



Bulletin Association Family of Jesus and Marie

N°1 January 2017

Evangelii Gaudium n° 114. « Being Church means being God's people, in accordance with the great plan of his fatherly love. This means that we are to be God's leaven in the midst of humanity. It means proclaiming and bringing God's salvation into our world... The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live ...»

Message from Consuelo Mengual

Hello Everyone,

We have before us a new year full of projects, expectations, music, readings, family, friends, meetings, time of prayer and, above all, moments of commitment to others, where Jesus' true joy is.

*This **new bulletin** helps us to rejoice at the various events such as meetings and assemblies that has taken place in recent months in different provinces, which reflect our common path animated by the charism of St. Claudine.*

But we have also experienced moments of suffering as in the case with the loss of our dear Sr. Isa, animator of the AFJM group of Port au Prince in Haiti; Suffering also in Countries at war, families in difficult situation, health or economic concerns etc.

*In spite of everything, we are there, strong in adversity, with the desire to cry out to the world that we can do big things with our limitation. So, Sr. M-Elisabeth Ides and myself, we want the theme of the year to be - **"To be joyful in the Lord"** so that, like the pieces that fit together perfectly, we fill our joy in the Spaces of this Great Puzzle that is the world, harmonizing it with simplicity and humility of life, that it becomes more human.*

Happy Feast of St. Claudine to all !



" The violent death of Sr. Isa Sola has affected us all, and has been a difficult time for you, but I am sure that from heaven she speaks to us and invites us to continue, being positive and strong in facing difficulties, following the example of St. Claudine"

**Message from Consuelo Mengual
to the AFJM Group in Port au Prince - Haiti**



Haïti : Port au Prince

Meeting with AFJM

17th December 2016 was marked by 2 Events:

- **In the early afternoon**, at a moving celebration, Sr. Jackie Picard and Sr. Patricia Dillon (Religious of Jesus-Mary on mission at Gros-Morne), AFJM members, a group of friends and myself carried the ashes of Sr. Isa to Haitian land, near the Foyer of Charité St. Marie.

With hymns, remembrance of her life, demonstration of friendship and gratitude have interspersed at this moment full of reflection, pain and hope at the same time.

The Redemptorists priests, Father Reclons S.J., the Secretary of the Apostolic Nuncio and the Rector of the University Of Our Lady Of Haiti joined us.

- **Later**, the AFJM members met at the Convent for their Monthly Meeting where they shared their experiences and their journey. It was a time of reflection and sharing of the difficulties and their expectations. Several members work at the prosthetic workshop set up by Isa after the 2010 earthquake to help the many crippled cope with life.

Others run a mobile clinic with the aim of travelling the most entrenched corners of the country, where medical care is lacking. Some visit the prisoners, remedial classes for the schoolchildren and participate in the pastoral animation of the Parish of the Sacred Heart. Regular Day of recollection is proposed to be animated by one of them.

I returned to Rome very pleased with their sharing, a group that is united, committed and determined to continue the work, proper to the Charism of St. Claudine. **S. M E Ides RJM**



Assembly of Spain :
by *S Gloria Cascales RJM*

" We want to share with you the lovely experience lived at

Murcia on **22nd and 23rd October 2016** during the **Sixth National Assembly of AFJM in Spain**. We had the joy of having Sr. M-Elisabeth Ides RJM, General Councillor in charge of the AFJM and Sr. M. Angeles Aliño, Provincial Superior of Spain.

For all of us, it was a moment of closeness, warmth and family togetherness, a time of joy and gratitude, especially to the people who made this event possible.

This was a very special occasion. It was the first time that the Association of the Family of Jesus and Mary and the Association of Former Pupils of all the Schools of Jesus and Mary in Spain met at the same time. With what it implies of different ties and feelings. Even if the Assemblies were independent, we shared and experienced common moments: the Opening, the Conference on Saint Claudine and the Ignatian Spirituality, the Eucharist, the Feast ..., with common visits to get to know us better.

As a group, we were able to talk about what we feel and live. Undoubtedly, these encounters energized and strengthened our faith, brought strength to communities, made known our charism and help us feel members of the same Body. This experience seemed very rewarding to all. We hope to promote these moments that help us to grow in fraternity. "



From Sr. Ma Angeles Aliño, Provincial Superior of Spain: National Assembly

"...We were about 300 people, we shared the faith,

we reflected on the person and the Charism of St. Claudine, we celebrated a very moving Eucharist, presided by Fr. Francisco Alegria, former student of Senda (Murcia) ... We went on a tour to the beautiful city of Murcia, its art and gastronomy.

Congratulations to the organizers of these events and also to the religious communities. Thank you for the warmth, hospitality and for all the attentions...

We hope to have more meetings in another year to live together ... At present, **Sr. Monica Joseph Superior General** will be on the General Visit from January to April 2017.

And all, laity and nuns, we will prepare the **celebration of the bicentenary of the Congregation** that will take place in 2018."



Assembly AFJM Argentine-Uruguay
M Soumoulou (Lay Person Responsible for AFJM)

On 19th and 20th November 2016 we had the joy of a **Provincial Meeting of AFJM**.

The objective was to share the experience of our charism as a laypersons who wants to be leaven, salt and light in the Church today. It was a fraternal meeting where we could pray, reflect, celebrate and share a missionary gesture. With great joy we received the news of the **Celebrations of the Bicentenary of our dear Congregation**. Consuelo Mengual sent us a video and Sr. M Elisabeth an e-mail. We have deepened aspects of Ignatian spirituality in Jesus and Mary Maria as "laity and family". "Laity on mission".

We visited 2 elderly homes with friendship and closeness. It was a moment of deep communion and affection. At the end of the day, we had a Eucharist and a festive moment. Work, reflection and contribution for the process of the Global Apostolic Plan of the Argentina-Uruguay Province. It was a rich moment for the contributions of each according to age and experience.

Testimony of Luz Bado (AFJM Buenos Aires)

"Being a participant at this AFJM meeting was a new experience for me with God and my sisters of Jesus and Mary ... As a layperson committed to the service of the Church in keeping with the spirituality and Charism of Claudine. This reinforced my knowledge that we are invited to "be leaven, salt and light in connection with our encounter with God"

- **Leaven**, which makes love to grow in our environment and helps us to progress on the way to God.
- **Salt**, which gives flavor, joy and meaning to our life and to those who are with us.
- **Light**, which invites us to bear the light where there is suffering and to give the goodness of God ..."



Province of Delhi:

Visit of Sr. Monica and Sr. Irene (from 01.11 to 31.12.16)

Meeting with members of AFJM. Sr. Monica simply shared on the Pedagogy of Claudine with them. It was an opportunity to know the groups and appreciate how they live the Charism and the 3 Priorities of the 36th General Chapter. The activities of the AFJM: visiting the sick, the elderly, prisoners, parish ministry and young people ... their desire to live the values of the Gospel and according to the charism of St. Claudine.

Happy Feast of St Claudine !