



# A new year 2020

*Bulletin*

*Association*

*Jesús-María family*

*No. 1*

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## Time to remember and thank

Dear AFJM:

The AFJM has walked since its inception, after the beatification of St. Claudina, celebrating together moments of joy and union as the great family we are, guided by the charism of St. Claudina, which brings us closer to the Gospel, a model of human life. The first statutes resulted in the formation of numerous groups of people around the world who came together to pray and work for the mission of the religious of JM. The "Yeast, Salt and Light" manual is the image of the values that should guide us. They have been many years of living great experiences and fostering a way of life where the key is to look at others to help and accompany. There have been several General Assemblies since then, each time with a look more in line with the social reality of time. We are very aware of the last one held in Lyon in 2018 and whose work has been very necessary and important to contemplate the AFJM today and think how we want our future look.

I take the opportunity to share the beautiful days lived in the General Chapter of Rome 2019 where for the first time a group of committed lay people joined the religious to know our emerging world and, from there, look for lines of work.

We work on the discernment with the U model: Do not get from the problem to the solution directly but by traveling through the entire path of the U to feel reality without prejudice, with an open mind, heart and will and to reach the best choice.

Each of us worked in groups such as biodiversity, water, technology, etc. looking at reality together to also find solutions together.

In relation to the AFJM, several questions were raised:

- 1.- From the mission entrusted, how do you live the charism?
- 2.- What are your dreams or wishes for the AFJM?

This is a beautiful reflection in which we can continue to deepen every day.

The truth is that something new has vibrated this time. The religious have opened their hearts and their eyes to the AFJM with real interest in knowing and loving it. The new statutes, clearer and better ordered, have been approved, with the courage to have opened the AFJM to all people, whether baptized or not, recognizing a reality that already existed in different cultures and with the migratory movements that we live in our days, being, in addition, an invitation to know and love Jesus and Mary, as Sta. Claudina wanted.

The nuns have not seen the need to change their name. On the contrary, we want to empower the whole great JM family, recognizing each one in their way of living the charism, and highlighting the AFJM's personal commitment to the shared mission of the religious, something that will be enhanced.

The AFJM Project for the next 6 years is something new and pioneer and makes it possible to better understand the AFJM from its strengths and weaknesses and is an engine or impetus for the revitalization of the AFJM.

The Decalogue, which you will know shortly, is a business card that summarizes the identity of AFJM and invites you to know and feel it.

Now what resonates is MISSION COMPANIONS and the Congregation will think about how to be together.

I hope that together, together, we seek, with love for God, paths of hope full of beautiful dreams for the AFJM. Because, together, life is better.

A hug, Consuelo Mengual



*Values that are closely linked to happiness,*

*for example, Friendship. One cannot live without friends, nor do I believe that I can become happy without considering the other, because helping the other is a source of happiness. Aristotle, who was the first who set happiness as the goal of human life, identified her with becoming a good person. It is very important to know what needs to be done to get it. What will bring me closer to possible happiness is being a good person.*

*Victoria Camps, Philosopher.*

## The Strip and the Silk Road

In October, the motherland is 70 years old. "The Strip and the Road" advocates for peace, development, cooperation and win-win in the new era of socialism with Chinese peculiarities and promotes global economic development. The young painter chooses national and world peace as a theme. At the center of the representative architectures of the countries along the Strip, is the dove of peace drawing the route, symbolizing the path to peace. Ancient people uprooted the Silk Road, reflected in this four by the desert and the camels at dusk.



ZHANG Shuaidi (House of Chinese Culture in Madrid, November 2018)

Celebrations and congratulations from various groups in Spain



From the Guineueta



Santurce, Bilbao



Orihuela, Alicante



Santurce, Bilbao

# Greetings from Gabon



# Memories of the General Chapter 2019 in Rome







## Advent post about the “wait”, that we can continue working

Queridos amigos y hermanas.

Durante este periodo de **Adviento**, os invitamos a caminar con **Claudina** y a descubrir los “**Momentos de Adviento**” que ocupan nuestras vidas cotidianas. Cada semana os enviaremos unos puntos para meditar basados en un aspecto de la **espera**. Podéis compartir los frutos de vuestra oración y reflexión en vuestras comunidades de fe. Sentiros libres para **compartir** el material con quienes queráis. Así que, ¿a qué esperas?

