



SISTERS Poor of Jesus Christ

NEWSLETTER

Issue 22 - May



Lay Vocation

RETREAT STRENGTHENS THE VOCATION OF
LAY ASSOCIATES WITH DEFINITIVE BONDS

THE MISSION OF THE POOR OF JESUS CHRIST WITH THE LITTLE ONES

Inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:14, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.", the sisters continue their mission with children and families in the city of Mogi das Cruzes, São Paulo. At Placidina School, where they have been working daily since 2024, the sisters not only collaborate with pedagogical training, but also accompany the students in their stages of growth.



MOGI DAS CRUZES-SP

On May 24, the "Comprehensive Learning and Community Center" – an after-school space where the sisters also work – held a special day dedicated to mothers. The program included a moment of spirituality led by Dr. Renata Silva and her partner Adriana, who reflected on motherhood, identity and confidence.

Meanwhile, the children participated in a training activity with Lívia, a student at Placidina School, who spoke about love and respect for parents. After the sharing moments, the mothers were able to enjoy a lively bingo game, recreational activities and some leisure time in a fraternal and joyful atmosphere.

The sisters also work in the field of education in another part of the world: in the Tete mission, in Mozambique, with the project called "Grandma Angela's Preschool".

Other forms of evangelization for children stood out for the Institute in May, from participation in catechism classes to events and spirituality meetings promoted exclusively for the little ones in the missions.



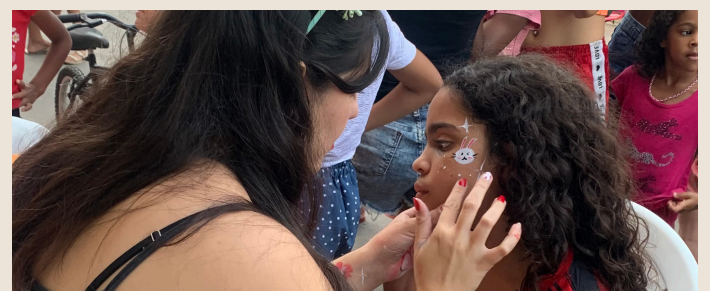
BEIRA-MOZAMBIQUE

On May 25, the sisters of the Beira mission in Mozambique carried out their pastoral activity with the children.

The meeting takes place weekly and, last Saturday, the central theme was the importance of Mary in our lives, on the occasion of the Marian month - the month of May in the Church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Sisters Inês, Gilda and Cecília were responsible for leading the prayers and sharing.

VILA VELHA-ES

An Easter celebration with children was held at the Vila Velha-ES mission on May 1st. The day was marked by moments of prayer and excitement, and more than 200 children from the Primeiro de Maio neighborhood, where the sisters live, were present. The sisters also had the presence and collaboration of members of the Kids Ministry mission, who are dedicated to religious life at the Institute, young people and lay people to organize the event for the little ones.





HAMILTON-CANADA

On May 1, the street ministry of the Canadian mission received a visit from 40 students from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School. The children helped prepare sandwiches and lunch bags for the homeless, who are served weekly by the sisters. On May 10, the sisters also led a catechism class for children in preparation for their First Communion, which had the Holy Eucharist as its theme, presented by the novice Kelly Rice. The event culminated with an adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the sisters' chapel, which included music and meditations.



MONTEVIDEO-URUGUAY

On May 3, the sisters of the Uruguayan mission met with the children of the Fénix neighborhood at the Oratory of the Maria Auxiliadora Chapel for a special activity. Sisters, young people from the archdiocese, and the children painted a wall with the image of Our Lady and Eucharistic symbols. The action was part of the evangelization and catechesis work carried out weekly at the location. The gathering of the sisters underscores the early stage of the Poor of Jesus Christ's mission in the country.



