



# Interconnections

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**“Mission Beyond Walls:  
Reaching out with  
COMPASSION”**

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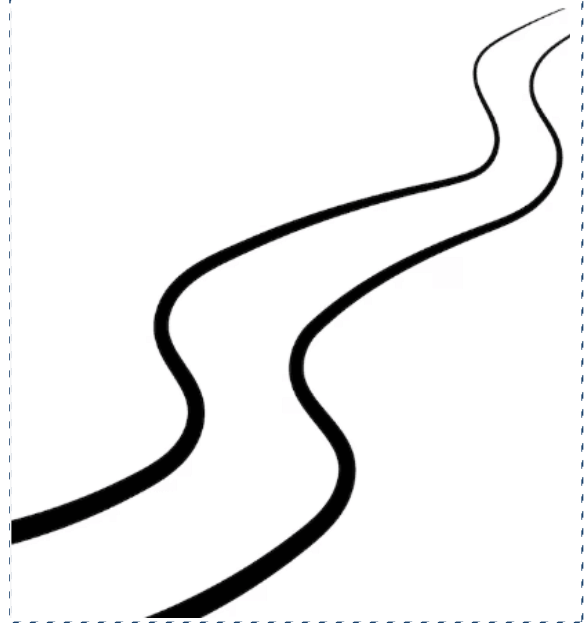
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"Dear Children, you will continue my works, you will support them and keep alive the spirit which your Good Father has tried to inspire in them - the spirit of devotedness, of charity, of piety, of abnegation, the spirit of God Alone, the family spirit. O yes, love one another, love one another tenderly."

*(Selected Texts 253)*



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When we ask someone what is special about the month of February, the immediate answer is often Valentine's Day. However, when the same question is asked of the members of the PBN Family, the response resonates more deeply: **"The Miraculous Benediction, Our Founder's Death Anniversary and decree on the heroic virtues of the Servant of God"**.

Every member of the PBN Family is familiar with our roots, our identity, and our charism - the call to live as one family in God. February is not merely a month on the calendar; it is a sacred reminder of who we are and why we exist.

Our Founder, Pierre Bienvenu Noailles, had a clear vision: **"To gather all scattered children into God's loving hands."** His entire earthly journey was marked by a single purpose - to live for God Alone. Inspired by the Holy Family of Nazareth, he embraced simplicity, total trust in Divine Providence, and compassionate outreach to those in need. His mission was never held back by walls; it crossed boundaries, touched lives, and responded to human suffering with tenderness and courage. His life itself stands as a powerful testimony to this vision.

Today, we live in a world full of crisis. Lack

peace, political uncertainty, and internal and external conflicts disturb the harmony of nations and families. Often, the day begins with fear and ends with questions about what tomorrow may bring.

In such a world, the Charism entrusted to us becomes more relevant than ever. We are called not merely to remember our Founder, but to live his vision - to be signs of unity, hope, and trust in Divine Providence. Our Founder was deeply attentive to the needs of the people of his time. He served them according to their situations or needs. He reached out with compassion, courage, and without limitations. His mission reached truly beyond walls, touching lives with God's love. Even today, his voice seems to echo in our hearts: ***"Go forward; there is nothing now to check your course."***

February, therefore, invites us to pause, remember, and renew our commitment - to walk faithfully in the footsteps of our Founder and to bring God's love to a wounded world. We are called to trust in His Miraculous Benediction to our Big Family, to experience His living presence, and to allow His words to resonate within us: ***"I am who I am, and there is no other."***

As we begin the holy **season of Lent**, let us open our hearts to God through prayer and reflection. Let us also renew our commitment to reach out to others with love and compassion, without boundaries or walls. In every small act of kindness, may we reveal God's mercy, bring hope, healing, and dignity to those we encounter, and faithfully live the vision and the spirit of our Founder, Pierre Bienvenu Noailles, in all that we do.

***"Go forward; there is nothing now to check your course."***

Mercy Rani JEBAMALAI

Intercultural living is far more than sharing a common space with people from different backgrounds. For me, it has become a sacred journey of the heart - one that gently teaches how to listen with compassion, respect with humility, and love beyond words.