**Religiosas de Jesús-María - Angélique - Lyon.**

"Se sabe que las últimas horas de la resistencia fueron terribles. En el muelle de Retz había tenido lugar un combate de los más mortíferos. La señora Thévenet y su hija sabían que los dos muchachos habían sido destinados a aquel lugar. Pero el combate había terminado, era ya de noche, y no sabían nada de los combatientes. Las pobres mujeres no vivían, en momentos como éstos, la incertidumbre es algo espantoso.

Viendo las angustias de su madre, Claudina no vaciló y, en compañía de una vieja sirvienta, se dirigió hacia el lugar del combate; estaba sembrado de cadáveres. Se acerca a cada uno de ellos tratando de descubrir a sus hermanos, en caso de que hubieran sido muertos o heridos; no los encuentra y rehace el camino de su casa entregada a las más tristes conjeturas..."  
(Positio p. 533).

Religiosas de Jesús María - Angélique - Lyon

### 1. RECREAR

Imaginate sentado con Claudina y su madre esa noche...

¿Qué palabras del texto te ayudan a describir el ambiente que se palpa en la sala?

¿De qué habláis?

¿Cuáles son tus sentimientos al estar con ellas?

### 2. RECONOCER

Trae a la memoria una experiencia personal de una espera ansiosa...

¿Cuál fue la causa de tu ansiedad?

¿Qué te ayudó a aliviar tu ansiedad?

¿Qué elementos de esta experiencia te ayudaron a creer en fe y en humanidad?

### 3. RESPONDER

Fijate bien en las caras de las personas con las que compartes esta semana...

¿Descubres en ellas signos de una espera ansiosa?

¿Cuál crees que podría ser la causa de su ansiedad?

¿Cómo puedes responder a su espera ansiosa?

¿QUÉ ESPERAS?

ESPERA ANSIOSA

Adviento 2019 - 1ª Semana

"Varias veces ya, la Sra. Thévenet había solicitado de la autoridad eclesiástica el permiso de vestir el hábito religioso, sin poder obtenerlo. La Iglesia de Lyon estaba en esta época privada de su Pastor, por la expatriación forzada de Monseñor Fesch [...] Fue sin duda esta situación de incertidumbre y espera el motivo por el cual el Vicario general, desatendió las reiteradas peticiones de la Fundadora [...] Se tuvo paciencia y, esperando mejores días, continuaron con sus trajes negros ordinarios, y cada una de las asociadas se dedicó a la práctica de las virtudes religiosas, bajo la Regla de San Agustín y las Constituciones de San Ignacio tal como habían sido combinadas, al principio, por el buen Padre Coindre para la nueva Congregación [...] ¿Cuánto tiempo pasaría antes que la aprobación eclesiástica permitiera la emisión pública de los votos? Se ignoraba..."

(Positio p. 557-558)

Religiosas de Jesús María - Angélique - Lyon

### 1. RECREAR

Imaginate viviendo en la comunidad de Fourvière con Claudina y los demás en este tiempo...

¿Cuáles son los sentimientos, deseos y actitudes expresados por los miembros de la comunidad?

¿Cómo responde Claudina a estos sentimientos, deseos y actitudes?

¿Cuál es tu postura en medio de esta realidad?

### 2. RECONOCER

Trae a la memoria una experiencia personal de una espera incierta...

¿Cómo te sentías en el día a día mientras esperabas?

¿Qué medidas prácticas tomaste para no dejarte invadir por la incertidumbre?

¿Qué elementos de esta experiencia te ayudaron a creer en fe y en humanidad?

### 3. RESPONDER

Fijate bien en las caras y en el lenguaje corporal de las personas con las que compartes esta semana...

¿Descubres en ello signos de una espera incierta?

¿Qué piensas que la persona está esperando descubrir?

¿Cómo puedes ser luz para ella en su oscuridad?

¿QUÉ ESPERAS?

ESPERA INCIERTA

Adviento 2019 - 2ª Semana

### 1. RECREAR

Imagina la relación que existía entre el P. Coindre y Claudina...

¿Qué palabras del texto indican cómo el P. Coindre reaccionó a la noticia recibida del obispo?

¿Qué dice de su relación con Claudina la alegría profunda que siente por ella?

