



SISTERS Poor of Jesus Christ

NEWSLETTER

Issue 19 - February



'Yes' to God

INVESTITURE OF THE FIRST CENOBITE SISTERS
AND THE RISE OF NEW VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
INSTITUTE

VOCATION DIRECTORS ENGAGE IN REGIONAL RETREATS

Each new year gives us a chance to refresh and plan for the months ahead. This February, vocation directors from all regions of the Sisters Poor of Jesus Christ gathered for retreats. Sister Mabelle of Jesus Good Shepherd, the general director for the Institute's vocation promotion, shared that the purpose of these meetings was to begin the year focused on spirituality. The retreats also provided a space for discussions and evaluations of each vocation director's work in their local missions. The goal was to create new strategies, share ideas, and pray together for the important task of promoting vocations, which is vital to both our Charism and the Church.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE REGION

The sisters tasked with promoting vocations in North America gathered for the spiritual retreat at San Isidrio and Saint Mary Mission House in Kansas City, Missouri. Father Nathan Rueb, vocations director for the Diocese of St. Joseph, MO, and Father Dan Morris, vocations director for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS, led the sisters in their meditations. The retreat concluded with the Holy Mass presided over by Father Timothy Skoch.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY REGION

In Central America, the gathering for vocation directors from El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras will be held virtually in late March.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL REGION

In the northeastern part of the Institute, the retreat took place on February 7, 8, and 9 at Corpus Christi Mission House in Sirinhaém-PE. The meeting was inspired by the verse: 'You need endurance to do God's will and receive what He has promised.' (Hebrews 10:36).



OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL REGION

The vocation directors of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, and Espírito Santo gathered on the second weekend of February in Serra da Piedade, Minas Gerais.



SISTERS CONDUCT REVIVAL FOR MISSION MEMBERS

SANTA CRUZ, RJ



On February 1st, the sisters of Immaculate Heart Mission House held a "Revival" meeting for the mission members in Aracaju-SE. The event was centered around the theme: 'Let us continue to affirm our hope, because he who promised is faithful.' (Hebrews 10:23). It aimed to inspire the start of activities for 2025.

On the same day, the mission in Sao Luiz, Maranhão began its 2025 activities with a Revival at St. João the Baptist Church. Sister Hadassa, Regional Superior of Our Lady of Nazareth Region, gave a talk encouraging participants to reflect on the Holy Spirit's work and to seek divine help for the year ahead. The community also came together for a time of Adoration and Celebration of the Word, led by Deacon Fábio Martins.

In Rio de Janeiro, the sisters of the Santa Cruz-RJ mission hosted a Revival retreat on February 8th, inspired by the Jubilee Year. Sister Jocasta guided the mission members in reflecting on the deep and courageous experience of hope in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARACAJU-SE



SAO LUIZ, MARANHAO



ARACAJU MISSION CELEBRATES 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INAUGURATION



On February 25, the sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission House, along with laypeople, youth, friends, and benefactors, gathered to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the Aracaju Mission in Sergipe, northeastern Brazil. The sisters attended a Thanksgiving Mass, led by Fr. Wesley Wendel, a priest and friend of the local community, at St. Pius X Parish. After Mass, the celebration continued with a gathering, bringing together everyone involved in the mission and the Charism of the Poor of Jesus Christ in Aracaju.



PORTO ALEGRE MISSION HOSTS TRAINING FOR CONSECRATION TO MARY

On February 16, the sisters of the Santa Catarina de Labouré Mission House held a spirituality meeting for mission members, friends, and participants from various parishes and movements who were interested in consecrating themselves to Jesus through Mary. Led by Father Marcus Vinicius and Sister Yasmin, PJC, the session focused on themes related to Our Lady and offered a detailed look at Saint Louis Marie G. de Montfort's teachings, preparing individuals for a deeper commitment to Jesus through what the saint calls 'Total Slavery to Mary.'



EVANGELIZATION AND PASTORAL ACTIVITIES RESUME AFTER BREAK

On Saturday, February 8, the missions of Vila Velha, Espírito Santo, and Belém, Pará, gathered for their first 'Fraternal Meeting' of the year. The event was a time for spirituality, talks, praise & worship, and prayer, bringing together all members of the local mission. In Vila Velha, Friar Cristofer, PJC, spoke on the theme 'Have Faith in God' (Mk 11:22). In Belém, the meeting took place at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish hall, where laypeople, religious, and the Youth group participated in prayer, reflection, and fraternal sharing, inspiring a renewal of their commitment to faith and fraternity. On the same day, the Youth Group of Belém held the first Anawin Ministry of the year at Bandeira Square, involving the entire community. During the event, they provided breakfast, manicures, and bandage services. 'It was an experience of love and giving, reflecting Christ's call to care for the poorest,' shared the sisters.



VILA VELHA,ES



BELEM,PA



SAO LUIS, MA



CRATO, CE



PORTO ALEGRE, RS

In São Luís, MA, the first 'Pastoral of Mercy' event of the year took place on February 15th at João Lisboa Square in the heart of Maranhão's capital. During the event, the sisters provided breakfast, manicures, haircuts, and opportunities for entertainment and the sharing of the Word to individuals experiencing homelessness, lovingly referred to as 'sons and daughters.'

