

Interconnections

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"Journeying towards the other shore as Pilgrims of Hope"

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" Let us go over to the other side..."

(Mk 4: 35)

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JUBILEE YEAR 2025:

CROSSING TO THE OTHER SHORE AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The celebration of the Ordinary Jubilee Year is part of the tradition of the Catholic Church. Since 1470 it has been celebrated every 25 years. It has its roots in the Jewish tradition (cf. Lev 25), when it was celebrated every 50 years and had the objective of restoration, through the forgiveness of debts, liberation of slaves, restructuring of properties, rest for the land.

Over the years, some aspects of the Judaic jubilee year were lost and others were added, such as the Holy Door, which was included by the church from 1423. The door is a symbol, "it is an invitation to make a passage, a Passover of renewal, to enter into the new life offered to us through our encounter with Christ" (Pope Francis).

The entire Church, throughout the world, is living this Jubilee Year; pilgrimages and celebrations have been organized in the Dioceses. Many pilgrims, from all over, travel to Rome to pass through the Holy Door.

In this great movement, there is a risk of reducing the Jubilee Year to big celebrations, a lot of emotion, even - dare we say so it - to profits and tourism. Not that this is bad, but if it is reduced to trips and celebrations, we can lose sight of the real meaning: conversion of heart that manifests itself in living according to the way shown us by Jesus.

Pope Francis himself presents Jesus in the context of the jubilee: "At the start of His ministry in the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus embraced the concept of the Jubilee and gave it new and ultimate meaning. He revealed Himself as the face of God on earth, sent to redeem the poor, free captives, and manifest the Father's compassion for the wounded, the fallen, and the hopeless."

We could ask ourselves: As members of the Holy Family, what does this jubilee year say to us? And what kind of liferesponse are we making? What kind of pilgrimage are we undertaking? What is the hope that moves us?

Through the Charism, we are in tune with Jesus who grew up in Nazareth, with Joseph and Mary, with their desire for communion and their way of life. Communion is grace on God's part and commitment on our part.

In this time of war, destruction, hunger and so much pain, the call comes to us to journey with our brothers and Sisters, an interior path of communion of heart and prayer, as well as an outward movement that takes the form of gesture and action. In the creativity of love, we can always discover something to do and ways to join with others. Let us hear once again the words of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles: "... you follow them in the valley of tears... you share with them all the fatigue, the trials and dangers of the journey".

The words of Pope Leo VIX are inspiring: "We are pilgrims of hope, because among people, peoples and creatures, we need someone who decides to move towards communion.



Others will follow us. Like Irenaeus in Lyon, in the second century, in each of our cities, let us once again build bridges where there are walls today. Let us open doors, unite worlds, and there will be hope."

The journey to the other shore as pilgrims of hope invites us to keep our gaze fixed on Christ, who awaits beyond the waters of uncertainty and struggle. The path is not only external, but also deeply internal: a passage from fear to faith, from isolation to communion, from despair to hope. Each step taken with trust and solidarity becomes a bridge to the other shore, where God's promise of renewal and peace awaits us. As pilgrims of hope, we walk together, guided by the light of the Risen Lord, transforming the ordinary paths of life into sacred journeys of love and grace.

May this Jubilee Year revive in us the courage to start again, to open doors where hearts are closed, to heal wounds with tenderness and to bring hope where darkness seems to prevail. Let us move together towards the other shore, trusting that God's mercy is the wind that carries us and his love is the horizon that awaits

Sr. Geni Dos Santos

CROSSING TO THE OTHER SHORE: HOPE BEYOND COMFORT



This year, our hearts are touched by a single word that resonates throughout the Church: HOPE. As we journey through this jubilee year, we are called to live as pilgrims of hope, rediscovering a virtue that gives meaning to our faith and courage to our mission.

But what is this hope that the Church celebrates so fervently? It is more than optimism or wishful thinking. Hope is a confident and spiritual expectation of the fulfilment of God's promises, rooted in faith in Christ and his resurrection. It gives us strength in trials, sustains us in suffering, and keeps us anchored in the conviction that love and life will triumph over sin and death. Hope is a state of heart, based not on circumstances but on faith. As St. Paul reminds us, 'hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts.'

Opening our hearts to hope;

In our community at the Generalate, these words have come to life in our daily lives. We have seen God's promises come true when we have opened our hearts to Him and to one another. This year, our experience of hope found its



most beautiful expression when we welcomed the Young Church into our home during the Youth Jubilee (25 July to 9 August). It was a season filled with joy, prayer and renewal, a lively encounter with a new generation of believers, full of life and faith. They came from Spain, Peru, Lesotho and Poland, bringing with them songs, dances, laughter and prayers. They brought light, energy and hope, reminding us that the faith we cherish will continue to flourish long after we are gone.