¿Cómo piensas que se sentía Claudina al leer la carta del P. Coindre?

### 2. RECONOCER

Trae a la memoria una experiencia personal de espera activa...

¿Cómo fue tu reacción espontánea cuando la espera se acabó?

¿Quién fue la primera persona con la que compartiste tus noticias y por qué ella?

¿Qué elementos de esta experiencia te ayudaron a creer en fe y en humanidad?

# ¿QUÉ ESPERAS?

## ESPERA ACTIVA

### 3. RESPONDER

Fijate bien en las caras y en el lenguaje corporal de las personas con las que compartes esta semana...

¿Descubres en ello signos de una espera activa?

¿Cómo crees que emplean su tiempo mientras esperan?

Su espera activa, ¿despierta en ti una llamada a actuar?

“El 4 de febrero de 1823, el obispo de Saint-Flour escribe al P. Coindre: “Apruebo a esas Damas con toda la extensión de mi poder, como Congregación, para la diócesis de Le Puy, y os autorizo para recibir los votos simples de las que se presenten [...]”. El Padre Coindre, con la alegría que sentía en su alma, escribió a la Sra. Thévenet [...]: “¡El paso del Mar Rojo se ha efectuado, hija mía! Les han sido necesarios a Vd. y a sus compañeras los años del desierto. Alégrense, ya que Dios los abrevia, y he aquí que después de cuatro años de probación, de espera y de deseos, El mismo les abre las puertas de esta Tierra Prometida de la vida religiosa a la que aspiran. Esperando encontrarlas en el Cenáculo de los ejercicios preparatorios, ruego al Espíritu Santo que las llene de su plenitud”

(Positio p. 571)

Adviento 2019 - 3ª Semana

### 1. RECREAR

Sumérgete en el corazón de Claudina en pleno proceso de discernimiento...

¿Cuáles son los pros y los contras que Claudina ve sobre la construcción de la capilla?

¿Cómo busca confirmación en medio de este proceso ambiguo de discernimiento?

¿Cuáles son sus sentimientos una vez ha decidido comenzar con los trabajos?

### 2. RECONOCER

Trae a la memoria una experiencia personal en la que has decidido hacer algo...

¿Qué te hacía dudar para tomar una decisión? ¿Cómo te sentías cuando finalmente decidiste actuar?

¿Qué elementos de esta experiencia te ayudaron a creer en fe y en humanidad?

«En cuanto la calma y la confianza estuvieron restablecidas, las hijas de la Sra. Thévenet le instaron para la realización de un proyecto caro a todos sus corazones: el de la construcción de una capilla [...] Por deseosa que estuviera la Madre Fundadora de responder a este deseo que correspondía perfectamente al de su propio corazón, no quiso asumir la responsabilidad de esta empresa inmediatamente después de las agitaciones populares, agitaciones que podían repetirse por fútiles causas. Consultó, pues, con la comisión diocesana sobre la oportunidad de esta construcción. «No debe detenerse por la incertidumbre de la actual situación, le contestaron; haga cada día la obra de Dios sin preocuparse del mal que puede traerle el mañana». La cuestión estaba resuelta y empezaron a trabajar. En este mismo año 1832, se puso solemnemente la primera piedra de la capilla actual...»

(Positio p. 592-593).

# ¿QUÉ ESPERAS?

## ¡Hazlo!

### 3. RESPONDER

Fijate bien en las caras y en el lenguaje corporal de las personas con las que compartes esta semana...

¿Descubres en ello signos de haber decidido actuar?

¿Qué crees que han decidido hacer?

¿Qué situación tienes a tu alrededor que te está pidiendo tomar un primer paso, que te está gritando “Hazlo”?

Adviento 2019 - 4ª Semana



"Wait to see it grow"

Female fern

Gherardo Cibo (1512-1600)

In the work Discorsi by Pietro  
Antrea Motioli (1501-1577)

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFJM, LYON 2018.

A work that has come true in the General Chapter of Rome 2019.

**Thank you so much!**







## My Extended Family of Jesus and Mary...



We were already raised to a higher level of Spirituality during the three day Symposium held as part of the closing ceremony from 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 at Lyon, France. We then proceeded to the hill that prays, yes!! The Cathedral at Favier. After the memorable Eucharistic celebrations and festive meal on 6<sup>th</sup> of October, we went to the John Bosco Centre Lyon, just hop and skip away from the Angelique, situated on

this hill that prays and looking down at the City of Lyon. We were the chosen ones, to represent our countries at the General assembly of the Association of Jesus and Mary.

