



Voices of our Sisters and the Collaborators

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

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Dear Sisters, Dear Readers,

As we prepare to publish this new issue of our bulletin, we do so in a world marked by war, instability, and uncertainty. Many people today live with fear, concern for the future, and questions about what tomorrow will bring. The reality around us can sometimes feel heavy and challenging. From here comes our deep trust: *“Be not afraid Joseph...”*

In such a context, our bulletin becomes more than just a publication. It can be a sign of connection, unity, and hope. It can remind us that even in difficult times, life continues, mission continues, and faith continues. Through our shared stories, experiences, and reflections, we can offer light and encouragement to one another.

Although this issue contains fewer articles than we hoped, this situation is also an opportunity. It is an invitation to each one of you to contribute, to share your experiences, your initiatives, your joys, and even your challenges. Your voice matters. Your creativity matters. Our bulletin becomes richer when it reflects the diversity and vitality of our communities.

Let us use this space to communicate hope, to strengthen communion, and to share what God is doing in our midst. Writing is a simple but powerful way to build bridges across distances and cultures.

I leave you with the words of St. Emily

“I do not lack tribulations, and I foresee many battles to be fought and difficulties to be overcome, yet never has my courage being greater nor my confidence in God more complete. I can say with St Paul that the grace of God is sufficient for me, and that it is powerful enough in me to maintain my soul in peace and even in a kind of joy, which makes me truly happy” To Mme D'Aubilly 28/02/1845

I look forward to seeing this bulletin grow as a living expression of our Congregation.

With gratitude and fraternal affection,
Sister Vicky Giacaman

Book Launch of St. Emilie's Story - A celebration of Faith, Legacy and Renewal

On Friday, 28 November 2025, the Christ the King Parish in Beaconsfield, Perth, welcomed around 90 guests for the official launch of the revitalised biography, *St. Emilie's Story*. The gathering brought together Sisters, Friends and members of the wider community in a warm atmosphere marked by gratitude, fellowship and celebration.

The updated book, written in contemporary, accessible language, presents the inspiring life of St. Emilie de Vialar [1797- 1856] across 32 beautifully crafted chapters. It preserves the richness of the original text while making her story more engaging for modern readers. Through these pages, readers encounter St. Emilie's courage, faith, compassion, and extraordinary commitment to serving the poor and vulnerable.

The event began with a communal prayer. Sr. Lilian Bong, Delegation Leader, welcomed the guests and expressed appreciation to Sr. Dorothy Vella Zarb, the former Superior General and Sr. Jacqueline the former Provincial, who were inspired to take the initiative to rewrite the story.

Dr Maryanne Branson, the Author of the book, was invited to share her thoughtful reflections on its impact and significance. Her words highlighted the powerful legacy St. Emilie leaves behind, a legacy of service, resilience and profound love. Dr Angela McCarthy too shared insights before officially launching the book.

A heartfelt thanks by Sr. Lilian Bong who made the publication possible in particular Sr. Margaret Anne, Egmont and other members in the committee for their hard work in getting ready the book on time and organising this beautiful event.

A special Note of Appreciation from Sr. Renee Quadros, Superior General was read, honouring the dedication behind this project and affirming its value for the Congregation and each of its members. Sr. Noelline Thin Zar Win and Sr. Elizabeth Rose presented a bouquet to Dr. Angel McCarthy and the author Maryanne Branson.

Guests enjoyed deserts and refreshments as the celebration continued. Copies of *St. Emilie's story* were made available for contribution, with many eager to take home this renewed account of a remarkable woman whose life continue to inspire today.

Sr. Geetha.

Dr Angela McCarthy



Sisters Celebrate Launch of *Emilie's Story*, Honouring Catholic Heritage and a Remarkable Woman of Faith

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition gathered with friends, parishioners, and members of the wider community on Friday evening 28 November 2025, to celebrate the launch of *Emilie's Story*, a newly published book honouring the life, spirituality, and enduring legacy of their foundress, St Emilie de Vialar.

