



TOGETHER TO SERVE/11

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NEWS FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

January – August 2026

Dear Sisters

let us thank God for this new opportunity to meet and to continue sharing, by means of our newsletter, stories that inspire us, strengthen us and make us feel united and supported as a Family.

Although numerous news items regarding the Canonical Visits have been shared on the Institute's website and social media, we wish to reiterate them here to offer an overview and, at the same time, share other events that have marked these past months.

There are many reasons to give thanks: meetings that have allowed us to renew our fraternity, moments of celebration and formation, experiences that remind us that we journey together, accompanied by the Lord and supported by the strength of being a united Family, "one body and one Spirit" (Eph 4:4).

Therefore, we invite you to browse through these pages to remember what we have experienced, rejoice in the journey we have made, and recognize, in every experience, the presence of a living charism that identifies us in the Church as Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor.

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2026

The year began with a very significant and beautiful event for the Institute: the preparation of a group of eight Sisters for the profession of perpetual vows, coming from different Provinces/Delegations: Central India: Srs Madhuri Kharat, Mamta Avare and Sheela Rodrigues; Northeast Africa: Srs Lilian Akinyi (Kenya) and Doreen Apio Othim (Uganda); Sister Mercy Chatenga (Malawi); Sister Linh Thuy Dinh (Australia); Sister Yuri Delgado Carreon, North America (Mexico).

The preparatory experience took place in the Province of India Centre, **from January to March**. It was an intense time of preparation, prayer, reflection and fellowship, experienced as an opportunity to deepen the gift of their vocation and renew their commitment to following the Lord in service to the poorest.



Sr. Josemary accompanied the Sisters during the first four days of this journey, while Sr. Melissa was present for four days in March, accompanying them and sharing with them this important moment of preparation.

At the end of this period, the Sisters returned to their respective Provinces, where they professed perpetual vows: in Central India on 5th April; in Australia on 11th April; in Malawi on 11th July; in Northeast Africa: Kenya on 11th July and in Uganda on 18th July; and finally in Mexico (North America) on 9th May.

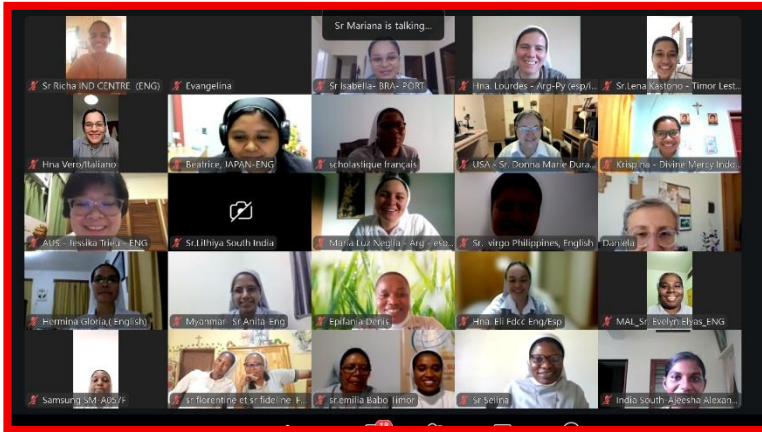
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From 11th January to 9th February, Sr. Sandra, Sr. Josemary, Sr. Melissa and Sr. Albertina conducted the Canonical Visit of the Province of India South, visiting the Province's 24 communities, with a total of 200 Sisters.

After completing their Visit of the Province of India South, **from 10th to 23rd February** they moved to the South East India Delegation, composed of 55 Sisters distributed across 10 communities. The visit was accompanied by the warm and joyful welcome typical of Indian culture. Their arrival was marked by meaningful gestures of welcome: flower garlands, the greeting with hands joined in the traditional "Namaste," songs, dances and festive moments prepared by the communities. Sharing at table, with the flavours and colours of Indian cuisine, also became a concrete way to express hospitality, fraternity and the joy of meeting. We thank God for the dedication and commitment we have witnessed, especially in the service to the poorest, carried out by the Sisters of the various communities. Their availability, closeness and attention to those entrusted to their care are a concrete testimony to the charism we are called to live.



MARCH 2026



On 1st March, the birthday of St Magdalene, a series of three online meetings began (subsequent dates: 18th April and 30th May), aimed at the Junior Sisters of the entire Institute, approximately 165 in total. The goal was to create a space for encounter and getting to know each other, allowing the young Sisters to feel part of the international dimension of the Institute

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through the faces, experiences and testimonies shared in the virtual break out rooms the Zoom platform. The first meeting was led by Sr. Sandra; the second by Fr. Taddeo, a Canossian Father currently based in Rome; the third gathered the testimonies of three perpetually professed Sisters, who shared their dreams for the future of the Institute. These three events helped bridge distances, highlighting the richness of our internationality and strengthened the bonds of communion among the young Sisters of the Institute.