I come from Sri Lanka, at present live in our General House while serving in the General Archives. **My daily life is shared with Sisters from Congo, Poland, India, Spain, Sri Lanka, Lesotho, Paraguay and Brazil.** Each day, this multicultural community reminds me that diversity is not a challenge to overcome, but a beautiful bridge that brings us closer to one another. Through the richness of our shared life, I have learned patience, openness, and humility - virtues that continue to shape me both personally and spiritually.

One of the first challenges I encountered was language. There were moments when words were not enough and when I could not fully express my thoughts or feelings. Yet, in those moments, I discovered something profound: **love does not always require a common language. A warm smile, a simple gesture, a helping hand, or silent presence often spoke louder than words.** As we shared our stories, laughter, struggles, meals, prayers, and songs, bonds of understanding and love slowly grew among us.

Intercultural living has deeply taught me the value of respect. Respect does not mean losing one's identity, but honouring the dignity and uniqueness of every person. I learned to listen without judgment and to appreciate the beauty found in what is unfamiliar. Living together, I realized, is truly a journey of growing together.

My service in the General Archives has been another profound blessing. As I help in arrange the documents of our Institute, I came to understand our history and mission more deeply. Touching our Founder's letters and



seeing his handwriting filled me with gratitude and awe. It brought me closer to his life and vision and renewed my energy and commitment to my own mission. Working alongside the Sister in charge of the Archives has been a joyful and enriching experience, and I feel deeply satisfied to serve our Institute through my giftedness.

Living with our General Leadership Team has also been a source of inspiration. From them, I continue to learn values such as humility, care, concern, loving service, prayer, and unity. Above all, the most powerful realization of this journey is that, despite our differences, we are one family - children of God, united by love, faith, and shared humanity. Unity does not mean sameness; it grows when we lovingly accept and embrace our differences.

Intercultural living is not always easy, but it is deeply enriching and meaningful. This experience helped me become more open, patient, and kind. I thank God, and our General and Provincial Leadership Teams, for this golden opportunity, which I cherish as a great blessing.

## OUTREACH TO MALAWI

Sr. Kate Cuskelly, Ireland

During her time in Ireland in 2022 Sr. Ana Maria ALCALDE made a brief visit to Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge where she met with members of the School Staff and also the Holy Family Youth group. Ana Maria had just returned from Africa and staff and pupils were very inspired hearing of life in different areas where the Holy Family are present. From this initial conversation a seed was sown which began to take root in 2024 when Sr. Jesmin Fernando, General Councillor was in Newbridge and spoke about the recently established foundation in MALAWI.

Chaplaincy Team comprising our Deputy Principal, two Religion Teachers and myself had a one hour Zoom meeting with Sr. Matilda as a next step in pursuing how we might move forward together. This meeting was very worthwhile and has given us much food for thought. Our aim is to involve our Holy Family Youth group in helping us discern how best we can engage with this project in a way that will be enriching for all. Already there are some ideas in the pipeline, and I will keep you informed over the next few months as to how our dreams are taking shape in reality.

As a school community we have decided to establish links with this community and hopefully this outreach will enrich not only the people in Malawi but also our Holy Family School. 2025 year marked 150 years of Holy Family presence here in Newbridge and at our Opening of Year school Mass in September we thanked God for the many blessings of those years and as a symbol of gratitude we made a commitment to support the Malawi project.



Over the past few months, I have been in contact by email with our Sisters, hearing a little of their reality. Three Sri Lankan Sisters, Matilda, Grace and Sudarshani form the community there, working in close association with members of the Missionary Community of St. Paul the Apostle (MCSPA). The Sisters are involved in a variety of ministries including Education, Personal Development and Self-Awareness Courses, Sewing Classes, Youth Ministry, Catechetics. The training of group leaders and the empowerment of women are priorities.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, our Holy Family School

There is much good will and enthusiasm in our school community around this outreach. We have spoken of the dream pursued by the pioneering women, who many years

ago, left their native land to make Ceylon/Sri Lanka their home. Their response to God's call now bears fruit in the generosity of Sri Lankan Sisters going as missionaries to such countries as Malawi.

The following few lines from a song come to mind. ***"We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us. We are stronger for their courage; we are wiser for their words. We are lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future. We are grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this earth"***.

