate family, creation and the gifts given by God. She knew the Sisters of St Joseph in Northern Ireland where she attended their boarding school. God touched her heart and she decided to follow her vocation by joining the Congregation.

Going to Marseilles at the age of seventeen she did her Novitiate. After her Profession she went to Liverpool and completed studies at the Oxford University. Final vows were pronounced in Manchester with some other Sisters.

The rest of her life was spent in the Holy Land. First at the Foyer in Jerusalem as a teacher for six years and another six years in Jaffa. This was followed by eighteen years in the school at Ramleh where she was a mother for all. Later she went to

Nazareth for around thirty years as a teacher, Superior and Provincial. In 2018 she went to Ramleh and then to Notre Dame De Grace where she died.

Sr Anthony is remembered for her lovely smile, tender heart and generosity towards all. She worked for God's glory helping the poor and broken families. 'Thank you', Sr Anthony for your presence, your vocation and the love you shared in this world.

Sr. Valentina Sala



## *Sister Salwa Saliba 1925 – 2023*

Sister Salwa Saliba was born in Bteghrine, Lebanon, on December 25, 1925. She joined the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition on April 24, 1944, and made her first profession in Nazareth, Holy Land. She remained on mission in the country where she primarily worked in education, pursuing higher studies and teaching the Arabic and French languages in secondary classes. She was a very skilled educator, greatly caring for her students.



Sister Salwa was a gem, a soul of prayer, a person who worked tirelessly for the Congregation. She loved Saint Emilie and always took her as an example for her life. She requested that a picture of Saint Emilie be placed in the Church on the day of her funeral...

*“She was a humane person in her relationships with everyone, an example of piety and fidelity, a transparent individual, humble in her work, and compassionate in her interactions with people, encouraging one another to work and above all, not to waste time...”*

*A sister who lived with her during her novitiate.*

In 1975, she was appointed General Counselor at the General House in Fontenay sous-bois, France. She worked in the archives of the Congregation. In 1986, she was appointed Provincial Superior of Lebanon-Syria where she was loved and appreciated by all the sisters. She worked with great courage and apostolic zeal in service of the Province's mission.

After completing her mandate as Provincial in 1992, she spent two years in Kleat, then 10 years in Deir el Kamar, and a further 19 years in Kleat. She remained unchanged, always seeking the well-being of her sisters and the Congregation, following the example of Saint Emilie.

She was also a blessing to her family, loving everyone and striving to maintain unity and friendship among those who regularly visited her during her time in Kleat, especially throughout her illness. At her passing, everyone was present to accompany her in prayer and mourning.

*The testimony of a young man on the day of the funeral:*

*He said, “I experienced this time in an atmosphere of Peace and Calm, as if we were paying tribute to Sister Salwa...”*

**Rest in peace Sister Salwa**

**May your memory and your life  
continue to live in our hearts.**

**Sister Amal Mouawade, SJA**



## *The Process of Formation*

### *Province of Myanmar*

In order to continue to deepen our Incarnational Spirituality a variety of formative courses were held during the year. They were animated by the Provincial Formation Commission which aims to promote and enable a holistic and integrated approach to formation at all levels whilst taking into account the needs and aptitudes of each Sister. The accompanying photos show the diversity of opportunities offered to the Sisters of the Province.

In our preparation we kept in mind the sentiments of St Emilie who saw the importance of educating oneself so as to be zealous for the Mission entrusted to us. Some workshops and sessions were conducted by Professors and were enthusiastically entered into by the Sisters. They were characterized by a willingness to learn and share with each other. When appropriate and possible, all were interspersed with time for reflection, sharing and interpretation according to the life and spirituality of St Emilie.

What was especially encouraging was to hear about the message contained in ‘*Laudato Si*’ bringing us to a new awareness and commitment of how to care for our common home. Several of the Sessions were for the younger members, the Juniors and Pre Postulants. Motivation for these came from the words of Pope Frances in his letter to Consecrated People. (154)

*I would especially like to say a word to those of you who are young. You are the present since you are already taking an active part in the lives of your Institutes, offering all the freshness and generosity of your “yes”. At the same time, you are the future for soon you will be called to take on roles of leadership in the life, formation, service and mission of your communities. You will be actively engaged in dialogue with the previous generation. In fraternal communion you will be enriched by their experiences and wisdom, while at the same time inspiring them by your own energy and enthusiasm to recapture their original idealism. In this way the entire community can join in finding new ways of living the gospel and responding more effectively to the need for witness.*

Together with them, let us pray and work for peace and reconciliation in Myanmar by seeking constantly for a right wisdom.

Sr Mary Win SJA



Ongoing formation experience of pre postulants in Sanchaung Yangon

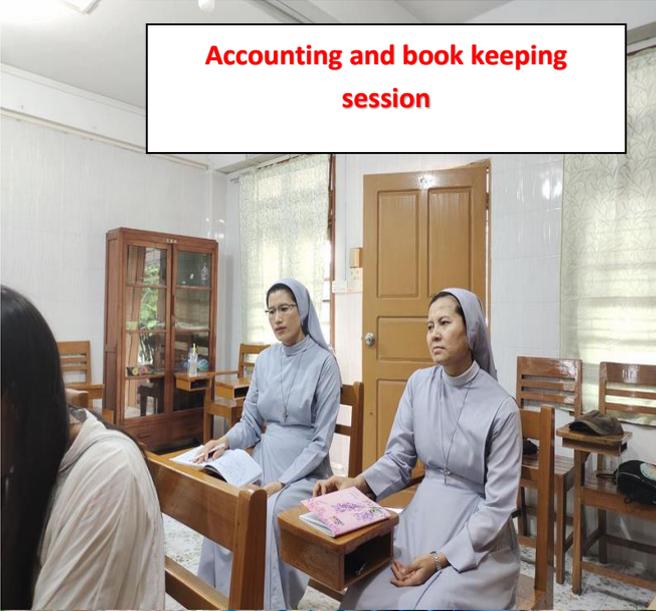




Taking Pastoral theology and ministry (MIRS YANGON)



**Accounting and book keeping session**



**Learning aging process**



## *Conclusion of the Juniorate with thanksgiving*

*&*

## *Final Professions in Rome*

*The Juniorate of two years which was in Gaillac concluded here in Rome after their one month retreat. On 24th August we had the thanksgiving mass during which 6 Sisters from Myanmar made their Final Profession.*



**Sister Rebecca HNIN HNIN AYE**  
**Sister Rose KAMAN JA NAN**  
**Sister Gratia MYAT SU KHAING**  
**Sister Elizabeth SHWE NU**  
**Sr. Matalena MULAY**  
**Sister Elizabeth AWI DEIH CING**



*It was our pleasure to welcome some of their friends and relatives from Myanmar studying or residing here in Rome.*







Pope Francis

“In order to provide more time for extended discernment, I have established that this Synodal Assembly will take place in two sessions: The first on 4-29 October 2023 and the second in October 2024.”

Let us unite ourselves with the whole church in prayer.