This experience was a concrete response to the call of the 2021 General Chapter: 'to move out of our comfort zones and cross over to the other shore'. At the same time, Pope Francis' words - 'Get up from your sofa!' - challenged us.

And that is what we did. We put aside our holidays and opened our doors to welcome Pilgrims of Hope. On some days, we hosted up to thirty people under our roof. We offered them our time, our listening ear and our love. We shared their joys, their reflections and even their tiredness after long days of celebration and prayer. In their company, we rediscovered that true hope does not come from ease, but from encounter.

We were particularly touched by the perseverance of the older participants who, despite illness or frailty, joyfully walked the crowded streets of Rome, even with crutches. Their courage was a living testimony that anything is possible with God. Opening our home was not simply an act of hospitality; it was a pilgrimage of the heart. We could easily have chosen comfort, but saying yes transformed us. Our home became a place of prayer, laughter and sharing of faith. We didn't just talk about hope, we lived it.

The Jubilee of Consecrated Life;

Our journey of hope continued during the Jubilee of Consecrated Life, held from 8 to 12 October 2025. We welcomed Sisters from Poland, France Madagascar and to the Generalate. More than 16,000 consecrated persons from nearly 100 countries gathered in Rome, forming a living mosaic of faith and devotion. Among them were religious brothers and sisters, monks and contemplatives, members of secular institutes, members of the Order of Virgins, hermits and representatives of new forms of consecrated life. We all participated as far as we could in this magnificent, profound and historic event.

This Jubilee, organised by the Dicastery for Evangelisation and the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life, opened with a pilgrimage through the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, a powerful symbol of grace and renewal. The day was filled with prayers, hymns and reconciliation, setting the tone for a week of reflection and encounter.

The opening prayer vigil, presided over by Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime SDB,

focused on hope in suffering, patience in daily life and mission as a way of life. In his homily, he entrusted consecrated life to Mary, the living image of faith, hope and peace.

The following day, Pope Leo XIV celebrated the Eucharist in St. Peter's Square, inviting all consecrated persons to live the Beatitudes and the Gospel call to ask, seek and knock - to ask with humility, seek holiness and knock in loving service.

Throughout the week, the city of Rome itself became a living witness of hope. Communities gathered to pray, dialogue and meet around the themes of fraternity, listening and care for Cardinal creation. George Jacob Koovakad presided at the Eucharist in the Paul VI Hall, where Sister Simona Brambilla MC offered a beautiful image: consecrated life as the yobel, a horn whose multiple sounds create a symphony of hope. Artistic performances and testimonies celebrated the iov of mission and unity. Father Giacomo Costa SJ invited everyone to move 'from I we.' emphasising importance of communion over individualism. Later, Pope Leo XIV reminded us that odality - walking together and sharing one's vocation - is the expression of Church's hope.

The last day was dedicated to peace. Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime called on everyone to be 'prophets of

hope and bearers of living water.' Sister Teresa Maya CCVI encouraged the creation of compassionate and non-violent communities in service to the marginalised. Workshops on mediation and dialogue offered concrete ways to live peace in daily life.

To conclude the jubilee, participants gathered at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, where some 4,000 of them their renewed vows. committing themselves to walk as 'pilgrims of hope on the path of peace'. Sister Brambilla concluded with these moving words: "Let us set out, pilgrims of hope, on the path of peace, taking with us the experience we have had and sharing it with all those we meet. "

Hope that transforms;

This jubilee revealed that consecrated life - rooted in hope and committed to peace - has the power to renew communities and inspire the world. Hope is not passive waiting, but active trust. It pushes us to step outside our comfort zone to meet others, to go beyond our limits to reach out to others. It is the courage to cross over to the other side where God awaits us with new possibilities. As pilgrims of hope, we continue to walk together, with open hearts and hands ready to serve. May the Triune God guide us on the paths of hope and peace, so that the grace we have received may renew the Church and the world.

"To move out of our comfort zones and cross over to the other shore"

Sr. Barbara SYGITOWICZ Generalate local community, Rome

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE





would like to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to all the Sisters, who took such good care of us and allowed us to have a truly unforgettable experience, both in Rome itself and at the Generalate.

From the moment our leader, Manolo, contacted the Sisters in charge, you were wonderful, giving us your attention, affection and warmth at all times, right up to our final farewell, which was so difficult for us because of the great affection we had developed for you.

When we arrived in Rome, you welcomed us with open arms and broad smiles, attending to us with great dedication. Both my group and I were deeply surprised to see your selfless dedication and example of service.

Each morning you welcomed us with joy and made us feel at home, with complete freedom to enjoy every corner of the house. Day after day, we undertook our pilgrimage with great intensity and energy, visiting wonderful places where we could pray, reflect and give thanks for everything we were experiencing.

