



SISTERS Poor of Jesus Christ

NEWSLETTER

Issue 20 - March



Religious Life

NEW POSTULANTS WELCOMED BY THE
INSTITUTE ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ST.
JOSEPH

THE POOR OF JESUS CHRIST HONOR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On March 25th, the Church commemorates the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Reflecting on the Gospel passage in which the Virgin Mary says, "Ecce Ancilla Domini - Behold the Handmaid of the Lord," our Charism honors Our Lady Servant of the Lord, the patroness of the Institute. In 2025, the Poor of Jesus Christ also mark the conclusion of the Year of Holiness, which has been observed since March 25, 2024.



BOLIVIA

The Holy Mass was held at the Virgen del Rosario Chapel, where seven individuals consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary. Sisters, friars, lay associates, youth, and friends took part in the celebration.



IQUIQUE, CL



KANSAS, USA

The Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Wilson at the Blessed Sacrament Church, during which three individuals made their consecration.



CANADA

GUATEMALA

The Holy Mass was presided over by Father Manglio, FMM. The Colombian formandee, Yurys, made her consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



SANTA CRUZ, RJ



VILA VELHA, ES



HONDURAS

The sisters were taken aback by the allure of a man who was nearing death in a nearby village. The sisters brought the Eucharist and provided companionship to Mr. Victor during his final hours.



URUGUAY

The Uruguayan mission commemorated the Annunciation of the Lord with a house blessing, presided over by Cardinal Daniel Sturla. The event took place at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and was attended by Father Davi Miranda, priests, nuns, benefactors, parishioners, and neighbors of the new Fratérnitas. Following the blessing, a time of fellowship followed.



FOZ DO IGUAÇU, PR



PORTO ALEGRE, RS



FRANCA, SP

Together with the mission members, the sisters of St. Colette Mission House attended Holy Mass, which was presided over by the Most Rev. Bishop Paulo Roberto.

ST. JOSEPH'S SOLEMNITY GATHERS THE ENTIRE INSTITUTE AT THE ALTAR

On March 19, the Institute of the Poor of Jesus Christ joined the universal Church in celebrating the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Eucharist was celebrated across the Institute's missions, bringing together all members around the altar under the patronage of the most chaste guardian of the Redeemer.



VILA VELHA, ES

A Holy Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated for ten years of mission in Espírito Santo. The Mass, presided over by Father Ribamar, took place at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in the Primeiro de Maio neighborhood of Vila Velha, ES.

IQUIQUE, CL

The sisters participated in the Solemnity at San José de Iquique Parish, which was presided over by the Most Rev. Bishop Isauro Covili.



PORTO ALEGRE, RS



BOLIVIA



GUATEMALA



SANTA CRUZ, RJ



IGUAZU FALLS, PR

The Holy Mass was held at the São José Operário Evangelization Center, where mission members renewed their dedication to Saint Joseph.



CHACO, PY

The Holy Mass was marked by the meaningful presence of men who, as the sisters shared, turned to Saint Joseph for guidance in becoming men and fathers after God's own Heart.

SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY INSPIRES SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS IN COSTA RICA AND CANADA

St. Joseph's Day was a special time to show care for those in need. On March 20, the sisters from the Blessed Maria Romero Mission House in Costa Rica visited Casa Hogar San José de La Sabana, near the capital, and spent the morning offering spiritual support to men recovering from addiction. In Hamilton, Canada, the sisters of the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Mission House shared a day of generosity with their neighbors, inviting them to choose items they needed from the donations. "Thanks to God's grace, we were able to meet many people and even reconnect with someone we hadn't seen in a while," the sisters shared. The donations were made possible through the support of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.



TRIDUUM TO SAINT JOSEPH CONTEMPLATES THE GIFT OF FATHERHOOD IN HONDURAS



Inspired by Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, the sisters in Honduras organized a triduum in honor of Saint Joseph on March 16, 17, and 18 in the village of San Antonio. Since March 19 is also Father's Day in Honduras, Saint Joseph was honored as a "beloved Father," "hard-working Father," and "Father in creative courage." On the 19th, the villagers came together for a celebration of the Word, praying for all the fathers present.

SISTERS COMMEMORATE 15TH ANNIVERSARY IN MINAS GERAIS

On March 8, the Belo Horizonte mission joyfully celebrated its 15th anniversary. Reflecting on the milestone, one of the young women involved shared, "Our hearts are filled with joy as we think of the many children, sisters, Lay Associates, benefactors, and friends who have been part of this journey. Over the years, we have lived through countless meaningful moments and learned invaluable lessons. Every person who has passed through our doors is part of this story and has left a lasting mark. May we remain faithful to the mission God has entrusted to us."