There were 37 representatives from different countries who participated in this general assembly held at Lyon on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 and three members from the General Council. Sessions, group discussions, prayer and reflection...etc were the highlights of this, two day General assembly. The aim was to see how far we have come and where from here? We reflected on the changing world and the changing needs of the society and how we, as part of the Association of the Family of Jesus and Mary, could carry out and live the Charismas of St. Claudine.



### Day 1:- 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.2018

Our Mother General gave us the opening address where she first appreciated, thanked and paid tribute to Sr. Elizabeth Ides(RJM) who was instrumental and a great support and a comision member, as she worked tirelessly to make this event possible, but passed away in May, just a few months before the General assembly. Mother General also mentioned Sr.Elizabeth's last text message, " We have a long road ahead of us". She then introduced us to our responsible



international layman of AFJM, Consuelo Mengual and her dedicated comision members, Soumoulou M.Martha and German Londono.

Our Mother General then put forth two questions.

1. What are we grateful for??
  1. Regarding symposium
  2. As a member of AFJM.



Our Mother General put forth the proposal asking if we felt the need to change the name AFJM? Did we want to keep the word “Family”? And what suggestion could we think of?

We all prayed asking the Holy Spirit to be with us during these two days and to help us discern and decide.



After a lot of discussions about the changing scenario of the Families and how families of today are broken, insecure, unstable and a lot of negativity is attached with the very word Family, we still believed that This word “Family” brings with it a sense of bonding and belonging and encompasses a whole lot of feelings and emotions and people from different walks of life. Hence we all agreed to keep the word Family as AFJM is the extended family of the religious of Jesus and Mary which includes people from different parts of the world, all different, yet united in the same mission.

Mother General then handed us over to Consuelo Mengual, responsible international layman of AFJM, who thanked and appreciated the help and support they received from Mother general Sr.Monica and Sr.Irene, Sr.Mari Carmen , the General Government body members. A special word of thanks to Sr.Francoice (RJM) who had been an active member right from the inception of AFJM and who has seen its growth over the years. And other religious collaborators.She also thanked all the



participants for their presence and for shouldering the responsibility of carrying the mission forward to our own countries.



Consuelo Menguel then shared a short story from a book named, Frankenstein written by Mary Shelle. The book

presents the limits that human beings can reach and helps us go beyond. This story made us aware how though many times our intentions may be good but we might be criticized and not accepted yet we need to continue doing good. That is exactly what Claudine did. She then highlighted another important aspect necessary and that was to “Listen”. She mentioned

co-incidentally we all have a special protein in our ear called Claudes 14 that makes listening possible.

The next proposal was to work in smaller groups and come to a consensus on Any three “Strengths of AFJM and any three weaknesses.”

We were given the many strengths and weaknesses that AFJM members from different countries had earlier worked upon and sent to the general Government. This task was completed successfully by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. The smaller groups then came together and each group put forth their three strengths and three weakness. German noted down all these points on the board and when all the smaller groups had finished



putting forth their views, the General assembly found out the connection between different points and after discussions came to a consensus and suggested the Following three Strengths and weaknesses which would be put forth during the General Chapter to be held in October 2019.

Strengths	Weaknesses
1.Growth in faith that helps to move outward	1.Lack of communication and international linking
2.Knowledge of RJM & desire to share in this mission , “ To make Jesus and Mary Known and loved.”	2.Lack of youth both Lay and formators
3.Collaborative spirit	3. Clear understanding of the meaning and spirit of AFJM

Day Two:- 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018

On the second day we were given the task of going through the Statutes in our small groups and then presenting the amendments that we would like to bring about, any other suggestions that we had regarding the statutes. If we wanted to change the order or delete any or replace it

with a better option...etc. If there was any possibility of introducing new suggestions of including the AFJM members in the works of the RJM in different countries. Comision urged us to do this with Courage and humility. This was not an easy task but again by the help of the Holy Spirit each group worked tirelessly and enthusiastically and after Lunch hour, put forth their suggestions and views. Sr. Francoice made a special mention that as this was a Lay association, the lay people's opinion should have more weight and that this association was no more a baby, but matured enough to listen to lay people. Based on these discussions the commission would prepare a Decalog.