One of the most special moments of our stay in Rome was the Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Square, together with different communities and realities of the Church. It was a moving experience that reminded us that we are all equal before Jesus.

In addition to this, one of the most enriching moments was the testimonies

you shared with us. Hearing your stories from the beginning, the obstacles you overcame, to your present life, inspired us deeply and helped us understand how to live with the Charism of our founder, Pierre Bienvenu, even in a world so complex and in need of God.

I do not want to forget the moment of prayer shared with another group staying at the house and with you, the Sisters who welcomed us. It was very special in strengthening what we experienced during the week and the pilgrimage.

For all this, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the entire community for your welcome, your complete dedication, and your unconditional love towards our group. Thanks to you, we were able to live an experience that will remain in our hearts forever.

Carlos Jiménez Youth of the Holy Family, Málaga, Spain

THE PLACE WHERE WE FEEL AT HOME...

Can there be anything interesting about a hundred-year-old Sisters' house in the forest on the outskirts of the city? For our youth — absolutely! One weekend, young people took part in a retreat organized by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, located in the Arturówek district of Łódź — far from the hustle and bustle of the city. As the young participants unanimously agreed: "With the Sisters, we feel at home." This thought perfectly fit the theme of

the retreat, which was held under the motto "Where do you live?"

Sisters Beata and Wiola shared the story of the calling of the first Apostles, who asked Jesus that very question. Both the Sisters and Father Łukasz, who gave the conference, pointed out that the question about "home" (in Greek oikos) referred less to a physical place

and more to relationships and the everyday life of the Messiah.

The young participants also had the opportunity for personal encounters with the Word during silent meditation before the Blessed Sacrament. A pleasant surprise was the presence of Fathers Jan and Jarek, Oblates, who celebrated Mass and delivered a homily on our relationship with God and other people.

We also took care to nurture human connections! To strengthen the bonds between participants, Sister Beata planned walks through the nearby forest. The cozy atmosphere in the upstairs room – affectionately called "the Upper Room" – also encouraged long conversations

(which, despite the Sisters' recommendations, lasted well into the night!), fun, and singing together. Paulina became our tea master, brewing honey tea that was drunk in large quantities throughout the retreat. Meanwhile, Patryk used his guitar skills to accompany us in singing a variety of songs: from religious hymns to scouting songs and even sea shanties. It's worth mentioning that not only Patryk's musical talents, but those of the entire group — which, as

Sister Wiola said, "is exceptionally musical" – greatly enriched the liturgy of the Holy Mass.

One of the highlights of the retreat was the evening trip to the cinema to watch a film about Saint Maximilian Kolbe. It made a deep impression on both the youth and the Sisters. The young people from Łódź had planned to see the film with their chaplain in the coming days, but Weronika

and Teresa admitted they would "seriously consider whether they want to go through it again." Meanwhile, Kacper laughingly confessed that Sister Beata's tears made him cry as well.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end. But to make those last moments last a little longer, the young people, as a thank-you to the Sisters for their hospitality, invited them to join in singing after the final lunch. And the closing words of the song "There is a place on this earth where everyone longs to return" gained a new and deeper meaning.



Łukasz Grusiecki, a retreat participant Poland

Newbridge & Rock Ferry Britain and Ireland



Celebration has а very important place in our lives. Life is filled with significant moments, whether about persons or events. Celebrating these milestones allows us to honour our past, enjoy the present, and inspire a hopeful future. They encourage individuals to acknowledge positive aspects of their lives a n d appreciate the contributions of others.

Each year in Britain and Ireland, our two Retirement Houses - Newbridge and Rock Ferry - are the venues where the Sisters celebrate their Jubilee years in Religious Life and give thanks for what has been. This year, nine of our sisters have reached significant moments in their faith journey. (Sisters Margaret O'Connell, Delaney 75 years, Esther Margaret McCabe, Teresa 70 years McElhone, and Sisters Ann Kearnev. Pauline Byrne, Pauline Harney, Joan Farrell, Maria Crowley, years). Eucharistic thanksgiving was, as always, at the heart of the celebrations in both communities.

Thereafter, in both houses, joy was unconfined as, in the words of Sr. Maria Crowley: "Jubilee was the common thread that brought us together where we gave thanks



for the gift of Mission, Communion, Hospitality. It was a day of reconnecting, storytelling and thanksgiving lived out in many different ways. It was a fun-filled day of laughter and a deep appreciation of all that has been possible."

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, however, there was something celebrate more to Newbridge. On the 26th May 1875, 150 years ago, four Holy Family Sisters left Rock Ferry and travelled by boat to Ireland where they were met and welcomed by Fr. Cooke, Oblate Provincial. He accompanied them to Newbridge by train. The Parish Priest and his Curate met them at the station and brought them by horse cab to the recently constructed convent house, which remains largely intact to this day and is considered a listed building.