SIRINHAÉM, PE MISSION LAUNCHES "BE SOBER" INITIATIVE



On March 29, the Sirinhaém mission in Pernambuco held the inaugural meeting of "Be Sober," an initiative of the Institute focused on addressing the challenges of drug addiction. The gathering marked the official opening of the support center, which aims to offer guidance through shared experiences and the 12-step principles. This effort reaffirms the mission's commitment to promoting sobriety and spiritual growth.

RETREAT "REJOICE IN THE LORD" UNITES YOUTH IN SIRINHAÉM, PE

On March 2, the Sirinhaém-PE mission hosted a Carnival Retreat for local youth at a nearby school. With the theme "Rejoice in the Lord," the event provided participants an opportunity to experience Christian joy through Holy Mass, engaging activities, preaching, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a special performance.



MISSION IN SANTA CRUZ, RJ HOSTS 1ST "TEEN SAINTS"



On March 29 and 30, around 42 young people participated in the inaugural "Teen Saints" retreat at the Santa Cruz mission in Rio de Janeiro. This retreat is specifically designed for adolescents aged 12 to 15.

WEEKEND OF STREET AND KIDS MINISTRY IN BELO HORIZONTE

On the 22nd, the first street ministry event of the year took place in Belo Horizonte-MG, with the participation of vocations, lay individuals, and friends of the Work. The following day, the sisters gathered the children from the Caminho Kids mission for a morning of prayer and games designed to promote children's evangelization, led by the Lay Associate, Patrícia.



LAY ASSOCIATES CANDIDATES BEGIN TRAINING IN VILA VELHA



On March 8th and 9th, the sisters of the Vila Velha mission in Espírito Santo hosted the first gathering and formation session of the year for individuals aspiring to become lay associates of the Charism. The meeting took place at the Saint Veronica Giuliani Mission House.

SISTERS FROM VILA VELHA ENGAGE IN EVANGELIZATION ACTIVITIES



From March 1 to 4, the sisters of the Vila Velha-ES mission took part in two Carnival retreats—spiritual gatherings held as an alternative to Brazil's traditional Carnival celebrations, which are known for music, dancing, and street parties. They joined "Alegrai-vos," organized by the Diocese of Colatina at the Castelo Branco University Center, and "Vinde e Vede," hosted by the Archdiocese of Vitória. The following weekend, from March 7 to 9, the sisters participated in a missionary weekend at Santo André Apóstolo Parish in Serra-ES, where they visited the sick, spent time with youth, and led training sessions for parishioners.

MEETING IN VILA VELHA BRINGS TOGETHER RELIGIOUS AND NEW ARCHBISHOP

On March 1, the sisters from the Vila Velha-ES mission took part in the first meeting of the Vitória Regional of the Conference of Religious of Brazil (CRB), held with Most Rev. Ângelo Mezzari, the newly appointed Archbishop of Vitória.

Religious men and women from the region gathered for a meaningful time of prayer, unity, and reflection on the vocation and mission of Consecrated Life. The day began with a Holy Mass at the Carmel of Nazareth and continued with activities at the residence of the Augustinian Recollect Missionaries.



PROMOTING THE CHARISM WAS MARCH'S HIGHLIGHT IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL



In March, the Porto Alegre mission's activities took the sisters of the St. Catherine of Labour Mission House across various locations in Rio Grande do Sul to promote vocations and share information about their Charism. During Carnival in Brazil, the sisters, along with those in formation and those already embracing their vocations, participated in retreats held in the cities of Torres, Novo Hamburgo, and Porto Alegre. From March 26 to 30, a Vocation Awareness Week took place in Camaquã, organized by the São João Batista Parish and coordinated by Father Danton.

More than 40 missionaries, including priests and members of various religious congregations like the Capuchins, Daughters of Jesus, and Schoenstatt, took part in the event. The focus was on visiting schools, universities, and catechism classes, where the theme of "vocation" was explored through interactive activities, discussions, and community engagement. The event was marked by a strong sense of fellowship among the missionaries, priests, and local families, which truly defined the experience.