BELÉM-PA and MANAUS-AM

On May 24th and 25th, the mission of Belém-PA held the kerygmatic meeting for children: "Come to Me". Around 20 children aged 7 to 12 participated in the capital of Pará. In Manaus, the retreat took place on June 31st and 1st. The event was held by members of Kids Ministry, one of the mission fronts of the PJC that is dedicated to the evangelization of children and their families.

FRANCA-SP

On May 17, the monthly meeting of the Caminho Kids Ministry was held in Franca-SP, aimed at children accompanied by the sisters. The central theme was the figure of Our Lady. In moments of preaching, prayer and dynamics, the children learned more about the spiritual motherhood of Mary.

ARACAJU-SE MISSION BRINGS TOGETHER 75 PARTICIPANTS IN "RESCUE ME"

On May 3 and 4, the sisters of the Aracaju-SE mission held the 28th edition of Rescue-me, a kerygmatic retreat aimed at young people and adults, which aims to provide an experience of God's love. The meeting has already established itself as an important instrument of evangelization among the missionary fronts of the Institute. Held on the 24 de October at State School, the retreat brought together around 75 participants, who experienced two intense days of prayer, preaching, praise and fraternal sharing.



PROTAGONISM: YOUTH PATH TO SERVE THE POOR IN CRATO-CE



On May 24, the sisters of the Crato-CE mission carried out activities with the members of the Caminho Youth. The young people were responsible for preparing and distributing more than 30 meals for homeless people, in the hall of the Diocesan Eucharistic Sanctuary. The pastoral work, carried out weekly by the sisters of the Mission House Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, is marked, according to the sisters, by the joy and dedication of the young people, who serve with love and willingness. The following day, these same young people gathered for a fraternal moment, with a trail in Sítio Fundão, in Crato/CE.

SISTERS IN ARACAJU-SE PROMOTE MEETINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND COUPLES

On May 31, the sisters of the Aracaju-SE mission promoted a recreational moment for the youth members of the mission. The 'Youth Cinema' took place at the SINDISAN space and brought together 14 young people for an afternoon of sharing, moments of prayer, with the screening of the documentary about the life of Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe. On the same day, five couples gathered in a spirituality meeting for spouses and engaged couples, at the Rodrigues Dórea State School. The program included sharing, preaching and prayer with conjugal spirituality.



COMMUNION: MEETING HOSTED BY THE SISTERS OF FRANCA-SP



On May 8, the sisters of the mission of Franca-SP hosted the Diocesan Vocational Meeting for Women at Saint Colette Mission House. Held in communion with the Diocese of Franca, the event was attended by the diocesan bishop Paulo Roberto Beloto, who visited the meeting to bless the participants. The day was dedicated to listening to the Word of God in vocational discernment, with sermons, sharing and moments of prayer.

LAY PEOPLE WITH DEFINITIVE BONDS MEDITATE ON HOPE DURING RETREAT

Since 2022, the Poor of Jesus Christ have welcomed the definitive bonds of lay people associated with the Institute for more than 5 years. Annually, they must meet for a period of prayer and meditation, preserving their own vocation in the Charism.

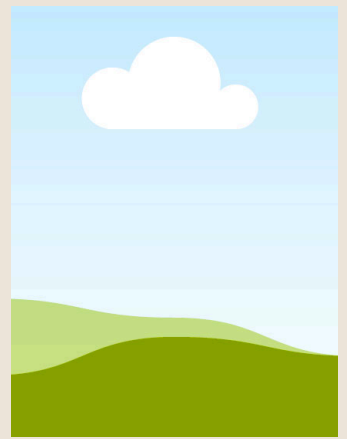
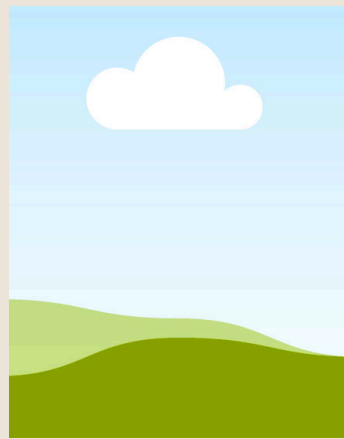
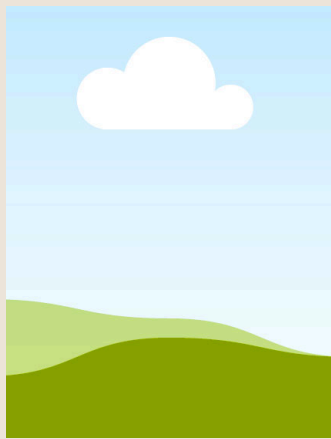