Having discovered that Malawi is known as the **WARM HEART OF AFRICA** because of the values of **WELCOME** and **HOSPITALITY** of the people there, **the girls created the image of the HEART on the floor using little battery lights.**

## HELPING FAMILIES FIND UNITY AND PEACE

Cadillac Community, Canada

**A**fter communion, a 5-year-old child tugs at the Sister's sleeve and whispers in her ear:

*'I don't want to go home, take me to your house, it's too noisy at home, it's too noisy...'*

'First pray to Jesus to bring peace,' the Sister tells him, 'and then we'll leave.'

The Sister gathers the five children and takes them to the community. They tell her what is happening at home: a lot of tension, shouting, misunderstanding...

The parents are called to come and collect them. After a long discussion with them, the Sister understands that the situation is untenable for the couple and the children. She initiates a dialogue between the parents and the children. In turn, the children tell their parents how they are experiencing the situation and what they want to change.

The Sister then suggests a process of personal and family growth and invites them to join the Holy Family

young couples' group.

Over time, dialogue is established within the family, voices are lowered, and love is expressed more gently. Being around other couples is a great help to them in their journey.

However, all these years of discord leave deep scars on the children. As a result, the 16-year-old girl runs away from home several times, falls into bad company and ends up being placed in a youth centre, from which she runs away again.

But the community has always been welcoming to the young girl, so much so that they were able to celebrate the New Year 2026 by welcoming the whole family, the five children, their parents, their aunt and their grandmother.

The purpose of this reception was to offer them a space of unity and mutual welcome. After the prayer of adoration that took place at the Shrine, the family went to the community where a hot meal was



served, followed by games and quizzes on the Bible and the life of Jesus for the children.

In this way, the Christmas and New Year celebrations allowed the Sisters of the community to experience moments of closeness with the families they accompany, especially those in difficulty, by offering them a welcoming oasis like Nazareth, where families find the opportunity to be together, to share and to exchange.

Our Founder reminds us: "You have not separated yourselves from those who live under the common law: as companions of their Good Angel, you follow them in the valley of tears... you share with them, as far as you can, all the fatigue, the trials and the dangers of the journey.

(Selected Texts, p. 10)

## MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE CAMP

Sr. Ramona Chappe  
Paraguay

I would like to share with you my experience at the Missionary Childhood and Adolescence Camp (I.A.M.). These were days of joy and happiness, evident in the children's faces as they played and smiled innocently, the teenagers discovering their independence, and the young people acting as responsible and attentive monitors for their groups.

It is traditional to hold the IAM children's camp. This year we went a little further, 53 km from Ñemby, to Altos, a beautiful village in the department of Caacupé.

Every year, the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference (CEP) launches a slogan that will be used throughout the country for the festivities to honour the Patron Saint. The slogan is: 'THE COMMON GOOD... Give them something to eat yourselves'...)

We used the same slogan, applying the methodology of the 'School of Jesus' Love', Catechesis, Spirituality, Mission and Missionary Communion. The children and adolescents reflected on the theme, learning about the importance of social justice and solidarity among all brothers and sisters. Material goods are to be shared, helping everyone to grow in



the sense of just distribution, so that people can live with dignity and there is not such a big gap between rich and poor.

The camp participants enjoyed themselves, playing, jumping, making friends with each other and with Jesus, competing in groups, reflecting in groups, celebrating the Eucharist, praying the Holy Rosary, praying for all the children of every continent, enjoying nature, and cooling off in the stream. For children and adolescents, it is important to reflect on and deepen the theme 'give them something to eat yourselves,' which is one of the works of mercy. This motto is a call to solidarity and compassion. It is putting bread on



the table and remembering what Jesus did in the multiplication of the loaves; it helps these children grow in the awareness of knowing how to share not simply our surplus, but what we have for ourselves.

175 children, 25 animators and some mothers participated in the camp, taking part in spiritual formation with Sister Mercedes Calle, learning about our Founder Pierre Bienvenu Noailles.

We complied with all the rules of the Safeguarding Protocol and the Code for Children and Adolescents of Paraguay.