Within a short time, the Sisters had started teaching in the school which was then part of the Convent, were visiting the sick and the poor in the locality and teaching catechism on Sundays in the nearby Church. Over the vears their involvement in education and other pastoral ministries increased and diversified as needs arose, such as membership of the Though Parish Team. the school is now under the patronage of the Diocese and staffed entirely by lay teachers, the Holy Family ethos remains, thanks to the Chaplaincy Team led by Sr. Kate Cuskelly and an energetic Holy Family Youth group she formed.

It was no surprise, therefore, that the annual Eucharistic Celebration for the beginning of this school year was also a celebration of the Holy Family Sisters' 150 years' presence in Newbridge. The Church was

filled to capacity with students, staff, as many of the sisters as were able to be there, which included two who had been pupils and one a teacher at the school. Bishop Denis of Kildare and Leighlin presided and, in his homily, spoke eloquently and appreciatively of the Holy Family Charism and how, by the Sisters' living

of it, many lives have been influenced.

When Mass concluded, Bishop Denis, the school Principal and others connected closely with the school in various capacities, joined us in the convent for table communion. Needless to say, body and mind were more than satiated with delicious food and delightful reminiscences.

In a final thanksgiving, all present expressed deep appreciation of the efforts of those who had worked behind the scenes to make the days of celebration so special.

COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY OF PBN MEMBERS

Two of our Holy Family Lay Members in Ireland, Mary Meagher and Clare Cruise are volunteers with the Newbridge Family Resource Centre. Mary has been a volunteer for the past twelve years, Clare for the past two.

Newbridge Family Resource Centre is a participative and empowering organisation that supports families while building capacity and developing leadership within the local community. The Centre promotes skills and wellbeing. Its aim is to improve the functioning of the participants by providing services and supports for families.

Our two Lay Members act as guides for the knitting and sewing club (the Pins & Needles

group). Sr. Margaret Bradley & Sr. Bridgid newly arrived in Newbridge also attended. It is a co-operative group, each helping the other 'To be Family and build Family'. The group is community-led, welcoming, based on trust and collaboration. The Lay Members secured funding from the Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board and are running a course on the basics of sewing machines – how to use them, make alterations and patchwork. Classes are held on Mondays & Tuesdays.

Through reaching out, sharing their skills and time to help others, Mary & Clare are following in the steps of the first Sisters, who under the guidance of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles, saw a need and answered the call in a practical way.

Sonas Chriost Group Newbridge Co. Kildare, Ireland





The Vocations Campfire was held on 27 September 2025 at Notre Dame de Déliverance Parish in Montreal, Canada. It was organised by the Apostolic Sisters and the young Lay-Members of the Holy Family. It was a truly joyful and grace-filled moment. Parents and children participated wholeheartedly, making it a lively and meaningful evening. The presence of families created a warm atmosphere of unity and love.

The theme of this vocational campfire was 'Arise and Shine as Children of God,' reminding everyone of our call to live with faith, joy and determination.

One of the most touching moments was when the Sisters shared their personal stories of vocation. Their words were full of sincerity, sacrifice and inspiration, leaving a deep impression on young and old alike. Listening to their journey of faith encouraged many hearts to reflect on God's call in their own lives.

The children participated joyfully by singing, reciting songs and sharing their reflections; the teenagers presented the different calls in the Bible, such as those of Paul, Matthew, Zacchaeus, John and Andrew, etc., while the parents enthusiastically supported them.

It was a beautiful experience of prayer, sharing and celebration in the light of Christ.

This vocations campfire was not just an event, but a true encounter with God's love, calling each of us to shine brightly as God's children. For us, members of the Holy Family, it was an opportunity to share our Charism with its different vocations and our commitment.

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A MAN OF HOPE...

With joy we commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the birth of a man of hope: our beloved Founder of the Holy Family, Pierre Bienvenu Noailles. Born in Bordeaux, France, on October 27, 1793, he became part of a very loving family of merchants, that of M. Pierre Noailles and Mme. Madeleine Richard: a home full of tenderness, faith and unity, that was looking forward to the birth of their eighth child.

These were difficult times for France, which

was still recovering from the French Revolution of 1789. Historian Peyrous B.(2005) relates that all social classes suffered greatly from the disruptions caused by revolutionary doctrines. He tells us that while the clergy were outlawed and persecuted, the nobility faced the scaffold and commerce was destroyed, plunged into financial ruin and chaos.

In the midst of this turmoil, the birth of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles occurred discreetly, but with a divine purpose. God had a plan for him, and through the shaping forces of family and time, he became a true "man of hope" - for his own time, for the spiritual family he would later found, and for countless people today. His writings and his tireless dedication to the founding of the Holy Family bear witness to this hope.