Mother General and Comision, Consuelo Mungal our international collaborator for the AFJM presided over these meetings and all the suggestions were noted down which would then be consolidated and sent back to each AFJM groups in different countries for any further discussions and suggestions which would finally be presented during the General Chapter to be held in October 2019.

I would like to mention Each member from each country was given a fair chance to express their opinion however trivial it might have appeared, and whenever there were mixed views, voting was conducted . Each member had an equal right to vote thus coming to general consensus.

Besides the tasks that we had to complete, it surely needs to be mentioned that Our Comision member Consuelo Mungal and her team did not leave any stone unturned to see to the smooth functioning of this General assembly. I am sure a lot of preparations went into it. Not forgetting our comfortable stay at Don Bosco Centre. The Sumptuous meals and the yummy snacks during the breaks. Lunch times were indeed time for sharing as each time we were placed on different tables and with new people from different countries. Language did not seem to be a barrier as we crossed all boundaries and tried to understand and appreciate each other. German took the trouble to place our name boards at different tables for every meal. This surely helped us to know our other family members from different countries and understand that we are all part of this great big family of the " AFJM".



We were also privileged to celebrate the Eucharist in Claudine's Dream Chapel placed between the Providence and the Angelique. After the closing Eucharist, we were had to pick a candle each that was placed on Claudine's tomb and walk in a procession towards the alter as a gesture of carrying this light with us to our own countries and our own associations making sure that this Candle burns brightly within each one of us and that we Ignite many more candles in our own home towns and in our own Associations of the Family of Jesus and Mary.



It was indeed a memorable and enriching journey for each one of us. Thank You "AFJM." " Long Live AFJM"

Praised forever be Jesus and Mary. Amen.



My unforgettable journey to Claudine's own home town.....

Some experiences and memories last a life time and refresh and warm you up, each time you recall them. My journey to Claudine's home town in Lyon, France, is definitely one that is etched in my mind and heart forever. It lifts up my spirits, warms me up and refreshes me each time I think about it.

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018!!! This was the day when I found myself at Mumbai International airport waiting for my maiden flight to Claudine's hometown, Lyon in France, along with Sr. Jennifer and Sr. Silvia from Pune and other members from Mumbai and Gujarat. ( I am grateful to all the Jesus and Mary sisters esp. Sr Felicia, Sr. Ursula and Sr. Jennifer and Sr.Tara for this great opportunity and for the sisters in Mumbai for their hospitality when at Mumbai.)

I was excited. First experience in a plane!! I had never seen a plane from such close quarters leave aside sitting in one. As the plane arrived we one by one boarded the plane to Istambul. My thoughts, dreams and spirits were already soaring high even before the take off....

Like a little kid I ran for the window seat!!!! Sounds funny right? But that's exactly what I did. Then the doors shut, the panels of the plane wings opened and slowly and steadily the plane gained speed and then took off in a jiffy. As the plane soared higher and higher into the sky, I looked down and everything below became smaller and smaller. As we gained more altitude, I was thrilled to see the beautiful carpet of white snowy clouds below( Geography teacher afterall!) As I looked at the beautiful clouds below I looked up and thanked the Almighty for His Spectacular creation. We flew over rivers and mountains and valleys till we began descending. Wow! What a sight! The long winding river with ships that looked like tiny dots became clearer and clearer now and then Lo! WITH A Thud..... We landed at Istambul. Then Istambul to Lyon...

Placing my feet on the Holy Grounds of Lyon, was beyond imagination and my heart sang with joy., "O what a wonderful, wonderful day! Day I will never Forget!!!" Yes 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 a day to cherish forever. The clean roads, the beautiful buildings, the lovely landscapes and of course the cool breeze.... All seemed like a dream that I was seeing with my eyes wide open.

As we boarded the bus to our Hotel in Lyon, the courteous nature of the old driver could not but be noticed and appreciated. He picked each of our heavy bags and placed it into the side luggage compartment. As we had to wait for the Spanish group the driver took us around the airport area. Eventually the Spanish group boarded the bus and we welcomed them saying "Hellow" and they in turn saying, "Ola Ola"

After almost an hour and half journey we reached Hotel Valpre. We were warmly welcomed by our Mother General, Sr. Monica, Her Council members Sr. Irene and the other sisters of the General council. We were served sumptuous and healthy dinner and then we were given our schedule , our room partner and our room keys. We then went to our rooms to rest for the night.