CRATO (CE) On May 24 and 25, the district of Caldas, in Barbalha (CE), hosted a retreat for lay people with permanent bonds to the missions of Ceará, six from Crato and one from Juazeiro do Norte. The meeting was organized by the sisters, lay associates and those called to lay life of the Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Mission House. The retreat was led by Father José Claudiano, parochial vicar of the Parish of Our Lady of Conception, in Mauriti (CE), Diocese of Crato, and had as its central theme the Year of Hope. During the meeting, participants experienced moments of silence, reflection and prayer, leaving the fast pace of everyday life to listen to the voice of God.

Inspired by the Bull of Proclamation of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 of the late Pope Francis, who wishes that hope fills everyone's hearts, the lay people of definitive bonds gathered for a retreat on the third weekend of May.



Through sharing and moments in the desert, they were able to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in each brother. The retreat was also a call to recognize one's own vocation and to renew one's commitment to the Kingdom of God. On Saturday, at the end of the day, the Holy Rosary was prayed in honor of the Virgin Mary, followed by Vespers. In the evening, a special dinner was prepared as a gesture of gratitude for the service and the testimony of permanence that they give to the community. The retreat ended on Sunday with sharing, lunch and the celebration of Holy Mass in thanksgiving for the vocations of the laity and for the success of the meeting.



MACEIÓ (AL) On May 24th and 25th, the lay people with definitive bonds to the mission of Maceió (AL) had their annual retreat: a time of prayer, silence and listening to the voice of God. Gathered as brothers in faith, they renewed their commitment to live the Gospel in their daily lives, with a heart available for service and dedication to the Charism.

SÃO LUÍS (MA) On May 24 and 25, the São Luís (MA) mission retreat was held at the São João Paulo II Social Center. The meeting brought together nine lay people, most of whom had been working for more than eight years and were active in local coordination. The retreat was led by Sister Veridiana, PJC, who also highlighted the theme of hope, proposing a new perspective on oneself, on others, and on the mission.



TEIXEIRA DE FREITAS (BA) On May 24th and 25th, the retreat of the lay people with definitive bonds of the mission of Teixeira de Freitas (BA) took place at the São Benedito Community, located in the Alto Tancredo neighborhood. The meeting had as its theme "Hope does not disappoint" (Rm 5,5) and was led by Sister Betel de Jesus, PJC.

The retreat was attended by eight lay people and included moments of desert and listening to the Word of God over the two days, encouraging inner recollection and rediscovering one's own vocation, strengthening each person's faith and commitment to following Jesus Christ.



SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA - BOLIVIA On May 24 and 25, the annual retreat for lay people with definitive bonds to the mission of Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) was held at the Muyurina Convention Center in the town of Montero. The meeting was attended by 11 lay people and was led by Father Mario Marcelo Prada and Sister Valencia, PJC. During the two days of prayer, silence and listening to the Word, the participants also reflected on the theme "Hope does not disappoint", deepening the theological virtues, especially Hope. Faced with the challenges of a world marked by discouragement, belonging to a charism becomes a concrete sign of hope in the heart of the Church.