Let us consider his own words, full of compassion and inspiration:

"When you come to your Father in prayer, What do you want? What are you looking for? Some are asking for light in darkness, others want peace in the midst of anxieties, all have the desire to correspond to their vocation, to know what is expected of them, and to speak of their hopes..." (Spiritual Guide #149).

And his reflections on the simple and intimate life of the Holy Family:

"Holy Family, what a joy it is to contemplate you whom when, having put aside the occupations of the day, you met together to pray or to rest under the humble roof of Nazareth! Then a look, from the child Jesus, a word or a caress, meant so much to Mary after all her housework, and compensated Joseph for all his hard labour. Let me place at your feet, like an acceptable offering in your sight, all the thoughts, desires, words and actions of this day. May you recognise in me and in my activities the features typical of a child of yours, who should imitate you in everything and live only your life!" (Spiritual Guide #172)

Pierre Bienvenu Noailles's hope was also evident in his first actions as a priest. On January 8, 1820, three young women expressed their desire to dedicate their lives to God. On May 28 of that same year, he had founded with them the first community of the Holy Family (A Good Man Passed This Way,



1984). This humble beginning laid the foundation for the spiritual family we know today, with its diverse vocations.

As we celebrate his life, we thank God for blessing the Church with a man of exceptional virtues, gifts and values. His legacy challenges us as members of the PBN Family: *Are we living as people of hope, actively spreading the spirituality of communion in our world?*

On this day, in the Jubilee Year of the Universal Church, we reflect on the vision and mission of our Founder, which continue to guide us as a pilgrim people, walking together with one voice and one heart. We ask ourselves: What invitation does his life offer us to move forward as a Charismatic and vibrant Family of Hope?

"Let me place at your feet, like an acceptable offering in your sight, all the thoughts, desires, words and actions of this day."

Sr. Rubeni PEJERREY
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CELEBRATING THE SEASON OF CREATION: LAUDATO SI MOVEMENT IN RWANDA

On 4th October on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we the Laudato Si Animators in Rwanda joyfully joined the Christians of St. Francis Parish in Karama in the diocese of Kigali to celebrate the feast of St. Francis and to honor the climax of the Laudato Si celebration of the Season Of Creation.

The day began with a beautiful Mass led by Fr. Florent RUGIGA, reminding us that creation is a gift from God and that we are all called to protect it with love and responsibility.

During the celebration, Sister Micheline Kenda the vicecoordinator of Laudato Movement in Rwanda shared an inspiring message about Laudato Si. In her speech she explained to the Christians the meaning of Laudato Si Movement, taking a flashback of 10 years ago when Pope Francis wrote the encyclical that calls us to care for our common home. She highlighted that this Laudato Si calls everyone to act in the restoration of our mother earth irrespective of religion, race or status. In her words she said "This awareness of the whole for all has had the consequence of involving as many people as possible, because it is by walking together, thinking together and moving together that we can make a difference. Laudato Si opens our hearts to the universal and invites us to integrate elements all creation for a deep communion among ourselves as creatures and communion with God the creator..."

At thanksgiving, the Laudato Si members brought the trees that to be were planted to the place where mining company had removed all trees. They were blessed. After Mass; we held a colorful procescarrying sion

small trees as a symbol of new life and hope for our environment. Everyone joined with great enthusiasm, singing and praying together for the protection of nature. To conclude the day, we planted trees around the area. This simple but powerful act showed our commitment to care for the earth and to make our surroundings greener. It was a joyful moment of unity, faith, and love for God's creation.

The Laudato Si celebration was not only a day of prayer and action but also a reminder that each of us has a role to play in protecting the environment for future generations. After all activities we shared a scrumptious meal and it was a moment to get to know one another better through the conversations that were shared.





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At the end of this, we are grateful for having been inspired to follow the Laudato Si training online. We acquired great experience and we were able to share it with other people around Kigali and Ntarama communities. We appreciate ourselves for daring to be with hundreds of people desire to open with a ourselves up to a greater reality and to protect our mother earth.

Congratulations to all the new Laudato Si animators in our Sisters: Unit. Hyacintha MOOPISA, KINUBI Verdiane, Christine AHUMUZA, Clementine, NIYONSABA, Elizabeth **TUMWEBAZE** also sister Augustina **MPURU** in Gikongoro, as well as Pauline MANZUETO and Desiderate UWIFASHIJE. Fortunée NYIRAHITIMANA in Burkina Faso.

> Kigali Community Rwanda

JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH AND HOPE...