Next day 4th October, after a lavish spread of breakfast., the inauguration of the three day Symposium began at nine with the representatives of different countries entering the auditorium , holding their flags proudly as the Bicentennial song in Spanish echoed loud and clear. Sr. Silvia Cohelo ( Pune), Sr. Antennet (Delhi) and Mr. Varghese(Gujarat) were the proud Indian flag bearers while Sr.Jennifer (Pune) carried the East Timor flag high. It was followed by Mother General's opening address.

Our Mother General Sr. Monica, Likened our journey on this earth to a train journey. Our parents buy us the tickets. They along with our grand parents and relatives welcome us. As the journey continues many people get on the train. The journey still continues and many people in our train get off or get on at various stations. The journey still continues till it's time for our parents to get off the train. We would wish them to stay on with us but alas! that turns out to be their last station. They have to get down some day and the journey continues as we tearfully bid them farewell. What remains is all that they have been to us, their teachings and their memories and we journey on with the new members that have got on the train like our colleagues, our friends, our spouses and our children....etc. until it's time for us to get off the train. The biggest mystery is that we do not know the day when we have to get off the train. On this journey there will be accidents..etc but the journey continues for others.

During these three days we were totally raised to higher level in Spirituality as we heard motivational speakers talk about various aspect of life and we were truly enlightened and empowered. Some other highlights of these empowering talks were as follows:-

- Faith gives us hope and opens new horizons.
- Pardon liberates and transforms us.
- Technology and the Tsunami of information is impacting us, our environment, our families , our societies and the world. What is beneficial or what is dangerous we do not really know. It's volatile and uncertain. Reality is threatening. The only hope we have is in God to guide us through.
- Need guides our service and others can guide us in this service.
- No one person has all the answers.
- St. Claudine responded to the needs of the world around and like her we need to respond to the needs of others.

Day two:- 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

The speaker Schawn, gave us the story of the Jerico road that Jesus narrated when posed with a question from one of the pharisees, as to Who is our Neighbour??

Jesus did not directly answer his question instead gave a parable of the Good Samaritan man who finds a stranger robbed and wounded by the robbers, lying on the road to Jerico. Many people saw him and passed him by. But this Samaritan man took pity on him , set his own priorities aside and bandaged his wounds and took him to an Inn. There he instructed the innkeeper to take good care of him and that he would pay him on his way back home. After the parable Jesus asked the Pharisee , "who do you think, proved a good neighbour to the wounded man?"

The questions for us to ponder:-

1. In our own communities who are the people who lie at the side of the Jerico road? Why are they there?
2. What can we do to make the Jerico road a little safer for others?
3. Who are the good Samaritans today who might teach us how to serve?

The main attraction for the day was visiting Claudine's Lyon from 3Pm to 7 pm. It was like re living Claudine's Childhood, the French revolution and the massacre of her brothers Louis and Francois. As one of the sisters narrated and we contemplated and walked on those paths everything seemed to come alive. We were truly privileged to walk on the roads on which St.Claudine once walked. We felt so blessed as we knelt and prayed in the Chapel where exactly 200 years before on the same day 5th of October 1818 St Cladine knelt down and made the most difficult decision to leave her home and serve the orphaned and those affected by the aftermaths of the Civil war. As we made our journey back to the hotel, we thanked the Almighty for this great experience which would stay with us forever.

After dinner representatives from different countries put up a beautiful and colourful cultural programme which began at 9PM and ended at 12 midnight with celebrations ushering in 6th October which is marked as JM day when Claudine, 200 years ago ,left her home and Founded the Congregation of JESUS and Mary.

The next day 6h of October 2019. "The Day" marking the closing of the bicentennial year and opening up a brand new day of the Next 200 years to come. The Closing address of our Mother General Sr. Monica was brief and apt. She shared with us the story of great personal learning the concept of a "MANDALA".