## A NEW CHAPTER OF THE HOLY FAMILY IN KENYA

Sr. Selvathy Malachias  
Nandi Hills, Kenya



The words of the General Chapter 2021 echo in each of our hearts: *“Let us go over to the other shore.”* These echoes led us to bring this call into reality by bringing our Holy Family presence to a different land. **A new chapter of the Holy Family emerged in Kenya through the dream and vision of the African Continental Leaders, with the approval of the General Leadership Team,** whose constant support, collaboration, and enthusiasm made it possible to spread the Charism of PBN in the soil of Nandi Hills. **Srs. Micheline Kenda, the Unit Leader of Rwanda and Uganda, Matilda Lazarus from Malawi and Jesmin Fernando, General Councillor, visited the area at different times to study its possibilities. During the Enlarged General Council of 2024, the proposal was approved, opening a new horizon for a new community.**

**A seed of the Holy Family was put into the soil of Nandi Hills on 1st September 2025 with four Sisters: Selvathy Malachias from Jaffna –**

**Sri Lanka, Saira Anjum from Pakistan, Angela Molapo from Lesotho, and Agnès Ongwisa from Congo. Our presence is a “Genesis” - a new creation of international solidarity. Together, we step into the light of this mission, eager to serve the local community while modelling the beauty of global sisterhood.**

Before the dawn broke in Kenya, there were long and testing nights. Our community did not merely arrive; we emerged from a gruelling pilgrimage through Rwanda and Uganda. Every trial of pioneer life and every lack of facility became preparation, shaping a resilient, multicultural heart. Guided by Providence, we finally struck root in Nandi Hills, where the sun now rises on a new chapter of Holy Family service.

Our mission found its home in the Diocese of Kapsabet, in the Parish of Our Lady of Peace, under the guidance of Fr. Michael Langat. Nestled within the emerald embrace of the Nandi Hills, this land is both

a geographic destination and a spiritual sanctuary. Here, the peace of our patroness meets the vibrant energy of the Nandi people. After our long migration, we realized we had been placed exactly where the Holy Family is needed.

The dawn of our mission was marked by the challenges of pioneering, but these dissolved when we secured a home. The hospitality of the local Church and the people of Nandi Hills made us feel we had reached a promised land. Our early days were strengthened by the tireless presence of Sr. Jesmin who worked relentlessly for one month to secure and equip our residence. With her encouragement and the parish’s support, our settling-in became a sacred planting of roots. Today, with Fr. Michael Langat, we joyfully begin our pastoral work, transforming pioneer hardships into a ministry of presence and peace.

To enter the heart of Nandi Hills, we first entered its language, dedicating ourselves to Kiswahili. Our ministry is one of

presence - as choir members, catechists, and companions to the youth in the PMC- Pontifical Missionary Children and MYM – Missionary Youth Movements. We share life through Small Christian Communities, funerals, and parish activities. Our focus now turns to the domestic church. In Kisowyo village, we visit homes, especially separated and fractured families, where there is a deep hunger for reconciliation and where the Holy Family Charism truly

flourishes. After four months of preparation and prayer, our mission is in full bloom. We teach English, Religion, and Catechism, and guide students toward the heart of the school day - the Holy Mass.

As we cross the threshold into 2026, we move forward with the quiet confidence that the Holy Family is walking beside us. We lean heavily on the intercession of our Founder, asking for the wisdom to dis-

cern and the knowledge to inspire. Though the path ahead may hold its trials, we are resolved to face every challenge with courage, ensuring that our Charism is not just a concept but a living, breathing reality in every soul we encounter. In this sacred landscape, our journey has only just begun; like the rising sun over the hills, we carry a light that no shadow can diminish, committed to serving wherever the Spirit leads.



## “GOD ALONE IS OUR HOPE”

**A**s we mark the 204th Anniversary of the Miraculous Benediction, we are invited to contemplate the mystery of God’s presence among us. This commemoration is not merely a remembrance of a past event that happened 204 years ago in Bordeaux, but a living testimony that God continues to act amongst us, guiding us with God’s providence and love.