Held at the Christ the King Parish Centre in Beaconsfield, the event drew a warm crowd eager to learn more about the woman whose vision continues to shape the Congregation's mission across the world. The book – authored by Maryanne Branson – offers a rich and accessible account of Emilie's deep faith, her courageous leadership, and her commitment to serving the poor, the vulnerable, and the forgotten.

The launch was formally conducted by Dr. Angela McCarthy, who spoke about the relevance of Emilie's life in today's world. She highlighted the foundress's strong sense of purpose, her unwavering trust in

God's providence, and her tireless work for justice and compassion. "Emilie's courage and clarity of heart remain a powerful example for us," Dr McCarthy said. "Her story reminds us that holiness is lived through action – through responding to the needs before us."

Author Maryanne Branson expressed gratitude to the Sisters for their support and for entrusting her with telling such a significant story. She reflected on the research and inspiration behind the book, describing it as both a historical journey and a spiritual encounter.

Sisters from across the region attended the launch, taking the opportunity to reconnect, celebrate their heritage, and share memories of how Emilie's charism continues to shape their ministries in education, aged care, pastoral outreach, and community development. The evening concluded with light refreshment and lively conversation, as attendees purchased signed copies of the book to take home. *Emilie's Story* is now available through the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition.

Juliana Fimmel.
Office Manager

Maryanne Branson, Author



EMILIE'S STORY

On the 28 November 2025, I gathered with my Sisters and many of our Past Pupils, Friends and Benefactors for the launching of "Emilie's Story", a more modern approach to our Foundresses' life, which is depicted in much detail. Incidentally, the Launching took place at Christ the King Parish Community Centre, a Parish in which our Sisters worked for 90 years.

There was much chit-chat as people greeted each other and renewed friendships. It was very satisfying to meet up with people we knew but may not have seen for some time. All in all, there was an "aura" of happiness in the room.

Food was served prior to the official proceedings followed by introductory speeches before the launching. To begin with Sr Margaret Anne gave a resume of the book in which she praised Maryanne's commitment to the writing of this book. Sister also spent a lot of time and energy researching St Emilie's Life and helping the project come to fruition. Congratulations Margaret Anne.

It was pleasing to note that Sr Renee, General Superior of the Congregation, had a special message of thanks for Maryanne Branson, Author of the book. This was read by Sr Lilian.

I think all present were very pleased with the evening; their applause said enough.

Sr Bernadette Casey.

**Sisters with MaryAnne
and Dr Angela**



These summaries give three different perspectives of the Book Launch of *Emilie's Story*.

A well-deserved recognition
for the teaching of the French language:
Sr Manar Sony and Sr Frida Nasser receive
the decoration of the *Palmes académiques*.*

Our two sisters, Sr Manar Sony and Sr Frida Nasser, have been honoured by the French State for their academic merits:

Sister Manar was decorated on 16 September 2025 at the French Embassy in Tel Aviv for her commitment to promoting the teaching of the French language in our Saint Joseph School in Nazareth.

Sister Frida received the same distinction on 11 February 2026 at the French Consulate in Jerusalem for her commitment to teaching and preserving the French language, particularly at the Holy Land School in Jerusalem.

Their decoration brings honour to the entire province and to the Congregation. As missionaries and fruits of the mission of our sisters, Sister Manar and Sister Frida have valued, and continue to value through their commitment, the precious bond that remains and continues to grow with the country of origin of Saint Emilie and of our Congregation.

Mabrouk (Congratulations), very dear sisters, and thank you from all of us!

** The Order of the Palmes Académiques is a French honorary order established in 1955. It is the oldest non-military honorary order. Today, this distinction honours certain members of the educational community, whether teachers or not. It is awarded to individuals who have rendered outstanding services to the French national education system, and it may also be granted to foreigners and to French citizens living abroad who actively contribute to the promotion of French culture throughout the world.*

And here are the speeches that Sr Manar and Sr Frida delivered during the presentation of the decorations:

Tel Aviv, 16 September 2025

Mr Ambassador,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is with great emotion and immense gratitude that I receive the *Palmes Académiques* today. This distinction touches me deeply, but beyond my person, it honours our Saint Joseph School of Nazareth and the entire educational community that brings it to life.