The Buddhist monks are asked to create their own nest, A MANDALA. They go out into the world and carefully collect flowers, twigs, branches ...etc to create their own Mandala. It takes them days and months of hard work and sacrifice and at last when the mandala is ready, the head asks them to break and scatter the whole creation. This story made us sad and frightened but the lesson that was derived from this sharing will surely remain with us forever. As Mother General then explained to us that during our life's journey we all create such Mandalas and then its time to break them. Like our parents created their own Mandala and then as the children grew up it was time to destroy that beautiful "GHRONDA" that beautiful home, that Mandala. Similarly a lot of efforts and months of preparation went into creating this Mandala of the Three day SYMPOSIUM and now it was time to destroy it. The next day if any one comes there they will never be able to imagine that something big like this ever happened here at this hotel. Then what's the use of creating this Mandala in the first place??

It is not the final product that is important but the whole process of its making. The lessons learnt, the wisdom gained and the patience acquired are all worth the efforts. And it is this, "The lessons" that will stay on with us for the rest of our lives.

The closing of the Symposium saw the flag bearers coming with Flags of different countries that showed that we all belong to one big Family of "JESUS and MARY", as the Bicentennial song in Spanish echoed for one last time as we all joined in singing and waving to the tune. Though our hearts were saddened, our spirits were brightened as we shared one last meal together and waved goodbye to our new friend from different countries and continued our train journey. There was much more in store for us at Fouvier, where a grand Eucharistic celebration marking the closing of the Bicentennial year was to be held followed by grand dinner at the Fouvier, The home that Claudine had started 200 years ago .And as we partook in the grand celebrations our hearts could not but say like Claudine, "HOW GOOD GOD IS."

PRAISED BE FOREVER JESUS AND MARY. AMEN.







# AJFM

## Resonances

After several years since the AFJM began to walk, after the beatification of Sta. Claudina Tevenet, there are many lay people who have joined her all over the world to live her life in the light of her charism alongside the religious of the Congregation of Jesus Maria. But it is still a great unknown and, perhaps, misunderstood association. The Bicentennial Year 2018, was a great opportunity for all those who are part of it to become true enthusiastic communicators making our mission contagious to all those around us to invite them to know the mission of humbly contributing to live in A more human world.

Now, the General Chapter of 2019 has meant a recognized support and confidence for the AFJM that begins a new journey with an open gaze to all people, without any distinction, with statutes more in line with the current time and with an im- This is a project that looks forward to the future to advance in the future, which will be very interesting for the knowledge of the association.

I want to share with you a text that I wrote to make who we are more understandable.

### Why Resonances?

Resonance is defined as: elementary sound that, together with others, accompanies the principal on a musical note and harmonizes with each particular voice or instrument.

Let us metaphorically break down this idea, relating lay people and religious:

- 1.- "Being an elementary sound" would represent each one of us in our individuality as important and essential beings.
- 2.- But this only makes sense "together with others", the neighbor.
- 3.- "Accompanying the principal", the religious, and being with them "musical notes" to harmonize together the sense of the charism of St. Claudina in the life of the laity.
- 4.- Our particular timbre ", " our voice or our instrument ", would represent our reality of secular life with its universal richness of cultural diversity that helps to better harmonize with the mission of the religious.

## What is the point of the AFJM?

We are accompaniment for the religious in their mission from our place and in our environment.

That is why the symbology of musical accompaniment, as harmonic support, implies sharing our secular lifestyle with the religious with mutual support and trust.

## What should we feel to get closer to the AFJM?

- \* Desires to serve, to help, to surrender.
- \* Desires to learn to think well.
- \* Desires to express ourselves with words that shine and fly to accompany the other.

Actually, look at others as a mission of life.

## How to live the reality?

- \* The reality is the others: share, share experiences.
- \* For this a good communication is important saving doubts and distances and with the predisposition to listen.
- \* Get out of our enclosures and live life with others.
- \* Be attentive to the needs, pain and suffering in the world.
- \* Open our hearts to the light and contact with others, to the joys and sufferings of life.
- \* Value the miracle of life with wisdom, dignity, generosity and gratitude.
- \* Have an attitude of kindness and forgiveness.

## Do you feel your accompanying musical touch?

If you feel these "resonances", the example of the life of St. Claudina is the role model. The AFJM is a meeting place to learn to live "on the way out", from oneself to others, supported by the religious of Jesus Maria, who encourage and accompany us with their spirituality and with their education and mission works. Our place Next to them is support, trust and company.