In southern Brazil, the Porto Alegre-RS mission held its first street ministry of 2025 on February 13th. The ministry was also resumed in Crato, Ceará. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, the sisters, laypeople, youth, and friends of the mission prepare and serve lunch to those in need, showing care and support for their cherished community.

PJCS THRILLED BY THE INVESTITURE OF THE FIRST CENOBITE SISTERS



Sister Ruth



Sister Salomé



Sister Hostia



Sister Geanne

On February 2, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and in 2025, we also observed the 29th Day of Consecrated Life.

To mark these occasions, the investiture of the first sisters of the Coenobium Sacred Heart of Jesus, a contemplative branch of the Institute of the Poor of Jesus Christ, took place in Vila Franciscana, Campo Mourão-PR. The Holy Mass was celebrated by the founder of the Institute, Father Gilson Sobreiro, with Friar José Joy of the Child Jesus concelebrating.

In their desire to imitate Christ, who remains humble and silent in the Blessed Sacrament, the sisters were invested with the traditional vestments of the Convent. These included the coif, symbolizing protection from the noise of the world; the coral cape, worn during moments of prayer; and the barbette, representing the guardianship of the heart. This investiture marks the sisters' commitment to live in humble obscurity with Christ, dedicating themselves to a life of deep prayer and intercession for the Holy Church and their religious community.



A YES TO GOD: 23 YOUNG WOMEN JOIN THE PJC INSTITUTE



BELEM, PA



PORTO ALEGRE, RS



GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA



BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE

On February 7, as we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the entire Institute joyfully welcomed 23 young women into the internal vocation stage at our aspirancy houses. After a time of external vocational guidance, where they discerned their call to consecrated life, these women have chosen to embrace a radical commitment to live for God. This is the first step in their formation with the Institute of the Poor of Jesus Christ, as they begin to integrate into the religious community's daily life, which includes prayer, serving the poor, communal living, and time dedicated to studies and internal formation.

Currently, we have four formation houses for the aspirancy stage: Belém-PA, Porto Alegre-RS, Ciudad de Guatemala-Guatemala, and Beira-Mozambique. In Belém, eight young women have joined us from Maceió, Sergipe, Maranhão, and Pará.

In Porto Alegre, eleven young women have joined us from various states, including São Paulo, Paraná, and Rio de Janeiro. During the Ad Gentes missions, we were blessed to welcome the first Mozambican female vocation at St. Monica Mission House in Beira, Mozambique, from Cabo Delgado—the province where our first mission in Africa began. We also received the first vocations from Guatemala and Colombia, who, along with a Nicaraguan, form a group of three young women in formation in Guatemala City. The interns, aged between 18 and 33, were warmly welcomed by the sisters at our formation houses. After a two-day spiritual retreat, designed to help them detach from worldly distractions, they symbolically cut their hair as a sign of renouncing vanity and received the distinctive vestments of our Institute: a beige blouse, a brown skirt, and a crucifix. In communion with the Church, we celebrated Holy Mass in gratitude for the commitment of these women, who have chosen to dedicate their youth to the service of God's Kingdom.



BEARING FRUITS: PERU MISSION COMMEMORATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

On February 11, the Peru mission celebrated the first anniversary of the Institute's house in the Peruvian Andes. During the celebration, the sisters were honored with a visit from the Vice General Minister, Sister Ágape del Divino Holocausto, PJC, who toured the different communities and learned about the rich Andean culture.

At the invitation of Most Reverend Pedro Alberto Bustamante, Bishop of the Diocese of Huánuco in north-central Peru, the sisters visited the city of Huánuco, home to 200,000 people, to better understand the local community's needs and circumstances.



GRATITUDE: PJC CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY IN IQUIQUE, CHILE



On February 26, the sisters of St. Catherine of Siena Mission House celebrated their fifth anniversary of service in the Diocese of Iquique, in northern Chile. The diocesan community came together with the sisters in a fraternal assembly to express gratitude for their years of dedication to the poor and immigrants in the region. The celebration included Holy Mass, a commemorative event, and a moment of prayer with attendees to thank God for the mission and evangelization efforts carried out by the Poor of Jesus Christ within the local community.

PRAYER GATHERING OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFLECTION IN CHILE



On February 15, the sisters of the Iquique mission in Chile hosted a Spiritual Gathering at the Tres Islas Retreat House. This event offered a space for reflection and personal connection among the participants. Attendees shared experiences of prayer, meditation, and engaging dialogue with one another.

'BE SOBER' MISSION OPENS NEW MEETING SPACE IN HAMILTON, CA



The 'Be Sober' mission, dedicated to providing supportive environments for individuals struggling with substance abuse and their loved ones, has been gaining momentum in the Hamilton mission, Canada. Since September of last year, the sisters at St. Kateri Tekakwhita Mission House have been holding meetings in an alternate space. However, after Father Jeff, pastor of Santa Ana Parish, suggested relocating to the church's basement, the sisters took on renovations to create a welcoming and comfortable environment for the growing number of attendees.