On 6th March, as has been the case for two years now, we met with the General Council of the Canossian Fathers at Ottavia. The first part of the day was dedicated to a moment of reflection led by Fr. Gianluigi. We then worked together to identify possible formative initiatives to implement collaboratively.

From 9th March to 24th May, a new group of eight Sisters (two from Togo, two from Angola-São Tomé, three from Timor, and one from Lourdes) began their journey of charismatic deepening. It was a time filled with grace, sharing, and growth, accompanied by the Sisters who are part of the International Charismatic Team.



On 11th March, the bursars of the Provinces and Delegations had the opportunity to participate in an online formation session on financial management and investments. It was an opportunity to listen to different perspectives and deepen our understanding of the importance of good financial management.

The Canonical Visits continue, and this time we are changing continents and, naturally, cultures: **from 18th to 31st March**, we visited the Province of Congo, composed of eight communities and a total of 64 Sisters. Life, joy and celebrations, accompanied by beautiful songs and dances, along with the festive welcome in each community, punctuated the intense work and long journeys. We give special thanks for the presence of so many young Sisters, a sign of hope and vitality for the future of the Institute. We entrust their vocational journey to the Lord, that He may continue to sustain them in the joy of consecration and in service to the poorest.



APRIL-MAY 2026

From 18th to 19th April, Sr. Mariana participated in the Assembly of the Lay Canossian Association of Italy, held in Verona. It was a time of formation, discussion and renewal, shared with the Lay Canossians. The Assembly also represented an important moment for the renewal of the National Coordination Team.

From 18th to 30th April, the Canonical Visits continued, once again on the African continent.

Sr. Josemary, Sr. Melissa and Sr. Albertina traveled to the Delegation of Malawi (21 Sisters in 5 communities). Immediately afterwards, **from 1st to 15th May**, Sr. Sandra and Sr. Mariana joined them for the Canonical Visit of the Province of



Northeast Africa, composed of Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya, where there are a total of 12 communities and 88 Sisters. We thank the Lord for this experience and for the joy and vitality we received during the visit.

JUNE 2026

From 2nd to 5th June, we spent a week of planning back in Rome, with moments of prayer, review, planning, study, reflection and discussion as a Council. It was a necessary and precious time to carefully prepare for the new year, which will begin in September 2026. It was an opportunity to pause, review the journey we have made, listen to how the Spirit is prompting us, and, together, discern priorities and decisions for the future. It was a time spent in communion, with the desire to continue serving the Institute's mission with renewed willingness and trust.

6th and 7th June. Sr. Mariana conducted the Canonical Visit of the community of San Michele, currently composed of five sisters, two of whom are Junior Sisters from Timor (they made their fifth renewal of vows on 16th July), residing in Rome as they continue their studies. This community is called to be significant for the memory and prophecy of the Institute... a place of experience for the Sisters who stay there for formation (see Resolution 1 of the Chapter Document). The house is a gift to the entire Institute, a space of welcome, formation and sharing, which continues to offer opportunities for encounter and growth in charismatic and fraternal life.

From 13th to 30th June,

the Canonical Visits continued, and this time the journey was long: Sisters Sandra, Mariana, Melissa, and Albertina visited Timor-Leste, a Province with 18 communities and 136 Sisters. Hospitality, memory, vitality, culture, youth, mission, warmth, promotion and identity are



some of the words that could summarize these days. The 'tais', a traditional fabric from Timor-Leste, can also become an image of this experience: diverse threads, woven together, shaping a single reality, from urban communities to those on the periphery, wherever the charism reaches and the name of Jesus is proclaimed. A rich experience of unity in diversity.

On 13th June, the Communications Team held two online formation sessions for all Provinces, in Italian, English and French, reflecting on Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 60th World Communications Day, celebrated on 17th May 2026: Preserving Human Voices and Faces.

JULY 2026

From 1st to 9th July, not far away geographically but on another continent, the Canonical Visit



took place in the Delegation of Australia, composed of 26 Sisters distributed across five communities. A special highlight of the visit was the opportunity to explore the latest mission opened on the Tiwi Islands, characterized by the presence of the Aboriginal population. The Tiwi community is located near Darwin and belongs to the same Diocese. It was a significant

experience, which allowed us to gain a closer understanding of a unique missionary reality and to discover the richness of the presence of the charism in such a diverse cultural context.

On 18th July, a meeting was held via Zoom with the leaders of the Lay Canossian Association, the Secular Missionaries of Magdalene of Canossa, the Lay Canossian Brothers and Sisters, and the General Councils of the Canossian Fathers and Canossian Sisters. Participation in the meetings of the Association *"Charismatic Families in Dialogue"* is helping us to become increasingly aware of the importance of meeting together, as leaders and representatives of religious institutes and Canossian Associations, to focus on this reality of life and discern together what concrete steps the Holy Spirit and the Canossian charism are asking us to take.