The theme *“God Alone is Our Hope”* resonates deeply with us, members of the Pierre Bienvenu Noailles family. Hope, in the theological sense, is not a fragile optimism nor a denial of suffering. It is the confident expectation rooted in God’s fidelity. Milady Peychaud testified after the Miraculous Benediction of 1822 that she saw nothing, but heard someone say to her *“I am he who is.”* The same as God’s self-revelation to Moses

at the burning bush, *“I AM WHO I AM”* (Exodus 3:14). The same God is journeying with us as our hope, as we proclaim to the world that “Communion is possible.” We walk by faith and hear the same words repeatedly, God saying to each one of us, *“I am who I am, hope in me and you shall live.”*

The Church has just concluded the Jubilee Year of Hope. Pope Leo XIV during his homily on the Feast of the Epiphany 2026 said that the Jubilee Year is closed but the spiritual searching continues. In a world often shaken by uncertainty, conflict, and despair, the 204th anniversary of the Miraculous Benediction calls us to re-anchor our lives in the One who never fails. The Miraculous Benediction stands

## Sr. Clementine Mampheteli Sekantsi South Africa



as a sign that God’s grace is sufficient. Even when human strength falters, **‘God Alone remains our hope’**. In 1822, our founding members’ faith was reaffirmed by God, the *“I am”* and they faced challenges of their time with renewed hope. We too, are challenged

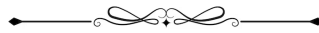
to live with radical trust and hope, surrendering our fears and aspirations to the Lord who alone secures our future.

Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr in her book; *Behold Your Life: A Pilgrimage Through Your Memories*, challenges us to see our lives as sacred terrain, where each memory is a stepping-stone towards deeper communion with God. Sr. Macrina points out that we are pilgrims on the journey with God and for God. She says

*“A pilgrimage is a ritual journey with a hallowed purpose. Every step along the way has meaning...”* As we contemplate the blessings we received on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1822, we are assured that we are pilgrims whose faith is deeply rooted in the promise that God Alone is enough.

We read in the Constitutions of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux (Art 42) that we are guided by God through the Holy Spirit *“to the fullness of*

*our vocation...God helps us to discover his will and to accept it wholeheartedly.”* God reveals Godself to us every day and we are forever grateful, **‘God Alone remains our hope.’** May this 204th Anniversary renew our courage to walk by faith, to serve with love, and to proclaim with our lives that God alone is our hope. May we be beacons of hope to those we serve and bearers of Good News to the world.



## ALONG THE CORRIDORS, GOD DWELLS...



### Sr. Adelina Lesaoana Lesotho

After the celebration, Fr. Clement moves gently among the people, blessing them with holy water and anointing those who seek healing with the Oil of the Sick. In these moments, the hospital becomes more than a place of treatment, it becomes a sacred space where God meets His people in their vulnerability and hope. Over time, these gatherings have done more than offer spiritual support, they have created a

Every Tuesday morning, something quiet yet deeply meaningful happens at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital (Government). In the midst of busy corridors, medical routines, and human struggle, prayer finds a home. The Mother Trinity Community continues its hospital ministry through the faithful presence of Srs. Pascalina Liphoto and Adelina Lesaoana, our retired nurses, who serve with joy and commitment in this government hospital. Together with the Oblate priest Rev. Fr. Clement Ntlou, the team gathers staff members, patients and people of goodwill for the Eucharistic Celebration. Denominations fall away as hearts come together. Nurses, support staff, mobile patients, and visitors pause from their daily responsibilities to pray, listen, and share in the life-giving presence of Christ.

praying community. Staff members who once passed each other in busy hallways now recognise one another as companions on a shared journey of faith. Prayer has united them, strengthening bonds and renewing courage for the work they do every day.

This ministry has also borne new fruit. Through these encounters, two adults have felt called to join the Associates of the Holy Family of Bordeaux. They are now being accompanied with care and dedication by Mrs. Mary Mohlomi and Ms Teboho Lesei. For this growth and commitment, we give thanks. Our presence at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital continues to remind us that God is already at work wherever compassion is offered, prayers are shared, and people walk together in faith even in the heart of a hospital.



**Our Catholic school for girls, Sainte-Famille of Gounou/Gaya,** regularly carries out initiatives aimed at protecting the environment within the school community. This commitment is rooted in the belief that basic education is not limited to the transmission of academic knowledge, but must also awaken learners to an awareness and respect for their environment.

As educators at basic level, we have a responsibility to help students discover everything

around them, enabling them to understand both the riches and the dangers they encounter. Knowing one's environment also means learning to know oneself, to recognise and love one's body, for it is a free gift of creation. The environment manifests itself through nature, particularly trees, but also through human relationships; it thus constitutes a living milieu that is essential to personal fulfilment.