Two weeks ago, here in Lesotho a beautiful moment of fraternity unfolded as Religious Men and Women from different Congregations gathered at Mazenod Parish for a special celebration. The purpose of this gathering was deeply meaningful: to honour and celebrate the lives and fidelity of our fellow Religious Brothers and Sisters who are marking their 25th, 50th, and 70th Jubilees of Religious Commitment this year.

It was more than just a ceremony, it was a spiritual reunion of pilgrims who have journeyed together in faith, service and hope. The atmosphere was rich with joy, reverence, and shared stories of endurance, love, and grace. The witnessing of those who have walked decades in Religious Life was both humbling and inspiring for both younger and aged

members present. Their lives are testimonies to the theme we hold dear: "Journeying Towards The Other Shore As Pilgrims Of Hope"

A particularly enriching moment during the day was a session led by Fr. Charles Matsoso OMI, who offered

heartfelt and thought-provoking counsel on the reality of Religious Life today. He reminded us that being a Religious is not just about ministry or work, but about deep inner transformation, a lifelong journey of hope and healing. His words touched many hearts and helped us reflect more deeply on our personal vocations and community life.

Gatherings like these remind us that we are not alone in our mission. Though we come from different Congregations and Charisms, we are one in Christ, pilgrims walking together, lifting one another, and keeping the flame of hope alive.

Srs. Pauline MOKOMA & Calixtina MOHALE Lesotho

A BEAUTIFUL DAY OF LEARNING, SHARING AND CELEBRATION...

On the 14th September, something truly special happened in Lesotho at St. Monica's Leribe. Our boarding students from Holy Family and St. Mary's came together for a day that was filled with laughter, learning, and a deep sense of togetherness. It was one of those moments that remind us how wonderful it is to grow and journey side by side in faith and hope. We were blessed to welcome Advocate Mary Bosiu, whose words seemed to reach right into our hearts. She spoke gently but powerfully about the importance of good behaviour and the value of positive affirma-

tions. Through her talk, she encouraged the students to

speak kindly, not only to others, but also to them-

selves: to carry themselves with dignity, and to always choose kindness even when it is not easy. Her message felt like a light guiding us toward a more hopeful and compassionate way of living.

Another beautiful moment came when Sr. Rene Khiba shared about the Association of the Holy Family of Bordeaux. She helped the students understand more deeply the spiritual values

that inspire our common life: love, simplicity, unity, and openness to God's presence. Listening to her reminded me that i am part of something much larger: a family rooted in faith and guided by love. By the end of the day, joy filled every corner of St. Monica's. Students shared smiles, stories, dances, and songs, grateful for the chance to come together and celebrate. It was more than just an event, it was an experience

of communion and renewal.

As we continue our journey as pilgrims of hope, this day stands as a gentle reminder that when we walk together, learn from one another, and lift each other up, we are already moving toward "the other shore", the place where love and faith unite us all.

Sr. Victoria MOTA Lesotho

THE JOY OF BELONGING TO THE CHURCH—THE FAMILY OF GOD...



It is with immense joy and deep gratitude to the Lord that we celebrated two important events marking the life of our Religious

Family: the Golden Jubilee of our presence and evangelisation as Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux in the Parish of Blessed Anuarite, Idiofa/Manding, and the Silver Jubilee of Religious Life of Sister Régine BUKALANGI, and not forgetting the Silver Jubilee in our service of our dear Cook, Jean Marie MIMBU. This Jubilee takes place during that of the Jubilee of 2025 proclaimed for the universal Church by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope". The joy of this day coincided with the visit of our General Treasurer, Sister Veronica RAPITSO, who came for the first time to learn about the realities in which the Sisters of the Holy Family in Congo live. This was for us a favourable moment of thanksgiving and gratitude to the Lord who called us to his harvest, but also a moment of reflection on the journey we have



travelled.

Today, to celebrate fifty years of the presence of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Manding is to honour the story of seeds of life sown and taken root in the hearts of several generations.

Thanks to the four pioneering sisters (Agueda Macias, Joaquina Gonzalèz, Maria Oteiza and Rachel Van de Hauwe), who gave so much of themselves through teaching and pastoral and social work in the villages surrounding Idiofa.

The missionaries also 'sowed in tears' so that today we can 'reap with songs of joy,' because the effects of their heroic commitment are palpable. Currently, the baton has clearly been passed on to us, local-born missionaries, especially in the education of young people. In fact, our presence in the education of young people in primary school has undoubtedly

borne much fruit, producing leaders in our Congolese society and in the Church, the Family of God.

Our collaboration and participation in the pastoral work of the diocese is a visible sign of the realisation of the vibrant call once made by the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, when he invited Africans to become their own missionaries (cf. Pope Paul VI's message in Kampala!).

Thus, celebrating the years of apostolic presence is also a time to discover new needs, a time to take risks to bring about meaningful changes for the progress and advancement of our life of faith.

