

14 November 2019

Dear sisters,

November, feast of the first Mass and memory of our sisters who joined the Assumption of Heaven, living stones, in Jesus Christ, cornerstone: "mysterious communion that love melts and cements", according to a hymn proper to the feast of the Dedication.



We have the pleasure of sharing with you some news from the general community.

Let's start with the recreation time. At the end of August, a community day in Giverny in Monet's house and garden was not only a relaxing outing but also an opportunity to get to know the country, culture and the wonders of nature!

The holidays in San Sebastian (from October 25 to November 1) where, by the grace of God, the weather allowed us to take walks by the sea or in the old town of San Sebastian, a day in Loyola, short excursions into the surrounding mountains and even some swimming. Unfortunately for reasons of visa administration, Rekha had to give up joining us. Six days to mark the stop and discover the Basque country and the reality of the Miracruz school, which welcomes many migrant children. Once again, thank you to the Province of Spain, especially the community of Miracruz, who made all this possible thanks to their generosity....



Finally, a nice visit to the Guimet Museum and the temporary exhibition on The Golden Legend - Buddha, on the first Sunday of the month of November.

The last 4 months of the year were marked by visits and the work of various international commissions, which in general were able to formulate action plans for the next three years.



As soon as we returned from Madagascar last August, the **Assumption Together Commission** met at Rue des Plantes for 5 days of work.

We would like to thank the community that has been able to free up the space and has greatly contributed to our well-being and the progress of the work, knowing that the month of August is reserved for holidays!

The team based its responses on the questionnaires distributed in the provinces a few months before the meeting. We became aware of the abundance of life, the growing desire to continue to be formed together - sisters and lay people - and the growing number of people and groups who share our spiritual path. Let us give thanks to God for this fruitfulness in the service of the Kingdom. The commission will establish a database of Assumption Together members to better understand the different AT realities internationally. Finally, an international meeting for Assumption Together is planned for 2022 on the theme: "Connecting with your roots; returning to your roots".



From 3 to 8 November in Rome, Anna Pagani (Europe) Isabel Galbe (USA) Deepti Srankal (India) Viviane Sawadogo (West Africa) and Sandra Durán (General Council), **members of the JPICS Team**, met to develop the Action Plan to be presented to the next CGP.

Warmly welcomed by the community of Genzano, surrounded by the splendour of Creation, with in their hearts the hope and sorrow of the different peoples and missions, these days helped them to integrate themselves as a team, to appropriate the service entrusted to them and to elaborate a proposal to accompany and animate our mission for JPICS.

The survey responses sent by the majority of provinces show the efforts being made in many places where we want to serve life.

In Rome, they had the opportunity to visit and exchange with the leaders of the World Catholic Climate Movement (Laudato Sii), the Office of Refugees and Migrants of the Dicastery of Integral Human Development, a meeting with a priest, member of the community of Saint Egidio. In a providential way too, a fraternal moment with Pilar Trillo, PSA and coordinator of the JPIC Secretariat of the Assumption Family.

In September, the **communication team** also met for the first time. You have received a letter introducing the team. We are pleased to welcome Almudena de la Torre, communication assistant and working closely with Mercedes and Linda Plant providing translation services in addition to her work at the General Secretariat. A next enlarged meeting is planned for 19-20 December in the presence of the General Council, commissions, secretariats and congregational services in order to find ways to decompartmentalize the fields of mission and serve communion.



The new website will be launched in January 2020, <https://www.assumpta.org/>. We worked on the nomenclature and fixed the content in the three languages. We reiterate the call to consult the congregation's website regularly, to give your remarks or appreciation to build together something that meets the expectations of all, without forgetting the laity. Many articles are published on the current website. As much as possible these articles are sent in the three languages, but many are still being translated. We thank the sisters who provide translation service! This is a real mission for the congregation! The difficulty is that an article quickly disappears from the home page to make way for others. We therefore invite you to navigate through the menus. In the structure of the new website, we will try to put more articles on the cover.

We thank the **reference persons** of the many teams (commissions and secretariat) who are the transmission channel between the commissions & secretariats and the communities and works of the respective provinces. This is the most effective way of implementing the orientations of the General Chapter in the Congregational Body, because without the circulation of experiences, creativity is hindered. All together, we have to realize that this is a **real mission of animation** of the congregation where each one is involved.



The Economic Affairs Committee met for the first time in Auteuil for 5 days of intense work (from 6 to 10 October). This committee is made up of 8 people, 6 sisters and 2 lay people: Cécile, Irene-Cécile, Margarita de la Cerda, Fe Emmanuel, Camino, Césarie, Carlos Arense and Ludovic du Bot. Unfortunately, Caesarie was unable to make the trip but was able to join the work by Skype. The creation of this team follows a desire of the General Chapter to establish "a commission that works on the management and administration of the Congregation and helps to formulate criteria and a common thought".