Founded in 1854 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition, our school has always upheld the mission of education and openness, supporting the presence of the French language and culture in Galilee.

After an interruption of eight years, the teaching of French has regained its place in our curriculum for the past three years. We chose with conviction and enthusiasm to reintegrate it into our school programme. Today, we are happy and proud to see 330 students following this path. They are rediscovering a magnificent language that opens the door to a rich culture and transmits values of humanism, dialogue, and solidarity. Finally, teaching French is a choice to give our students a key to think differently, communicate with other cultures, and dream bigger.



This project would never have come to life without strong cooperation. I would like to express here my sincere gratitude to *L'Œuvre d'Orient* and to the French Embassy, whose support and trust strengthen our determination to promote and spread the French language and Francophonie within our school.

Receiving this distinction today is not an end for me, but an encouragement. An encouragement to continue this mission, to strengthen the place of French in our school, and to uphold the values of education.

But above all, it is a call to the future: to believe in the strength of young people, in the richness of dialogue between our countries, and in the power of education. With you, with our students, and with all those who share this conviction, we are nurturing generations that are open, curious, and confident, moving toward a future filled with hope.

Thank you.

Sr. Manar Sony

Jerusalem, 11 February 2026

Mr. Nicolas KASSIANIDES, Consul General of France,
Dear Sisters,
Dear Friends,

It is with great emotion and immense gratitude that I receive the *Palmes Académiques* today. This distinction touches me deeply.

I must admit that I am more accustomed to the palms of Palm Sunday. I am a little intimidated, as I would never have imagined receiving such an honour one day.

I would like to thank the people who thought of me for this honour, especially the representatives of the Cultural Cooperation and Action Service.

Beyond my person, this distinction honours our Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition.

You are surely aware that the Congregation arrived in this country more than 175 years ago. Three sisters, all of French nationality, arrived in Jaffa in 1848, called by the Custody of the Holy Land in agreement with the Latin Patriarchate.

Their mission was to provide education for girls. Since then, in their schools, our sisters have never ceased teaching French, and if I, a Palestinian from Bethlehem, speak this language that I love so much, it is thanks to all of them.

Even though I am no longer in the schools due to my age, I intend to continue speaking it, especially since for several years now I have proudly become a French citizen through naturalisation. French has been for me more than just learning a new language. It has represented another way of thinking, another way of expressing the world.

It has also allowed us to translate our culture and share it. That is why, while some of you speak Arabic “fluently,” as you say, we continue to rejoice when one of our students speaks French “like the birds.”

In receiving the honour you are granting me, I would like to express my gratitude to my Congregation. This recognition of my modest work is an encouragement for our sisters today to continue their efforts in teaching French and promoting its use, in our schools and beyond.

We hope to continue this work with the help of the teams of the French Consulate General and all those who work for Francophonie, the Fund for the Schools of the East, and the Barnabé network.

Thank you

Sr. Frida Nasser



The Joyful Commitment to Christ: The Perpetual Vows of Sr. Noelline Thinzar Win.



On 13 September 2025, the Australian Delegation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition's Sisters, along with parishioners, gathered in prayer and thanksgiving as I, Sr. Noelline Thinzar Win professed my Perpetual Vows: a lifelong commitment to follow Christ through the evangelical counsels of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience at St. Emilie Catholic Church, Canning Vale, Western Australia.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Bishop Don Sproxtton, who warmly addressed the assembly and reflected on the significance of a vocation freely offered to God. Drawing inspiration from the first reading, 1 Samuel 3:1–10, Bishop Sproxtton reminded us that the call of God often begins quietly and grows through attentive listening. Like Samuel responding, "Here I am, Lord," I, Sr. Noelline have answered the invitation to consecrate my life entirely to the Lord. The Gospel proclaimed on this blessed occasion, John 15:9–17, spoke of remaining in God's love and bearing lasting fruit. Bishop Sproxtton highlighted Jesus' words: "You did not choose me, but I chose you." These words beautifully echoed the vows I professed — a response to God's love, freely given and faithfully lived.