On this occasion, referring to the call of the 2021 General Chapter, which invited us to let go of certain ministries and areas of insertion order to make room for new insertions for the expansion of our Charism and in the context of collaboration as the Church-Family of God in the service of the mission, after a long period of discernment and dialogue with the local Bishop and the new Congregation of the Sisters of the Minims of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, recently inserted into the Diocese of Idiofa, we have joyfully and in an attitude of faith, trust and hope ceded the Manding community and the apostolic work: the TOMISA primary school to the latter for the continuation of the mission.

This is a way for us to welcome them and facilitate their integration into our local Church

Idiofa, while marking fraternal life within the universal Church. Here is an excerpt from the decree of Bishop José MOKO of Idiofa: "Having regard to the letter addressed to me by Provincial Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux concerning the closure of their community in the parish of Blessed Anuarite in Idiofa; Whereas it is my duty to ensure the organisation of the materials necessary for the development of the mission; Having regard to canon 609, which states that 'the houses of a religious institute are erected by the competent authority in accordance with the constitutions, with the prior consent of the diocesan Bishop, given in writing'; Having regard to the necessity and urgency;"

DECREE

Art. 1. The installation of the Little Sisters of the Passion in the Parish of Blessed in Idiofa/Manding;

Our hearts overflow with joy and gladness for these fifty years of God's presence through the Holy Family among this people of God. As pilgrims of hope, we remain attentive and open to new calls and needs in order to continue spreading the Charism of PBN and inspiring hope around us.

> Srs. Marie - Claire KABANGA & Alphonsine MFWANKAMA Congo

SHINING THROUGH THE DARKNESS...

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2Cor12:9.) Every mission begins with surrender - stepping out of what's familiar and placing our trust in the One who called us, anointed us, sends us and leads us. My journey to Boda, a quiet village nestled in the heart of Chhattisgarh, was one such calling. What I discovered there was not only transfor-

mation in others, but also a quiet revolution within myself.

Called into the Unknown, leaving behind the comfort and familiarity of South India, I arrived in Boda as a community animator and hostel administrator. The world around me felt completely foreign – from the language to the customs and even the climate. Yet beneath the discomfort was a gentle assurance: "If God calls,

He also equips." (Hebrews 13:20–21)

Bearing the seeds of compassion and Presence, the hostel becomes home to girls from fragile and fractured backgrounds. Many bore silent burdens - trauma, broken families, and harsh poverty. Just like you and me, they carry within themselves, 'a beautiful history.' They didn't

just need structure; they needed presence.



Each day, we offered what little we had: love, patience, care, and an unwavering commitment to their healing. One girl's story lingers in my heart. Haunted by instability, she was often unwell and withdrawn. Her mother - frail but faithful - was her only anchor. Through my constant prayer, counsel, and encouragement, she completed her 10th standard which was a miracle that bloomed into her journey of light.

One night, amid trials, accusations, and the comfort of Grace, chaos suddenly erupted

on the campus. Two girls, pushed to their emotional

edge, claimed spiritual possession. Panic spread quick-Students were frightened, families called in distress. In the eye of the storm, prayer became our stronghold. With grace as our guide, we calmed fears, spoke with families, and stood with the girls through their recovery. What could have fractured trust, instead by the grace of God became moment of deepened In that moment, I faith. "Therefore I remembered. content with weaknesses, am hardships, persecuinsults, tions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (Corinthians 12:10.)

I would like to share with you another incident: Tears to Triumph. Among our students was a tenth-grade girl - highly intelligent, but battling inner unrest. She often rebelled, cried without cause, and was trapped in friendships that pulled her away from her purpose. Her mother, a humble school teacher, was her silent pillar. Then one day,

her armour cracked. She wept openly. I simply listened - not to correct, but to understand. Through gentle guidance and prayer, she began to realign. By the grace of God, her transformation was breath-taking.

Years later, she scored above 92% in her Board Exams. Her proud parents stood beside her - living proof of grace, resilience, and rebirth. Her journey echoed the truth of Romans 12:2 - which true transformation begins with the renewal of the mind.

A Mission Marked by Mercy, my experience in Boda taught me that mission isn't about grand gestures - it's about quiet, daily acts of love. Grace doesn't erase the trials; it redeems them. Behind every tear, a triumph awaits. As I look back, I see the fingerprints of God - in the faces of those children and in the cracks of my own weakness. His grace is always enough and perfect. May we all rise, on wings like eagles, wherever we are led.

Sr. Mary Vimala FRANCIS India

ASIAN NOVITIATE COMMUNITY: A JOURNEY OF GRACE AND TRANSFORMATION...

The evolving journey of the Asian formation process has taken a beautiful new turn in the history of the Holy Family. Guided by the Asian Leadership Team, the Asian Novitiate Community was formed to nurture a deeper sense of communion, intercultural understanding, and fidelity to our Holy Family Charism.