PJC SISTERS ATTEND CHARISMATIC MEETING IN TORONTO, CANADA

In February, the sisters from the Hamilton mission, in Canada participated in a meeting hosted by the Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) of Toronto. The event, attended by approximately 80 people, included moments of worship and prayer, with the highlight being a talk given by Sister Luz, PJC.



RETREAT FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOLIVIA MISSION RESUMES ACTIVITIES



On February 15 and 16, the retreat for members of the Bolivia mission took place at Santa Cruz Parish in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. Organized by both friars and sisters, this event marked the resumption of pastoral and evangelization activities for 2025. Friar Levi, Sister Edith of PJC, and Father Mario Marcelo Prada led the participants with talks covering a variety of topics.

'FRATERNAL DAWN': STREET MINISTRY AT DAWN IN COSTA RICA

On February 8, the sisters of Blessed Maria Romero Mission House held the first "Fraternal Dawn" of the year at the Costa Rica mission. The religious ventured out at 4:30 in the morning to engage with the homeless in Heredia, offering companionship and prayer to those in need. "We pray that our presence will instill hope in the lives of each individual," the sisters shared. Alongside this initiative, the sisters also assist the impoverished at "Casa Hogar San José" twice a week, providing the homeless with a bath, a traditional Central American breakfast, and essential care. This ministry is a collaboration between the Archdiocese of San José and our Institute, which began with the arrival of the first sisters in Costa Rica in 2019.



FORMATION ON THE CONSECRATION TO THE VIRGIN MARY

In the mission of Heredia, Costa Rica, the sisters held training sessions in preparation for the consecration to the Virgin Mary for the mission members. The gathering took place at Blessed Maria Romero Mission House, led by Sister Helloa.

ANAWIN MINISTRY MARKS THE RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITIES IN GUATEMALA

On February 22, the first Anawin ministry of the year took place in the Guatemala mission. The ministry offered services such as haircuts, beard trimming, manicures, and more. The sisters carried out their activities at "Casa de la Misericordia," located in Zone 1 of Guatemala City, the country's capital. This service center supports migrants and individuals experiencing homelessness by providing breakfast and access to personal care services.



MOZAMBIQUE MISSION PROJECTS RESUME IN FEBRUARY

On February 4th, the official inauguration of the academic year took place at the Avó Ângela school, part of the Inhangoma mission in Mozambique. This educational initiative provides learning opportunities for children from the local village. This year, 55 children, aged four to five, have enrolled in the program. "The primary goal of the school is to help children learn Portuguese, enabling them to progress in their studies. Additionally, we focus on teaching basic concepts of personal and collective hygiene, moral education, and catechesis," explain the sisters of the Tete mission. The project is supported by various sponsors.



On the same day, another initiative in Mozambique resumed its operations: the Santa Clara de Assis Women's Home, which provides accommodation for young women. "These young women stay with us to support their educational development. The Home's routine includes a structured schedule with activities such as tutoring, reading, work therapy, sports, and leisure," explain the sisters overseeing the project. On 2025, 17 young students are residing at the Santa Clara Home.

SISTERS OF GEORGIA MISSION HOLD FIRST COUPLES RETREAT

On February 14, 15, and 16, the first Couples Retreat in Spanish was held at the Cedartown mission in Georgia, USA. The retreat took place at the Days Inn hotel and was facilitated by members from the Kansas-KS mission, who organized and led all activities. Among the participants were members of the Couples Ministry, including Sr. Thalya and Sr. Luz from the Hamilton-CA mission, as well as Fr. Eliseu from the Birmingham-AL mission. The event welcomed 14 couples.



PJC SISTERS CELEBRATE THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGIA MISSION



On February 23, the sisters of the Cedartown-Georgia mission in the southern United States celebrated their third anniversary in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. A Mass of thanksgiving was held at St. Bernadette Parish, presided over by Fr. Timothy Gallagher. After the Mass, the sisters hosted an exposition on the PJC Charism for parishioners and friends during the parish's annual fair.



ARMENIA, SP

On February 1st, a jubilee pilgrimage was held at the Cathedral of São Paulo-SP, commemorating the Day of Consecrated Life. The sisters of Nazareth Mission House joined other religious communities from the Archdiocese of São Paulo in this significant event.

World Day for Consecrated Life

On February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the Church also celebrates the World Day of Consecrated Life, a day instituted in 1997 by Pope John Paul II. This occasion was observed across the Institute's various missions, both in Brazil and internationally.



VILA VELHA, ES

The sisters of St. Veronica Giuliani Mission House celebrated the Day of Consecrated Life in unity with other religious communities. Among them was the Order of Carmel, which witnessed the temporary profession of Sister Loiana of the Child Jesus at the Carmel of Nazareth. The sisters concluded the day's celebrations with a Holy Mass in gratitude for the seventh anniversary of Father Evandro's priesthood.



IGUAZU FOG, PR



CEDARTOWN, GA



COSTA RICA

On February 2nd and 9th, the sisters of Blessed Maria Romero gathered with fellow religious members of the Archdiocese of San José in Costa Rica to celebrate Holy Mass and share in fraternal fellowship in honor of Consecrated Life.