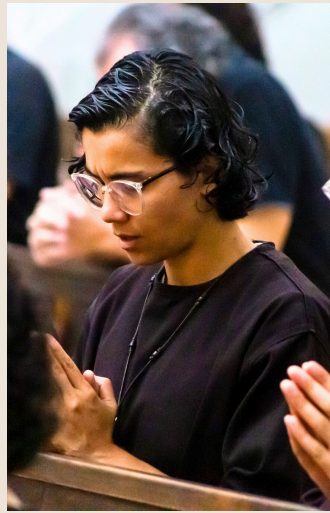
FOZ DO IGUAÇU MISSION HOSTS 120 STUDENTS FOR RETREAT

On the 29th and 30th, the fourth "Rescue Me" retreat took place in Foz do Iguaçu, PR, at the Adele Zanotto Scalco School. Around 120 individuals participated, including the "sons and daughters"—a term lovingly used by the PJC to refer to the poor—who are supported by the mission's weekly street ministries. During the event, haircuts were offered during breaks. The retreat featured talks, prayers, and interactive activities, guiding attendees through a profound experience of God's love.



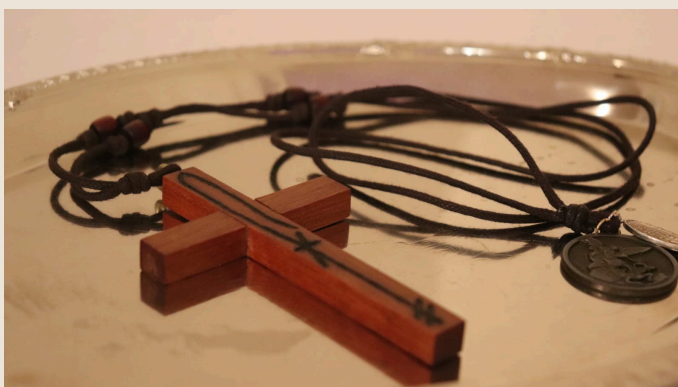
RETREAT FOR SERVERS - In preparation for Rescue Me, mission members gathered for a Retreat for Servers on March 23 at the Jardim Naipi Youth Center. Around 110 individuals attended the event, which included moments of preparation and alignment, all aimed at ensuring a warm welcome and effective service during the upcoming kerygmatic retreat.

CELEBRATING THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH AS THE START OF THE POSTULANCY STAGE



In unity with the entire Church, our Institute celebrated the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with deep affection and devotion. Alongside the various celebrations and pastoral initiatives held in each mission to honor the patron saint of the Holy Church, March 19 also marked a significant moment in the formative journey of religious life within our Institute. On this day, the young women aspiring to religious life within our Charism entered the postulancy phase, expressing their desire to join the Institute of the Poor of Jesus Christ. The postulancy is an important initial stage of religious formation, preceding the novitiate.

At Divine Mercy Mission House in São Luís, Maranhão, twelve aspirants were welcomed into the postulancy: three from Maranhão, three from Piauí, two from Pernambuco, two from Manaus, along with one from Pará and one from Bahia. In Franca, São Paulo, seven new postulants joined Saint Colette Mission House, including the first vocation from Costa Rica, a country where our Institute has been present since 2019. The postulancy rite was also celebrated outside Brazil at Saint Katharine Drexel Mission House in Georgia, USA, where an American aspirant was welcomed into this Charism. We ask for the intercession of Saint Joseph for each of them, that this may be a time of abundant growth and grace.



EXPLORE THE STAGES OF CONSECRATED LIFE AT THE INSTITUTE

ASPIRANCY

After a period of external guidance and discernment, young women are welcomed into the Institute to live in community and embrace the Charism. During this phase, they strengthen their voluntary commitment, deepen their understanding of religious life within the Charism, and foster a sense of belonging and shared responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ in poverty.



POSTULANCY

This phase of initial formation, which precedes the novitiate, allows the young woman to deepen her understanding of Jesus Christ while building a personal relationship with Him and the community through fraternal living. During this time, she authentically discerns her vocation to religious life, reflecting on her motivations and continuing her journey of self-discovery through various relationships within the Institute: with the poor, youth, lay individuals, cherished children, and the sisters in communal life. She seeks to cultivate a sense of belonging to both the Church and the Charism, preparing for the novitiate through a path of spiritual and personal growth.

NOVITIATE

The novitiate is a time of profound intimacy with God and an immersion in the values and commitments of consecrated life, the Charism, spirituality, and mission of the Institute of the Poor of Jesus Christ. This phase spans two years: the first year, the canonical year, takes place in the novitiate house, where silence, prayer, and deep spiritual formation are emphasized. The second year, the apostolic year, allows the young nun to participate in pastoral work at designated locations while continuing her formation. At the end of this period, the young nun professes the vows of Obedience, Chastity, Poverty, and Availability, dedicating herself fully to God, the service of the Church, and the poorest of the poor. She is then welcomed into the Religious Family of the Poor of Jesus Christ.



