



Bulletin

Association
Family of
Jesus and Mary

N° 1

03rd february 2016

"That the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!" SS Bull of Mercy

EDITORIAL

This newsletter has been prepared mainly to give you some once off information, since there will be three issues per year. We greet you **with great joy and enthusiasm** desiring to journey together and to share the news which each group sends. It's a way of getting to know one another better and also of knowing what each AFJM group worldwide is living.

EVENTS of 2015:

In **September** we had the joy of welcoming Consuelo Mengual, the lay leader of the AFJM at international level, in order to spend some time working with the General Government of the Congregation. This provided an opportunity to reflect together **on the different plans** that we have for the Association.

In October, **the General Conference**, with the members of the General Government, the Provincial Superiors and two members of the council from the different provinces of the Congregation, took place in Rome. We spent one session with Consuelo Mengual, during which we explained the plans for the AFJM with a presentation of the different groups.



At present, we have 94 groups spread over 13 Provinces as well as the African Delegation 1670 members coming from all cultures, languages and very different realities. Being able to share this enriched all of us.

2016.

To help us to live this **Year of Mercy**, we are sending you a document on "**Compassion**". We propose that you read the **Bull on Mercy** which invites us to offer Peace, to relieve pain and to announce the Kingdom of God.

Claudine, whose feast we celebrate on the **3rd of February**, the anniversary of her death, also invites us to go to the poorest, to have her **sense of justice and equality** in our relationships with children, "to conquer harshness and ignorance, not to try to have everything all at once, but to have a lot of patience, to know how to wait..."

"She never wanted to go faster than grace". Her Contemporaries tell us... "Bah! Castles weren't built in a day..."

The Bull on Mercy reminds us that "without **the witness of forgiveness**, life is fruitless and sterile, as if we were living in a desert.

The time has come for the Church to rediscover **the joyful news of forgiveness**. It is time to return to the essential, to carry

In this article

Editorial :
S M Elisabeth IDES RJM

Feast of St Claudine

The Year of Mercy

Communication from
Consuelo Mengual

Meeting AFJM
Colombia 2015



the weaknesses and difficulties of our brothers

Let us open our eyes to **see the miseries of the world...**

Let us rediscover **the works of mercy**; to feed the hungry, to welcome strangers, the counsel those in doubt, to console the afflicted..." (cf Pope Francis)

...From Consuelo Mengual

Dear A.F.J.M.,

We have prepared our **first bulletin** in a simple way, to make it an easy way of getting to know each other, learning from one another, breaking the barriers created by distance, so that we may feel real union no matter where we are.

We would like each bulletin to contain the activities and life of each one of the A.F.J.M. groups as well as the most recent news.

We have started **with news from the Province of Colombia** who in December 2015 had their National A.F.J.M. meeting.

We encourage you to send us an article where you relate what is being lived in your group, an event, your activities, your work.

In our Calendar we shall include your messages in the successive bulletins so that all groups may be represented.

At the same time we would like to install each year **a world day of prayer together**, shared by the A.F.J.M. groups all over the world.

This year 2016 we have chosen **the 9th of March** and we have dedicated it to **the family and to Divine Mercy**.

The idea is that on that day all the groups may address the Lord with the same prayer; **united voices can have great power**.

If however some groups cannot on the same day then the day after will be O.K.

You have the text of the prayer included in this bulletin.

**We remain United
by the Charism of St. Claudine.**

“WORLD” PRAYER A.F.J.M. IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE MERCY OF GOD”

Today I have contemplated the serenity
of the sky,
The joy of a mother receiving her son,
A tired face returning from work,
children’s festivity games,
The faces and the rustling of the street,
The difficulties of daily life,
Falling in and out of love,
And I felt the presence of God.
May my soul bless you, Lord and God,
my Creator,
From the depth of my intimate being,
I praise you for your kindness,
That fills me with your goodness.
I give you thanks with all my heart
For your great Mercy,
And I thank you for your patience with
me
For all this I feel myself called to
evangelize, like you,
Welcoming the others in truth.
Bless and protect merciful God, the
A.F.J.M. and accept her with love.
How Good God is !

Meeting AFJM Colombia december 2015



The AFJM in Colombia began in 1994. On the 1st September 1995, according to the statistics of the Congregation, there were two groups with 50 members who wished to live their baptismal promises in a radical way, as committed lay people according to **the charism of Claudine Thévenet**. They spent these first years being formed and strengthened by prayer, the study of the word of God and concretizing the spirit of solidarity in the form of projects and programmes for those most in need.

Then, other groups were set up in Medellín in the popular neighborhood of Castilla, in Santander Barrancabermeja and Cimitarra. The groups met together, some monthly, others twice monthly. It began with a deepening of their baptismal promises. The atmosphere of the meetings was warm. It’s a very dynamic way of sharing not only faith, but also the charism, with those who share life, hopes and pain as well as the events of the country and the world all of which forms part of the history of salvation. Some groups base their meetings on the events of the liturgical year which contributes to personal and spiritual enrichment and is a sign of maturity in faith. They also celebrate

together personal, social, regional and world events.

In 2004, there were 68 participants and in 2015 there are 105. Three national congresses have been held, all in Medellín city, the first in October 2004, with 33 members, the second in 2013 with 42 participants and the third in 2015 with 62 members. During each Congress the statutes were revised, the brochure “yeast, salt and light” was studied and this motivated many to make a concrete apostolic commitment. The Priorities from the General Chapter of 2013 were taken as the main theme of the two most recent Congresses thus re-awakening the commitment of each of the members. Since 2010, a group of young people has been organized in order to set up a team of “AFJM Youth”. At the end of 2013 this group was put in place and today they number 15; the majority of whom are graduates of the School for Faith and Joy Barrio Populare n° 1. Each meeting provides an opportunity where Claudine’s life and charism is expressed and deepened through prayer and reflection and the desire to share with other young people whether in the work place or as students, the joy of knowing God and of being loved by Him.

For this reason, five of them take responsibility for catechism with those preparing for confirmation, and all of them make a difference in their work place, by



their personal commitment in line with what they do, by their spiritual life and by the joy which shows itself in action. Some, at the level of their professional lives, participate in social projects such as the entertainment of sick children in hospitals, visitation and accompaniment of refugees in need, training of youth leaders, care of the aged, promotion of the leadership of women and organization of recreational workshops for children and young people. We are working to motivate other young people to join the AFJM group and benefit from the charism left us as a legacy by Saint Claudine. The members of AFJM feel that they are the yeast which discreetly makes love grow right where they are: the salt which gives flavor, joy and meaning to the lives of those with whom they live, the light placed on a lampstand which radiates the goodness of God all around. cf. Mt. 13,33; 15, 13-14).