It is in this perspective that we, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, faithful to our educational and spiritual mission, are constantly concerned with the protection of nature. The spirit of dedication that animates our Institute drives us to make ourselves available wherever the need arises, particularly in the vulnerable areas where we carry out our mission. In concrete terms, we carry out awareness-raising activities aimed at reminding everyone of the need to protect our Common Home. This involves simple but essential actions: keeping the environment clean, planting trees, installing rubbish bins, digging pits for plastic waste management, and encouraging any initiative likely to limit the degradation of nature and air pollution. Organising clean-up and nature protection days with the pupils is a real act of community engagement for us. It is a concrete way of living in communion with our brothers and sisters in a spirit of solidarity and cosmic respect. The maintenance and protection of the environment are indeed fundamental values that **every child, every citizen and every human being must cultivate.**

In the face of today's challenges, it is clear that human society needs a healthy environment to ensure a dignified and balanced life. In this context, the presence and action of the Sisters, like yeast in the dough, play an essential role in the dynamics of protecting creation. **Preserving a healthy environment is thus a lasting contribution to the preservation of life and the well-being of all.**

## CHRISTIAN LIFE ON THE PERIPHERY...



The life of Christians living “on the periphery” is an experience marked by simplicity, fidelity and hope. Despite the difficulties associated with being far from parish structures, the lack of priests and the precariousness of daily life, the faith of the people remains alive and deep.

We share the joy of these Christians who live their faith with such fidelity, even when they do not have daily Masses and sometimes not even Sunday Masses. The faithful are content to nourish themselves with daily prayer, listening to the Word of God, solidarity and fraternal support. Together, they discover that Christ walks with them every day, and that their faith grows in perseverance, hope and shared love.

This reality teaches us to wait for the Eucharist with sincere desire and deep gratitude, and to make Sunday a true day of the Lord, lived in prayer, sharing and fraternal communion.

However, there are many challenges. Access to the Sacraments remains limited. It is often difficult to go to confession, receive the anointing of the sick or even the Eucharist. Some Christians have to travel long distances to attend Mass. Children sometimes lack regular catechesis, and young people have little space for formation and exchange.

There is no spiritual guidance, insufficient preparation for the Sacraments, weak pastoral dynamism and sometimes the cancellation of Sunday Masses due to rain or the state of the roads. Yet, despite these limitations, the faith of the people remains strong, rooted in trust in God.

**A fraternal presence that brings hope**



As Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, established in the community of Ndunga/Kikwit and faithful to our Charism, we commit ourselves every day to reaching out to the people where they live, bringing a message of hope, closeness and lived faith. Through a simple and sisterly presence, we seek to create spaces where everyone can feel welcomed, listened to and loved.

In this spirit, our chapel remains open to children who wish to meet God. During the Christmas season, several children experienced great joy in contemplating the nativity scene set up in our chapel. It was a powerful moment that awakened in them spiritual curiosity and wonder at the mystery of Christ's birth.

Our greatest joy is to see these children begin to actively participate in Mass, a sign that this closeness and openness are already bearing fruit. Through these simple gestures, we continue, humbly and with conviction, to rekindle hope and transmit the joy of the Gospel.

Among them are Delix and Chanceline, whose parents

belong to another religious denomination, but who come every evening to pray with us with great fervour. They wanted to participate in the catechetical classes, but their parents were initially reluctant. Thanks to their perseverance and sincerity, they finally convinced their parents to let them attend. Today, they are very happy and express a great desire to receive the Body of Christ.

Daniel, a 19-year-old boy, also expresses his desire to rejoin the Catholic Church, a sign that fraternal presence and spiritual accompaniment are bearing fruit, even among older adolescents who are seeking to renew their faith in order to reconnect with God.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, we had the joy of welcoming the first Lay Associate couple, eager to share our Charism. This event marks an important step in our collaboration with lay people and the extension of our mission beyond community life.

Christian life on the peripheries is a demanding path, but one that is deeply rich in faith and humanity. With the people, and in the light of our Charism, we continue to bring hope, convinced that God is already at work in the heart of these often fragile but promising realities.