TERESINA (PI) On May 17 and 18, the three lay members of the Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus Mission House gathered for the annual retreat, led by Father Leandro. The meeting was marked by moments of inner silence, prayer and listening to the voice of God. The participants, who have been part of the mission for over 10 years, were able to renew their dedication and strengthen the experience of the lay vocation committed to the Gospel. On this occasion, our lay members were able to deepen their dedication, strengthening their faith and confirming the call to fully live the mission in the world as lay people committed to the Gospel.



BELÉM (PA) On May 17 and 18, St. Clare Mission House hosted a retreat for eight lay people with definitive bonds. During these two days, participants were invited to step away from the mission routine and daily responsibilities to reflect on their journey, permanence and Christian hope.

With moments of reading, prayer and desert, the laity were able to renew their faith and commitment to God and the mission.

The retreat was led by Friar Fabiano, a Capuchin priest, and seminarian Ricardo, from the Archdiocese of Belém.

"The vocation of the laity is to seek the Kingdom of God by dealing with temporal things and ordering them according to God." (The Lay Faithful of Christ, n. 15)

SISTERS PARTICIPATE IN THE JUBILEE OF CATECHISTS IN RANCAGUA-CH

On May 3, the sisters of the Rancagua mission participated in the Jubilee of Catechists, promoted by the local Diocese. The meeting brought together catechists from various parish communities for a day of formation, spirituality and celebration. The sisters work actively in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Las Cabras – a commune near Rancagua – providing direct support to the catechetical ministry. The Jubilee program began with a coffee

The morning at the Federico Errázuriz Regional Institute School, followed by training and celebratory activities prepared especially for the catechists. Afterwards, everyone went on pilgrimage to the Parish of the Holy Cross, a place designated as a sacred space for the Jubilee Year. The journey concluded with the celebration of the Holy Mass of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated in several countries in South America and in Chile on this date.



SERMON ON FORGIVENESS MOVES PARTICIPANTS AT EVENT IN CANADA



On May 2, the sisters of the Canadian mission participated in the meeting of the Council of the Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Renewal (RCC) of the Archdiocese of Toronto. On the occasion, the apostolic novice Mariela Lopez preached on the power of forgiveness as a path to inner healing. The sisters also animated the meeting with moments of prayer and praise, strengthening the group's spirituality. On May 8, in Ottawa, the sisters attended the National March for Life – an annual event that brings together thousands of people in the Canadian capital in defense of the dignity of human life. The walk goes through the city center and seeks to raise awareness in society about the right to life from conception to natural death.



PASTORAL CARE FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN COSTA RICA WELCOMES MEDICAL TEAM

On May 20, during the sisters' street ministry in Costa Rica, a medical team attended to the homeless people assisted by Casa Hogar San José, where they also carry out their pastoral work. Thanks to this team, the homeless were able to have their blood pressure measured, have their wounds treated and, if necessary, receive medication. The poor are served in the space twice a week, offering baths, serving a typical Central American breakfast and giving all the necessary attention. This pastoral care is a partnership between the Archdiocese of San José and our Institute, established since the arrival of the first sisters in Costa Rica in 2019.



GEORGIA SISTERS START ACCOMPANYING COUPLES



On May 31, the sisters of the Cedartown-GA mission in the United States held another monthly meeting with couples, as part of the follow-up that began after the “Couples Retreat” retreat, held in February of this year. The program included a social activity in the city park, with a focus on strengthening family and community ties. At the same time, the sisters of the mission organized activities aimed at children and adolescents, with educational themes, dynamics and games. The meetings continue to take place every 15 days and are part of the initiatives developed by the mission with families in the region.

MONTH OF MAY IN IQUIQUE-CH MARKED BY MISSIONARY WEEK



Between May 10 and 18, the sisters of the mission of Iquique, Chile, participated in several pastoral activities in the dioceses of Iquique and Arica. In Iquique, they collaborated in a children's workshop promoted by the Diocese, addressing topics such as multiculturalism and inclusion, with educational dynamics. During the missionary week in Arica (May 12 to 17), they were at the Christ the King Chapel, together with the friars of the Institute, making home visits, actions in schools, radio programs and moments of spirituality with the community.