With profound reverence, I pronounced my vows in the presence of the Church, my Religious Sisters and parish community. As a symbol of my perpetual promise, I received a ring — signifying my eternal covenant with Christ, the Beloved.

Moved by grace and gratitude, I expressed my heartfelt thanks to all who supported my journey of formation and discernment. People were moved by this heartfelt speech. Most people have never seen a Religious Profession; many witnessed the presence of God during the celebration, especially when the I was pronouncing my vows with confidence and reverence. The celebration was very reverent, and it was a great witness for the people.



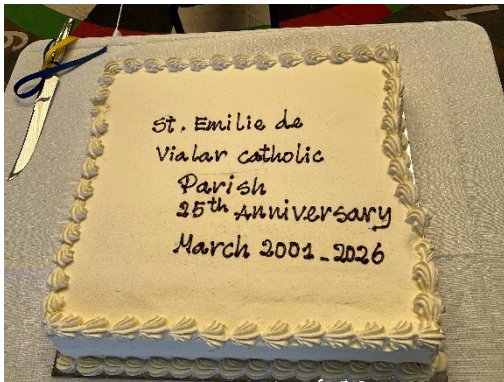
Following the Mass, the celebration continued with fellowship as the community rejoiced in my "yes" to God. Everyone enjoyed and received spiritual and physical nourishment.

We give thanks to God for the gift of my vocation and pray that my life of dedication may inspire others to listen to God's voice with courage, trust, and love.

Sr. Noelline Thinzar Win



Bishop Don Sproxtton, Concelebrating Priests and Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition



Celebrating 25 Years of Faith and Community at Saint Emily Parish Perth Western Australia

We are blessed to have a parish named after Saint Emily, our foundress. This year, the 15th of March the parish joyfully celebrated the 25th anniversary of its establishment; a significant milestone in its journey of faith, growth, and service.

“From humble beginnings, Saint Emily Parish has flourished into a vibrant, multicultural, and active faith community. Over the past 25 years, parishioners from diverse backgrounds have come together to worship, serve, and support one another. In doing so, they have embodied the spirit of Christ’s love that lies at the heart of the Church. What began as a small community has gradually become a living witness of unity in diversity, where faith is nurtured and shared through everyday life.” Archbishop of Perth

To mark this special occasion, a commemorative book was published, highlighting both the life and mission of Saint Emily and the active presence and engagement of the Sisters within the parish. The publication serves as a testament to the spiritual heritage of the parish and the ongoing contributions of those who have helped shape its journey over the years.

The celebration was made even more meaningful by the presence of our Superior General Sister Renee, along with the Vicar, Sister Anita and the Bursar Sister Rachel. Their presence was not only an honour but also a profound sign of communion and support. It reminded the parish community of its connection to the wider Congregation and the shared mission that unites them across different places and cultures. Their participation brought encouragement, joy, and a renewed sense of belonging, strengthening the bonds between the parish and the Congregation. It was a moment of grace for



all of us to celebrate together, affirming the importance of unity, guidance, and shared spiritual responsibility.



As the Superior General continues her visitation, we join in prayer, asking God to sustain her and all those accompanying her with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May this time of visitation be fruitful, bringing renewal, inspiration, and deeper communion within the Congregation.

With gratitude for the past 25 years and hope for the future, Saint Emily Parish continues its mission, rooted in faith, growing in love, and alive in service.