**Srs. Félicité MAKAKA & Lucianne KITOKO**  
RD Congo



## MISSION BEYOND WALLS: REACHING OUT WITH COMPASSION



**Palamalai is one of the sub-district of Kodaikanal hills in the state of Tamilnadu which is the highest hill station 7200 feet above sea level.** This Palamalai mission was initiated

from August 2025, I would say providentially to live and carry out our service to the women and children of this tribal community. Yes. I am happy and prefer to spend my time with

the children to learn and grow. Since I am qualified in the **Tamil Nadu Teacher Eligibility Test (TN-TET)**, I have got the Government Aided post in R.C.Primary School, run by Jesuit Fathers at Palamalai, Kodaikanal.

There are nearly 40 Tribal families residing here. The mission for the tribal people was begun with Sr.Viyakulam and myself. We both live together

happily relying on God's providence for daily life. There is no proper transport, hospital or shop to buy the basic things. We have to walk 15kms for any of our necessities. We find it

difficult to communicate with others due to the poor connections. Frequently we face shortage of electricity. Visiting families, we quietly observe the lifestyle of the people who belong to Tribal community.

The people are uneducated and marginalized. Most of them work in the Coffee Estate for their livelihood. Though they earn, most of the men spend lavishly on alcohol and smoking while some are addicted to drugs. They are aware of many Government schemes to bring up their children, but some of them are irresponsible; they don't care about the growth of the family and children, especially about their studies and future. With this background students come to school, 23 of them from three villages; we are 2 teachers in the school. Sr. Sesumary from Mangalamkombu community comes here for a mobile clinic twice a month to assist their medical needs.

In the school the students are very low in studies, they find it very difficult to identify the letters to read and write. They

are irregular to school due to the distance, threats of wild animals and often they become sick. They don't dress decently, health and hygiene is poor.

At the beginning, I found it difficult to adjust to life situations, climate, and conditions of the students. Because I had worked in Matriculations school for the past 10 years with all the facilities and teaching skills, I found the method of teaching challenging: **'Enum Ezhuthum'** the method given by Tamilnadu Government is a highly structured activity-based methodology. But slowly I started to train myself and to change my mindset so as not to have such high expectations. I am drawn to our Founder's saying, **"If Jesus, Mary and Joseph were in my place, what they would do, what would they say, how they would act? (ST-44).**

I strongly believe that they are the best models to follow in order to commit myself with love. So I meet the students at their level to teach basic values with compassion (in faith, love, responsibility, self-awareness,

confidence, health and hygiene) and insist on the importance of education. I tried to find new methods and strategies to impart the concepts of the syllabus in a simple manner. I am able to see the difference now. They learn everything eagerly and participate in non-Curricular events happily and actively.

I experience their love and sensitivity too. Once I was not well. On the same evening one of the students came along with her grandma bringing medicine to visit me. Another day some of the students brought a basket of Guava fruit. Their innocent love made me to forget all my difficulties and commit myself happily and enthusiastically in order to give them hope and life. I feel it's a great blessing to work with these tribal children, and find real meaning for my religious life in the Holy Family. I am grateful to our Indian Delegation who give their valuable support to this new mission.

**Sr. Vinnarasi Maria Singam  
Palamalai, India**

## A SACRED JOURNEY OF COMPASSION AND ONENESS...

The **Youth for Change Bicentenary Project** of the **PBN Family** began in 2017 as a living expression of gratitude for 200 Years of our Charism and Mission. From its beginning until today, this journey has been a profound experience of mission beyond walls, reaching out with compassion

in building bridges to the most vulnerable, especially the War-affected Youth and Persons with Special Needs in Mallavi, Jeyapuram, and Kilinochchi in the Province of Jaffna.

We, the PBN Family of the Province of Jaffna, representing Five Vocations, were

given a unique opportunity to work together as one Family and as a Team. This collaboration itself became a powerful witness that Communion is alive and possible when hearts are united in the spirit of God Alone for selfless service. Inspired by the Gospel call, **"Whatever you did for one of**



*the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”* (Matthew 25:40), we stepped out of our comfort zones to serve where there were no Holy Family Sisters present in these areas.

**Through this Humanitarian Project, we reached out to nearly 200 Youth and Persons with Special Needs** - many of whom were deeply affected by the scars of war, still vivid in their memories. Our approach was simple yet meaningful. We began with house visits, listening to their life stories, offering counselling support, and building relationships rooted in trust and respect. We carried out needs assessments to understand their realities and to identify ways to support their capacity building.