On the 17th, they participated in a diocesan meeting with more than 100 young people to be confirmed in Alto Hospicio, contributing with a preaching on the Sacrament of Confirmation. And on Sunday, the 18th, also in Alto Hospicio, they attended the Diocesan Meeting of CONFERRE, bringing together several religious congregations for a day of prayer, reflection on peace and fraternity.

MISSION IN CHILE PROMOTES EVENT INSPIRED BY THE JUBILEE FOR CHILDREN

On Saturday, May 24, at the mission in Iquique, Chile, the sisters held a day dedicated to the children of the religious dance group “Servants of Mary”, with the aim of introducing them to the meaning of the Jubilee and Synodality, in the context of the journey that the Church is taking in the Jubilee of the year 2025. Through playful dynamics, participatory activities and a moment of prayer, the children were able to discover the meaning of the Jubilee as a time of grace, forgiveness and spiritual renewal. The importance of forgiveness, reconciliation and the joy of walking together as a Church were highlighted. The sisters say that this day contributed to the children's knowledge of these key themes of ecclesial life, and to living the experience of the spirit of the Jubilee.



SPECIAL PASTORAL CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY IN EL SALVADOR



On May 14, the sisters of the mission in El Salvador held a special morning to celebrate Mother's Day for women in prostitution, affectionately called Magdalene's, according to the Institute's Charism. The morning was attended by friends of the Work, who provided activities, games, and music to help prepare breakfast, and a talk given by Monica Romero on the value and role of motherhood. Some participants also shared their experiences as mothers raising children. At the end, with the support of the social ministry of the Saint Helen Parish, basic food baskets and souvenirs were given to the 26 women present.



On May 17, it was time to celebrate with the women who are being cared for at the Divine Mercy Shelter. The activities began with breakfast, followed by pastoral care, where personal hygiene kits, baths, changes of clothes, hairdressing, manicures and pedicures were provided. Then, everyone went to the Our Lady of Mercy Parish, where Holy Mass was celebrated, presided over by Father Nelson R. Días. After Mass, the celebration continued with moments of prayer, entertainment, distribution of lunch and a festive cake. Approximately two hundred people were present.

CENTRAL AMERICA REGION RECEIVES VISIT FROM PJC FRIARS

On the 24th, the sisters of the mission in El Salvador – accompanied by Friars Gileade and Nazareno, who were visiting the mission in Central America – participated in a meeting with the Immaculate Conception of Mary youth group from the parish of the same name in the city of Arce. The event was attended by around thirty young people and was marked by sharing, animation and prayer led by the sisters, while the friars presented the charism of the Community and shared their vocational stories.



GUATEMALA On May 16, the mission in Guatemala received a visit from Friars Gileade and Nazareno, who participated in several activities aimed at promoting vocations. During their visit to the country, the Friars met with a group of young people from the Precious Blood Parish, sharing information about their calling to vocation and missionary life. Also in the Virgen del Carmen community, located in Colônia Las Fuentes, the Friars participated in a lively meeting with young people, which included moments of praise, preaching and reflection. The activity concluded with the celebration of Holy Mass.

VIGIL IN EL SALVADOR BRINGS TOGETHER 70 YOUNG PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE EASTER

On May 31, the sisters of the Mission House Saint Rose of Viterbo, at the invitation of Father Manoel Lozano, pastor of the Mary Help of the Christians Parish in the city of Tonacatepeque, participated in a vigil held by the Saint Teresa of Calcutta youth ministry. The event, known as Easter Youth, took place at the Veracruz headquarters of the same parish, and was attended by 70 young people. Sister Túlia, PJC, led one of the sermons with the theme: "He is not here, he is risen". Throughout the early hours of the morning, there was sharing of the Word, games and dynamics among the groups, moments of prayer, animation and Eucharistic Adoration. The vigil ended with Holy Mass on Sunday morning (01).