They covered the following topics: guidelines for financial investment; other forms of investment (activities for self-sufficiency, etc.); construction of new buildings in the provinces; existing buildings: maintenance program, taking depreciation into account, etc; requests for funds from associations or foundations, with support for these projects

and account performance; training in the economic dimension; the financial aspects of provincial restructuring; financial consolidation; a province's stable assets and planning. All these items will be presented to the February CGP 2020 for approval.



The session of the bursars was a few days later, from 13 to 23 October: a group of 22 bursars formed a community. Theme: "Called to be prophets who care for the Kingdom". The opening of Rekha and the intervention of Sr Beth Cruz, general treasurer of the Sisters of the Cenacle on "charism, spirituality and mission" and Sr Marisabel, our former treasurer of Spain on the profile of the treasurer, allowed each one to return to the heart and the meaning of a mission received in service and obedience to the Spirit. Speakers such as Didier Rémiot, AA on the Formation Plan for young religious, Christiane

Van Vincq, Xavière, general treasurer on ethical investments, Laurent le Baron of Meeschaert on the management of financial assets have provided very high-quality contributions that have enriched the common reflection. Not to mention the testimonies and practical work on planning, the accounting plan, relations with the provincial councils, reports to the chapters... led by the team, Cécile Franquin, Irene Cécile, Fe Emmanuel, Marisabel and Anne Guillien. The joy of the sisters could be seen on the faces: joy to deepen or even to discover the meaning of a mission at the service of the sisters and the Kingdom. Cécile was delighted: "The sisters left confirmed in their mission, in a renewed call, with concrete tools to help them. The communion lived and the bonds forged will help us to live this service in greater communion with the whole Body". Articles and photos are on the Congregation's website.



From September 1 to 26, Rekha, Sandra and Irene had the pleasure of **visiting the South Atlantic province**. Rekha visited the communities of Argentina and with the counsellors, the communities of Sao Paolo and Brasilia. Irene and Sandra visited Belo Horizonte, Itapaci and Itapuranga, as well as the lay educational community in Miracema. Their generous hospitality and simplicity have allowed us to feel at home and to experience the Assumption family spirit.

It was a time of grace to witness, in different ways, the vitality and commitment of the communities with the

poor of the Church in Brazil and Argentina. We received it as a beautiful testimony of life.

In each community, we found the presence of Assumption Together showing a deep love for Marie Eugenie and gratitude for the imprint that the Assumption has left in their lives.

We concluded with the assembly in Brasilia, a moment to review the progress of these 10 years of the province and prepare for the next Provincial Chapter in January 2020. The assembly was followed by a day of CPP and a meeting with the Provincial Council, strong moments of communion and discernment together.





Perhaps you read the news of **the new foundation in the diocese of Lai in Chad**, born on 18/09/2019, on the website or on Facebook. This community of BERE responds to the calls of the 2018 chapter, which sends us to the peripheries.



The welcoming celebration of Françoise and Jeanne at rue des Plantes on 26 October was an opportunity to give thanks for the progress made since the merger, and to pave the way for this transitional period from here to the unification with the Province of France.

We also want to remain attentive to several situations in the world for which we really need to pray unceasingly. We received news from the provinces of West Africa and Ecuador. The climate of insecurity and fear in Burkina Faso, Niger and neighbouring countries due to terrorist attacks aggravates poverty situations and forces people to flee without knowing where to go. In an informative note, our sister Virginie writes: "The Bureau of the Conference of Major Superiors calls all congregations to solidarity

to make its contribution. I thank you for the prayer that we and our peoples continue to need for the disarming of hearts. »

Rosa Elvira of the Provincial Council in Ecuador talks about the uprising of the Ecuadorian people after the rise in fuel prices. The violence of the police forces is mixed with very courageous gestures of solidarity. She concluded by saying: "Today, we still have to do a personal and community review, and with the groups with whom we work, we are all responsible for promoting a culture of peace. We continue to consider ourselves a nation of peace and we hope that this will continue. »

News also comes from other provinces or in the newspapers: unstable political situations, democracies threatened by fake news or terrorism. Or increasingly frequent natural disasters, earthquakes in the Philippines (Mindanao), floods, droughts...

Let us not forget the signs of hope where people have the courage to come together in the name of justice, fraternity, the preservation of our common home, the freedom of expression of Ecuador.

We also want to give thanks for the Church's recognition of the path of holiness of Henry Newman (England), Dulce Lopez Ponce (Brazil) and Marian Teresia (Kerala, India).

Finally, we entrust ourselves to your prayer, our retreat at the Benedictine Abbey of Jouarre which is located about 75 kms from Paris in Seine et Marne. It will be animated by Clare Teresa on Marie-Eugénie. Coming to Auteuil for the International Finance meeting, we took the opportunity to ask her for this favor! We entrust to your prayer this time of retreat together.

Pray also for the visit to the Central African Region that will take place after the retreat. Rekha and Marthe will be the visitors.

With all our affection,

Rekha, Sandra, Isabelle, Marthe-Marie et Irene