JUNIORATE

After professing her simple vows, the sister enters the juniorate phase and is assigned a mission. The juniorate is a time dedicated to fully offering herself in service to the poor and the Church. During this period, the nun matures in her vocation, deepens her commitment to her consecration, and prepares for the profession of perpetual vows.

PERPETUAL VOWS

After completing the initial stages of formation, the religious sister makes the profession of perpetual vows, a public act that represents her lifelong commitment. This profession marks a definitive allegiance to the religious community of the Poor of Jesus Christ, firmly reaffirming her dedication to God and the Church.



20TH EDITION OF “RESCUE ME” IN BOLIVIA DRAWS 55 YOUNG PEOPLE

On March 29 and 30, the first “Rescue Me” retreat of the year was held at the Santa Cruz de la Sierra mission in Bolivia, marking the 20th edition of this initiative at the mission. The retreat took place at the San Martín de Porres Educational Center and was attended by approximately 55 individuals, ranging in age from 17 to 63. The sisters of Saint Beatriz da Silva Mission House also shared that during their weekly street ministry, a “son”—a term of endearment used within the Institute to refer to those they serve—was invited and chose to participate in the retreat. After the event, the young man expressed his eagerness to begin his recovery journey with the friars.



CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN PRAYER EXPERIENCE WITH SISTERS IN WATERFORD



On March 15, the sisters from the Saint Gertrude Mission House hosted an evangelization event in the Ballybeg neighborhood of Waterford, Ireland, with around 10 children in attendance. The afternoon, focused on the theme of God’s Love, included activities and prayer, designed to help the young participants deepen their faith and understanding.

SISTERS IN IRELAND LEAD ACTIVITIES FOR THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY



The Brazilian community in Ireland is notably active, and in March, the sisters from Waterford took part in several missions with Brazilian Catholic communities across the country. On March 2, they joined a spirituality retreat for catholic women in Dublin. On March 8, in Waterford, they led a retreat for young people focused on the theme of affectivity. Lastly, on March 29 and 30, they led talk sessions at the Life in the Spirit Seminar organized by Catholics in Cork.



VIGIL FOR VOCATIONS UNITES LAY AND RELIGIOUS IN CANADA



On March 1, the sisters of the Canadian mission gathered with friends and lay associates for a day of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, from 7 am to 7 pm, praying for vocations. The vigil concluded with Holy Mass at the Chapel of the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Mission House, presided over by Rev. Robert Bulbrook.

CANADIAN MISSION MEMBERS CELEBRATE 9TH ANNIVERSARY

On March 3, the mission in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, celebrated its 9th anniversary. The highlight of the celebration was a Holy Mass of thanksgiving, presided over by Father Robert Bulbrook, who reflected on the past nine years as a "novena" dedicated to serving the poor. Several community friends also attended the event. "We honor and celebrate the legacy of the founding sisters who established this mission in Canada, as well as all those who have contributed to its development and flourishing," stated the sisters of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Mission House.



EVENT IN LUXEMBOURG PREPARES OVER 90 YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LENT



The sisters of the mission in Nîmes, France, led a "Kairós" retreat in preparation for Lent, serving over 90 young people in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, a country neighboring France. Invited by Father André Favoretti from the parish of Sts. Pierre et Paul, the retreat's central theme was "The Power of God," guiding participants to reflect on their Lenten preparation. The sisters facilitated talks, led prayers, and assisted with the liturgy of the daily Masses.

SISTERS IN FRANCE JOIN MISSION INSPIRED BY THE JUBILEE YEAR

On March 15, the sisters of Saint Mary Magdalene Mission House in Nîmes, France, participated in a mission organized by the parish of Saint Génès de Malgoires. The event, inspired by the Jubilee Year, featured an afternoon of spirituality and fellowship, with parishioners and catechism youth in attendance. A communal moment included sharing "Bol de Riz," a traditional French dish served during Lent.



RANCAGUA MISSION COMMEMORATES THREE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On March 17, the sisters of the Rancagua mission in Chile celebrated their third anniversary. The thanksgiving Mass was led by Father Luiz, with the sisters from the Santiago mission also present. After the Mass, the sisters, friends, and parishioners gathered to celebrate the occasion.