SISTERS PARTICIPATE IN GREAT EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION IN LOS ANGELES-CA



On May 17, the sisters of the Los Angeles-CA mission participated in a Eucharistic Procession held by one of the parishes near of the Mission House. Approximately 2,000 faithful were present to follow the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Pasadena-CA during the event, which began at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, stopped at the city hall, and ended at St. Andrew Parish. The procession was held in anticipation of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which began the same weekend in the city of Indianapolis (IN).



will cross the country and end in Los Angeles on June 22, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The program began with the Holy Mass, presided over by Archbishop José H. Gomez. Soon after, the Eucharistic Procession began with the Blessed Sacrament, accompanied by other priests and altar servers. As the procession moved through the streets, dozens of people gathered around to join the crowd accompanying Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the sisters reported.

FIRST LAY VOCATION RETREAT IN BALTIMORE-USA 'IDE' HAS 25 PARTICIPANTS



On May 25, the Baltimore mission held its first "IDE" retreat, with the aim of presenting and promoting the lay vocation in the Charism of the Poor of Jesus Christ. The meeting began with Holy Mass in St. Mark's Church and brought together 25 participants interested in learning about the way of life of the lay people associated with the community. The retreat was supported by eight lay people from the New York mission and one lay woman from the Canadian mission, who collaborated in leading the themes together with the sisters.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE IN FRANCE ENCOURAGES THE FAITHFUL IN THE SPIRIT OF THE JUBILEE



On May 1, the sisters of the Toulon mission in France participated in the diocesan pilgrimage for the Jubilee of Hope, held in Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, a commune located in the southeast of the country, east of Toulon. The pilgrimage was marked by the presence of the relics of Saint Mary Magdalene. During the event, the sisters were responsible for organizing one of the workshops. In this space, they invited participants to make small paper boats with handwritten and printed messages of hope.

EL SALVADOR

On the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady, the nuns crowned the enthroned image in a new location renovated especially for the occasion, with music and prayers in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady

On May 31, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady, remembering the encounter between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, marked by the faith, service and availability of the Virgin Mary. On this occasion, the Poor of Jesus Christ came together in a spirit of devotion, participating in various activities in the missions where they work. The date was marked by expressions of faith, community prayers and, in a special way, by the traditional crowning of the image of Our Lady, a gesture that symbolizes the recognition of her royalty and spiritual motherhood over the people of God.



TEIXEIRA DE FREITAS-BA

The sisters held a "Marian night" at the Santa Rita de Cássia Parish on May 31. The meeting brought together the members of the mission for the prayer of the Holy Rosary, songs in praise of the Mother of God and a sermon led by the young Gabriela, who reflected on the presence of Mary in the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation.

IQUIQUE-CHILE

On the 30th, the sisters participated in a "Marian concert" promoted by the local Diocese. The event brought together faithful from various parts, with the special participation of renowned Chilean Catholic singer Fernando Leiva, who marked the occasion with music and prayer.



MOGI DAS CRUZES-SP

On May 30, the sisters organized the closing celebration of the Marian month with the students, concluding a spiritual journey lived with intensity throughout the month. The activities included praying the Holy Rosary, lectures and moments of Marian praise. At the end, the students paid a moving tribute to the Virgin Mary with songs, gestures of affection and the traditional crowning of the image.

SÃO LUÍS-MA

On May 31, at the church of Santana, belonging to the parish of Saint John the Baptist, the sisters participated in an activity to close the Marian month. Graduates Renata and Evelyn organized the program with the children of the catechism class and catechists. The event began with the prayer of the Holy Rosary, and soon after the traditional crowning of the image of Our Lady, with the presence of the parishioners and the priests Antônio José and Oblato.