To prepare ourselves for this

sacred mission, we were blessed with a three - month intensive animation program for formators, from 22nd April to 15th July. It unfolded across the Pakistan Delegation, Jaffna Province, and Colombo Province - three regions rich in diversity. faith, and culture. Thiruchelverani and I were privileged to visit Pakistan, while Sr. Khalida journeyed to

Sri Lanka. Although Sr.Jeraldine could not join us due to her commitments and visa issues, she remained very much part of our shared spirit.

Our days in Pakistan began with a heart warming welcome from the Sisters and formees of the Lahore community. Their hospitality and vibrant Family spirit



made us feel at home immediately. Visiting six communities, we witnessed a deep faith that continues to shine amidst challenges. The Sisters' dedicated service in education and health-care revealed how the Holy Family spirit brings hope and dignity countless lives. The people's simple lifestyle. generosity, and strong family bonds reflected a living gospel of unity, sharing, and mutual support. In a male-dominated society, the empowerment of women through education and ministry stood out as a

true sign of transformation. Returning to Sri Lanka, our journey continued in the Northern Province, among Tamilspeaking communities marked by the wounds of war. The Sisters' simplicity, joy, and spirit of solidarity spoke powerfully of God's healing presence. Under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Selvam,

explored new ways of we formation - learning, unlearning, and rediscovering what it means to accompany others compassion with and Listening to wisdom. the families stories of and formees opened our hearts to the depth of their faith and resilience.

Our final stage in the Southern Province brought yet another enriching experience. At Wennappuwa Convent, we were warmly embraced by the Sisters, whose love and concern created a home of

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peace. The sessions on Interculturality helped us recognize that our diversity is not a challenge but a gift, calling us to live as one body in Christ. Visits to various ministries serving the poor, educating children, caring for the elderly - revealed how our Sisters embody the Holy Family spirit through humble and dedicated service.

This journey has been one of grace, transformation, and deep communion - with God, with one another, and with the people we serve. As we now step forward in our ministry, we carry the conviction that formation is not merely a stage of learning but a lifelong pilgrimage of love.

With hearts full of gratitude, we thank our Provincials, Delegation Superiors, and Councillors for their vision, support, and encouragement. May God bless all who made this journey of faith and growth possible.

Sr. Mangalika FERNANDO Colombo, Sri Lanka

JOURNEYING TOGETHER AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN THE HOLY FAMILY WAY

October 6th 2025 was a day that brought together all the Teams of Participation of Unit Jaffna. It was the first recognizable gathering under the New Leadership Team of Sr. Joiline Stanley and Councillors. The creative preparation itself was so colourful, inspiring in us the sense of belonging and an encourage-

ment to experience the beauty of journeying together with the firm intention and motivation to "cross over to the other shore". The PBN Family Members of the Teams of Participation, around 70 of them, were present and that itself signalled that we are already on our forward movement of walking together. The

reflection theme was - "As Teams of Participation, journeying Together in the Holy Family way of Complementarity, Solidarity and Interdependence."

We were enlightened on the specific importance of gathering as Teams of Participation with co-responsibility and shared responsibility for the Common Good of the Province in the light of our Charism that calls and challenges to journey in the path towards COMMUNION. We were made to become aware of the demands of the fast-moving world is that of competition, power, business and profit. On the other hand, journeying together in Hope is a demand of Gospel Living, to attain the goal "That all may be one" in the lived experience Complementarity, Solidarity and Interdependence which is the Language of the Holy Family and now in the Church as Synodality.

"Responsible Participation is a duty of each Sister and a way of expressing her belonging, respecting subsidiarity in the diversity of roles and functions, each one plays an active part, and in this way contributes to the vitality of the whole Institute" (G.R. 53).

We appreciate that Team Work is a coordinated effort which is very essential to face challenges, problems, and to arrive at clear decisions and successful results for the Common Good at all levels. A Group with the ability to move as synergy, is the Team





which is one step ahead. We were challenged with the question: As Members of the Holy Family with the legacy and inheritance of a wonderful Charism of Communion - how are we journeying, walking, living, working and moving together as Family, in our interculturality in our interdependence with the beautiful aspect of community living and pooling and sharing? This is the urgent call and challenge to recall and to review. Leadership and Structures are for Communion. The Teams of Participation play a vital role

in making us co-responsible in the mission and welfare of Province and the taking forward the tasks entrusted to us in the way of complementarity and solidarity. the Presentations of each Team, we discovered that we are rich beyond imagining in Resources and Values. Our Journeying Together Teams of Participation needs to be made visible, in order to witness to Being and Building Family in Communion!

> Sr. Ida JOSEPH Jaffna, Sri Lanka

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