Sister Vicky Giacaman

Silver Jubilee Celebration



This year is especially significant as the Church celebrates *the Jubilee Year of Hope*. I feel privileged to mark 25 years of dedicated service on World Mission Sunday, 19th October 2025, with deep joy and gratitude to God for His faithfulness and love. The celebration was held at St. Louis Hospital Chapel, Aleppo, Syria.

The meaningful Eucharistic celebration was lovingly organized by our community sisters. The main celebrant, Fr. George Fattal, SDB, led us to reflect on God's generosity and His countless blessings. The inspiring liturgy, beautiful decorations, and delicious meal were all thoughtfully prepared by our dear sisters Anne-Marie Gagnon, Arcangela Orsetti, Martha Bourjaili, and Alphonsa Aye Aye Mar.

Sr Sengol

The love, support, and kind words of appreciation from our sisters, in recognition of my service, gifts, and prayers, lifted my spirit to praise and thank the Lord, even while being far away from my own country. As I look back on my missionary journey, I see how the Almighty has accompanied me in marvellous ways—through my ministry, joys, sorrows, and challenges—purifying me and being my strength and guide throughout these 25 years of perseverance in my vocation. With His grace, I renew my commitment forever.

It was also a pleasant surprise and great joy to receive wishes and blessings over the phone from our Superior General, Sr. Renée Quadros, and her Councilors, as well as from our sisters in Lebanon, Syria, India, and the Chapter group. I was deeply touched by your thoughtfulness and love. Thank you, dear sisters.



Sr Sengol renewing her vows

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to each of our community members for making this beautiful day a truly memorable one. May St. Emilie continue to bless us all.



The celebrant Fr. Georges Fattal SDB
Srs Anne-Marie, Arcangela, Martha, Sengol, Alphonsa, Mme Gagnon

With love and gratitude,
Sr. Sengol Rani.





Sr Sengol does the first reading



Sr Sengol presents her intercessions to the Lord



Sr Sengol



Sr Sengol « Silver Jubilee » 25 years



Sr Sengol with the gifts



Sr Anne-Marie and the community of the Foyer
Sr Martha Sr Sengol Sr Alphonso

The Journey of My Vocation
Final Vows 19th March 2026

The journey of vocation did not begin with immediate clarity, but gradually took shape through the ordinary events of daily life. At the beginning of my vocation, I humbly admit that my first inspiration was not very profound. It was simply a desire to wear the religious habit, to become like the Sisters I had seen, yet God used that small beginning as the starting point of something far greater than I could have understood at that time. A question once arose in my heart: **“What does God**



want from my life?” This question became the beginning of my search and the driving force that led me to gradually learn how to listen to His voice. Although there were many moments when I did not fully understand, I chose to continue walking forward with faith and trust. From an unclear beginning, I slowly grew in

confidence through learning, prayer, and community life. In this process, I learned to accept my limitations, to face my uncertainties, and to grow through them. In moments of weakness, I experienced profoundly that God is always present and never abandons me. I came to understand that the offering of one’s life is not founded on human perfection, but on the love and faithfulness of God.

Living within the congregation, I experienced the unity of the congregation and the universality of the Church through differences in culture, language, and ways of life, and I am nourished. Thus, my perpetual profession is a response to the love of God who calls. It is not because I am perfectly ready, but because I trust in Him. I



choose to say **“Yes”** with confidence that every step of my life is guided by God. For me, consecrated life in living the vows is not merely an obligation, but a grace, a path of joy, and a collaboration with God in bringing His love to others.

As I continue my journey, I do not know what the future holds. Yet I believe that I can live each day and each present moment as faithfully as possible,



moving forward with confidence without regret for what has passed. I am determined



to live each day faithfully to my vocation, with faith and hope, striving to be a witness of God's love and a sign of hope to all whom I encounter. In the end, I entrust my whole life into the hands of God. Though I do not know the future, I ask only for the courage to respond to Him **"today"** with faith and trust. Let's continue to pray for one

another and moving forward with joy in God's guiding hands.



Sister Theresa Alita Kunaphuet