This implies a personal, intimate and individual commitment of each person to want to live in a key of harmony and accompaniment with the religious from their secular gaze, and of which only one, with himself, must examine himself in the key of his Christian formation.

And all this is perfectly harmonizable and bearable with daily life, with the work profession, with family and friends. Moreover, it must be our way of life wherever we are and with whom we are. It is not something else we should do, it is something that is in what we do.

## How to live the AFJM?

All the attitudes mentioned will be specified in each space, time and place according to the ways of life and customs of each human diversity.

But one cannot do it, one needs to join others to walk, to live the Faith in communion.

There are numerous groups around the world (more than 1,500 lay people participate in them), who show their enthusiasm for the lifestyle of the charism of St. Claudina, and we encourage the creation of new groups of like-minded people in feelings, Christian experiences and enthusiasm that are committed to their human formation in the light of the Gospel in order to help others.

A religious, whenever possible, can accompany each group and help with their spirituality the knowledge of the life of St. Claudina so that her lifestyle can be lived in the daily life of each one. If the specific circumstances do not allow the presence of a religious, other ways or means will be sought so that contact with the religious is possible, without this being an impediment to the functioning of the group.

In each group there will be a lay coordinator that organizes its dynamics of meetings and activities, as well as the best way in which this group can function.

In these groups the Faith is deepened through the experience of St. Claudina and through the problems of today's society. Training is a basic pillar to contribute to the best human development. Each group should seek a common mission or sense of help to others.

Little by little, without realizing it, the AFJM begins to be part of us and our life begins to be fuller, cheerful and exciting because we enjoy the presence of God in every moment of our life, learning to live the contradictions of I walk with a more humane and understanding look.

# How good is God!

Consuelo Mengual

# Greetings from Colombia

I send a very special greeting to our great Family Jesus Maria with my best wishes for each of its members, families and loved ones of a prosperous new year. With the joy of the arrival of the Savior of the world, new paths of reflection, gratitude and hope are opened, a promise fulfilled that rejoices those who hope in God, an invitation to trust in his word and transcend faith.

In the hands of God I give our unity and our desire for each day to be Yeast, Salt and Light in a world in need of peace, equality and love, to Him I give each of our lives, our present and future, our priorities as a Family.

A big hug and an excellent life in the presence of our wonderful God.

With love,

Germán Londoño

Member AFJM Colombia



## AFJM ARGENTINA – URUGUAY

WALKING TOGETHER, religious and laity, as Partners in Mission "Cap. Gral. JM 37 (Maria Marta Soumoulou).

During November 30 and December 1, 2019, laity and RJM, we met in Córdoba, Argentina, to pray, reflect to continue walking together as Partners in Mission, (Final Doc. General Chapter 37)

"We have felt the deep happiness that walking us TOGETHER and feel FAMILY gives us. Life has overflowed us in abundance in creation, in discovering brothers and part of the same dream, in sharing, listening, praying, dancing, celebrating, remembering. , TO PROJECT..."

The charism of Jesus Maria is a gift for humanity! And each of us, lay and religious, are sent to share what we have received by making known through our lives, the face of God good!



The AFJM group. from the JM school. from Medellin met on Monday, December 2 to share and celebrate Christmas.

We were at Luz Elena Gómez's sister-in-law's farm, located near the entrance to the Rio Negro airport road, Antioquia.

In the photo: Standing: Martha Inés Posada, Carmen Lucía Jiménez, Luz Elena Gómez, Mónica Jaramillo, Patricia Cataño, Iliana García, Piedad Avendaño. Sitting: Sr. María Esneda Navarro, Margarita de Bedout, Sr. Rosario Montes, Amparo Rivera and Gilma Lucía Acosta.

We had a beautiful day! Nature accompanied us with a very pleasant climate. We reflect on the Birth of Jesus. We build our Bethlehem. There were raffles, jokes, we had fun. In the afternoon we deliver the Christmas gift to our secret friend. We also congratulate Patricia and Gilma for their birthday.

We exclaim with gratitude to the Lord: How good is God!





**Forever  
growing  
with hope  
Happy 2020!**

Lily

In the work *Discorsi* by Pietro Antrea Motioli  
(1501-1577)