CONFERENCE FOR RELIGIOUS IN CHILE REFLECTS ON THE JUBILEE YEAR



On March 8th, the diocesan meeting for religious members of Conferre - Conference of Religious took place in Rancagua, Chile. Bishop Guillermo Vera of Rancagua spoke about the Jubilee Year in the Church and how the diocese has marked this significant event. The meeting included the celebration of Holy Mass and a communal lunch. The day was filled with joy and fellowship among the attending religious.

PJC COMMEMORATE ASH WEDNESDAY WITH DEVOTION IN CHACO

On March 5, the sisters of the Toro Pampa mission in Paraguay commemorated the onset of Lent at the local quasi-parish with a Holy Mass presided by Father Carlos, SDB.



TORO PAMPA SISTERS' GARDEN BENEFITS LOCAL COMMUNITY



The Paraguayan Chaco region faces significant challenges in crop cultivation due to drought and water scarcity. Despite these difficulties, the sisters living in the Toro Pampa area of Alto Paraguay have started planting a vegetable garden to share the benefits of agriculture with the local community.

SISTERS OF EL SALVADOR HONOR THE LEGACY OF ST. OSCAR ROMERO



On March 24, in solidarity with the Salvadoran Church, the sisters of Saint Rose of Viterbo Mission House commemorated the 45th anniversary of Bishop Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero's martyrdom. He was assassinated while celebrating Holy Mass for his opposition to El Salvador's Civil War. The Solemn Mass took place at the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Salvador, presided over by Archbishop José Luis Escobar Alas, with participation from Auxiliary Bishop Óscar Álvarez Orellana, priests, and religious figures.

THE MEMORY OF SALVADORAN MARTYRS INSPIRES THE POOR OF JESUS CHRIST

On March 17, the sisters of the El Salvador mission visited key locations tied to the memory of the country's Catholic martyrs. These included the Hospital of Divine Providence, where Saint Oscar Romero spent his final years, and the chapel where he was assassinated. They also visited the José Siméon Cañas Central American University (UCA), the site where six Jesuit priests and two women—mother and daughter—were killed. The UCA houses the Memorial to the Martyrs of El Salvador and Latin America, which preserves clothing, artifacts, and documents of Civil War victims, mostly priests.



LENTEN RETREAT GATHERS RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN SAN SALVADOR



On March 26, the sisters of the San Salvador mission participated in a Lenten retreat for religious sisters, organized by the Institute for Religious Care – DAR. The retreat, centered on the theme "The Conversion of the Heart and the Mystery of the Cross," was led by Father Noel Quezada, LC. Along with the spiritual experience, participants had the opportunity to share and strengthen fraternal bonds with other communities and orders present.

LENT: GUATEMALA AND CHACO SISTERS PARTICIPATE IN THE WAY OF THE CROSS

On March 9, the mission sisters in Guatemala attended Holy Mass at the parish of Our Lady of Bethlehem in Mixco, celebrated by Father Hector with Father Dario. After the Mass, the sisters participated in a Stations of the Cross presentation by the parish youth. In the Chaco Paraguayo mission in Toro Pampa, the sisters gather every Friday to process through the community streets, praying the Stations of the Cross. Local families decorate their homes with small altars featuring artwork representing each station.





VILA VELHA, ES

On the 15th, the first worship service with couples from the Vila Velha mission in Espírito Santo was held at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in the Primeiro de Maio neighborhood.

Couples Gathering in March

The Institute's work with couples focuses on supporting, educating, and nurturing the spirituality of marriages both in Brazil and internationally. Retreats, meetings, Eucharistic adoration, and opportunities for sharing experiences are key components of these efforts. In March, the activities and themes explored across the various missions were diverse.



BOLIVIA

On the 12th, the Couples group from the Santa Cruz de la Sierra mission in Bolivia held its first meeting of the year, focusing on the theme "Differences between Men and Women." These gatherings, typically held biweekly at the "Buen Pastor" Evangelization House, aim to discuss topics that support the formation of Catholic marriages. The second meeting of the month, on March 26th, centered on reconciliation in daily life. Around 10 couples attended the meetings.



BELO HORIZONTE, MG

On the 23rd, a meeting was held at the Belo Horizonte mission, where Carlos and Natália presented the theme "Quality Time in Marriage." The event included moments of listening, sharing, and prayer among couples, as well as the exchange of experiences related to married life.



SANTA CRUZ, RJ

On the 15th, the meeting took place in Santa Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, marking the inaugural gathering of mission couples. The theme of the day was the distinctions between men and women.