Gradually, we formed Youth Groups, organized exposure visits, and supported them with livelihood opportunities, enabling them to discover their hidden talents and inner strength. Like the Good Samaritan, we did not pass by their pain, but paused, listened, and walked with them in their journey toward healing and self-reliance.

The transformation we witnessed was deeply moving. The smiles on their faces, the confidence in their voices, and their renewed hope became our greatest reward. Many of the youth shared that, although life remains challenging, they no longer feel overwhelmed. They expressed that they now have the courage to stand on their own feet and face the future with confidence.

The goal of the Youth for Change Project has always been to enable War-affected Youth to discover their potential, to build peace and reconciliation first within themselves and then within their families and communities. Through this journey, we have come to realize that Peace and Reconciliation are not Projects with deadlines, but processes that take root in the human heart and grow through patience, accompaniment, and love.

On 21 December 2025, a heartfelt get-together was organized for youth and children with special needs at three locations in Mallavi. In the spirit of Christmas, members of PBN came together with love and compassion to bring joy and hope to their

lives. Despite the hardships caused by the Ditwah cyclone, which had deeply affected many families, the day became a moment of comfort and happiness. Our Lay Associates from Colombo generously collected and distributed stationery items to the children, including the children of our beneficiaries, easing their struggles and lighting up their faces with smiles. The laughter, gratitude, and shared joy made the day truly memorable, reminding everyone that even in difficult times, kindness and togetherness can bring warmth and healing.

This Bicentenary mission has truly been a beautiful journey of oneness - walking with the vulnerable, sharing their pain, celebrating their growth, and witnessing the quiet miracles of transformation. As PBN Family, we deeply experienced what it means to go beyond walls, making the Holy Family visible, carrying the Gospel through our Holy Family presence – a desire and expectation of the Youth for Change for the future – with compassion, and solidarity, to **“Be and to Build Family” in communion.**

With grateful hearts, we continue this mission, trusting in the words of Jesus: ***“Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called Children of God”*** (Mt. 5:9).

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## **DRAWING NEAR TO THE WOUNDED CHRIST BEYOND WALLS...**

The Gospel shows us a Jesus who never stayed far from people in pain. He crossed every barrier of fear and comforts the people who are filled with sorrow and pain. He did not rush to give answers only or to stay at distance from the suffering people but He came close with love and compassion: ***“When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion”*** (Matthew 9:36).



This is the meaning of **Mission beyond walls** for me: not just helping others, but truly being with them at every moment of life. Jesus lived this mission beautifully when He entered hurting homes, touched the sick, wept with the grieving people, and also looked with mercy on the wounded and forgotten, even the marginalized. We are called to follow Him by drawing near, loving deeply, and walking with those who suffer.

This mission unfolded in the Karachi community when Sisters went to the home of a young girl who had suffered terrible burns in a tragic gas blast. It was very painful moment for the whole family especially for the young girl. The visit of Sisters was quiet, humble, and deeply heartfelt. There were no grand words, no explanations to ease the pain. Instead, there was tender presence; prayers whispered with love, gentle tears shared with the grieving family, and hearts reaching out in silent compassion.

In that sacred space, hope quietly blossomed, and the family felt the warmth of God’s nearness through the presence of the Sisters. In their gentle care, sorrow was met with love, pain was met

with compassion, and the deepest wounds were touched by the healing presence of Christ through their visit. ***Like Jesus, who “took her by the hand and helped her up”*** (Mark 1:31). Sisters were present at the time of their brokenness and healed them through their loving presence and words. Their care became a comforting presence, reminding the family they are not alone. Sisters were united with them in compassion and collaboration, sharing the love and compassion of Christ who always heal the body and heart. As Psalm 34:18 reminds us, ***“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted.”*** These moments show us Christ in the suffering of families and broken homes. He waits for us not in big gestures, but in quiet love and the courage to be near.

***“Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me”*** (Matthew 25:40). May our mission always be a love that crosses doors, sits in silence to listen, shares tears, and holds on to hope when it feels fragile. Let us never turn from pain, but find Christ where wounds run deepest and become the balm for those wounds.

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