It is about "walking together" in the name of St Magdalene, our Mother, recognizing in communion and collaboration a richness for the present and a responsibility for the future of the charism entrusted to us.

From 23rd July to 2nd August, concluding this stage of visits before the summer break, Sr. Sandra, Sr. Josemary, Sr. Mariana and Sr. Albertina conducted the Canonical Visit to the Delegation of Europe, composed of six communities and an apostolic group, with a total of 60 Sisters from 11 countries. Sr. Josemary visited the Polish community; Sr. Sandra visited the Albanian community; Sr. Albertina visited the two Portuguese communities and Sr. Mariana visited the



two Vimercate communities. The Visit concluded on 2nd August with an Assembly in Vimercate, which brought together almost all the Sisters of the Delegation. It was a time filled with grace, encounter, sharing and communion, which allowed us to once again recognize the richness of our presence and mission in Europe.

During this time there were also some significant movements and departures.

- © **8th July**, Sr. Gemma Umaclap, after spending several years in Italy as leader of the International Charismatic Team, returned to her home Province of the Philippines-PNG. We heartily thank Sr. Gemma for the invaluable service she has provided over these years and entrust her new mission to the Lord.
- © **20th July**, Sr. Maria da Silva, having completed her studies, left for Timor-Leste, where she will spend a period visiting her family. We thank Sr. Maria for her presence during these years in Ottavia and for her willingness to enliven the liturgy and the community's various celebrations with music. We wish her life journey will be fruitful and a joyful return to Timor!
- © **22nd July**, the Novice Marion returned to Australia to continue her second year of Novitiate and pursue her apostolic experience. She was accompanied by Sr. Josephine Dusi. Let us accompany her with prayer as she continues her journey.

Other meetings during these months

VOICA volunteers were also formed in various countries during the first part of 2026. In May, a group of 12 young people from the Philippines visited Indonesia.



During the August holidays, several Japanese youth also traveled to Indonesia... as did Italian volunteers in Malawi, Togo and Brazil.



VOICA East Timor has also resumed its activities and is very active in spreading the charism in Timor!

AUGUST 2026

From 6th to 8th August, Sr. Josemary participated in the Assembly of the India South Province and the Delegation of South-East India. The Assembly was an important opportunity for the Sisters to meet, share, discuss, and discern. It was a time to reflect together on the journey undertaken, the challenges of the present and future prospects.



After the Canonical Visit to Australia, Sr. Melissa stopped to spend some time with the Sisters of the Delegation. She also had the opportunity to participate in the Annual Conference of Australian Catholic Religious. The event, held in Melbourne, brought together over 150 leaders from various Congregations present in Australia to share the realities of religious life in the country.

Subsequently, from 7th to 12th August, she traveled to the Diocese of Phat Diem, Vietnam, together with Sr. My Vu, a Vietnamese native and a member of the Delegation of Australia. This journey came about from an invitation to get to know the reality of Vietnam and its people more closely, offering the opportunity to experience an encounter of listening and sharing. It was a



beautiful experience of meeting the local population in a remote village, where for some inhabitants the presence of the two Canossian Sisters was the first time they had ever seen a religious sister.

Several moments were dedicated to Council meetings and meetings on Zoom with the two Commissions that continue to work closely with us: the Commission on Ordinances and the Commission on Reconfiguration.

A significant moment in the reconfiguration process was the online meeting on **18th August** between the General Council, the Reconfiguration Central Commission, and all the Provincial and Delegation Councils. It was an opportunity to begin the next phase of listening to the missionary experiences of the various parts of the Institute.

On Sunday, 30th August, we had the joy of welcoming to Ottavia Sr. María Pilar Benavente Serrano, known in consecrated life as Sr. Piluca. Piluca was Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa and is currently a formator and consultant with Faith and Praxis for Global Leadership. She is accompanying us as a facilitator, thanks to her extensive experience in the field of reconfiguration. With the Ottavia community, we shared lunch, lived in an atmosphere of welcome and fraternity. Afterwards, at the General Curia, we had a cordial and relaxed time of dialogue, always in harmony with the path of reconfiguration that we are experiencing, to continue deepening the work that is accompanying us along this journey.



Dear Sisters,

these eight months have allowed us to delve deeper into the concrete realities of our communities, and we have had the joy of seeing how our charism is alive in the Church, at the service of the poorest and continues to animate the lives of so many brothers and sisters, in diverse contexts and cultures.

May our service contribute to consolidating unity and the sense of belonging to a single Family, gathered around the charism of "Love Without Measure, the Crucified Lord".

We greet each of you with affection, always entrusting ourselves to your prayers.

Sr. Sandra, Sr. Josemary, Sr. Mariana, Sr. Melissa and Sr. Albertina