

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



News & Reflections from Holy Spirit Region

February - March 2024

Dear Sisters, Partners and Friends!

As we get further into this new year, we find that the liturgical time of Lent is early this year in the Gregorian calendar. However, for Ethiopia and the Orthodox world it is 5 weeks later. May Lent and the Easter season be times for reflection on our lives, and a time for prayer for the many needs of the world, particularly for peace. The continuing conflicts between Gaza & Israel, Ukraine and Russia, plus the many other smaller conflicts that are often forgotten, but where our brothers and sisters continue to suffer, call us to prayer and sacrifice. We do what we can to help and, with continued Hope, we offer our prayer intentions to our merciful Lord. *Editors*



❖ *Getting to know you – Sr. Joseane Cabral Soares MSC*

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I would like to share a little about myself. I'm Joseane Cabral Soares. I was born in a small town in the Northeast of Brazil, called Paulino Neves-MA. However, it was in this small part of the world that I discovered and fell in love with the Life and Mission of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the foundress, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. *Photo: Sr. Joseane celebrating her birthday.*

How long have you been an MSC?

I joined the MSC congregation in 2004. However, it took me a few years to discern God's path for me and find out if this was the congregation to which he called me to serve his people. During my formative journey, I came to understand the dimension of the Charism and the Missionary vision of the Institute, and this helped me to broaden my missionary horizon as well. After a journey of self-discovery and studying congregational history, I realized that deep down inside I wanted to consecrate myself to God and the Institute for my whole life. So, in 2018, I professed my Perpetual Vows. In fact, I am very grateful to God, my family, and the Congregation for all the help I received. Everything is grace!

What were you doing before you joined the MSCs?

Before joining the MSC Congregation, I was a kindergarten teacher. I have always been passionate about education, and I believe that education is the key to transforming to a better world. I was involved in the local community as a catechist and collaborated in the Liturgy helping my mother and grandmother. Another activity that I enjoyed doing was playing soccer. I was part of the city's soccer club. It was a very defining period in my life.

Why did you choose the MSCs rather than another religious congregation?



Before I got to know the MSCs, I was part of the Franciscan Sisters vocational group. However, I chose the MSCs because I felt very attracted to Mother Cabrini's life and mission. She was a woman of vision, open to the new and way ahead of her time. She knew how to respond to the challenges of her time, and was a strong, empowered woman and teacher.

These were the motivations that attracted me to join the MSC Congregation and I am sure I made the right choice.



What is your ministry now?

I am currently living in a missionary community in Uganda. It is Missionary and pastoral work directly with the people in the refugee settlements, and where we work especially for the promotion of women. We help these women to empower themselves and find within themselves the strength they need to go forward with their own businesses and be the authors of their own lives.

I am also directly responsible for youth work and Vocation Ministry here in Uganda. Plus, I have assumed

the mission of coordinating the CLT - which means Consecrated Life Team in the Holy Spirit Region. *Photo above: Sr. Joseane visiting families at Pagrinya Settlement; Right: with a Women's Group.*



What do you hope for with HSR?

My hope for the Holy Spirit Region is that all of us, sisters, and lay people, will continue Mother Cabrini's mission. May our missionary spaces be spaces where the life of each person is respected and valued. As Mother said: *'Let us make the Heart of Christ the Heart of the world.'* This is my hope and the mission of all of us who are part of this Institute.

What are your dreams for the future?

I dream that more young women will join the MSCs, and that we have solid vocations who will love the Cabrinian Charism, and who truly assume our Charismatic Identity as part of their lives and will carry out with fidelity and zeal the mission that the Sacred Heart of Jesus entrusts to us today.

What are your dreams for the future?

Thanks to Sr. Joseane for sharing her story.

Mass for the Holy Father, Pope Francis

On May 9th in Addis Ababa, a special celebratory Mass was held in honour of the accession of Pope Francis to the leadership of the Church. The Apostolic Nuncio to Ethiopia, Bishop Antoine Camilleri, presided at the Mass, accompanied by Cardinal Berhaneyesus, most of the Ethiopian bishops and many priests. Many religious Sisters and Brothers also participated in this joyful event. From the MSCs, Sr. Suany and Sr. Maureen attended. It was held at the beautiful Chapel at the Salesian Fathers Provincial house. After some refreshments, a meeting of representatives of many religious

congregations gathered for the Annual General Meeting of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors in Ethiopia. It was a very joyful day.



Photo (L) The group with Cardinal Berhaneyesus, Bishop Camilleri, the Apostolic Nuncio, and other attendees at the Mass for Pope Francis. Photo(R) Sr. Suany & Sr. Maureen with Bishop Seyoum, the Bishop of Soddo & Hosanna Vicariates in the south of Ethiopia.

CME Strategic Planning Meeting – Soddo, Wolayta



From the 11th- 13th of March, Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia held a Strategic Planning Meeting in Soddo, Wolayta. Representatives of the CME works were present, with Sr. Barbara and Sr. Berhane. Ms. Enrica Valentini, HSR Resource

Mobilization Specialist, Cabrini Ministries Africa, flew in from Italy, and Mzamo Sikhondze and Londiwe Nkambule-Gwebu came from Cabrini Ministries Swaziland to attend and share their experience and knowledge of the process. Ms. Nicole Rose Nieman and Mr Akalu Paulos were the facilitators. Everyone confirmed their enjoyment and good results from the meeting.



HSR Mission Integration Meeting – Addis Ababa



In Addis Ababa, from 17th to 20th March, at the Swiss Inn Nexus Hotel, the first HSR Mission Integration meeting was held with 16 participants from Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda, including Sr. Barbara and Sr. Diane.

Designated leaders for Mission Integration in the MSC ministries hailed from St. Mary's Catholic Primary Hospital in Dubbo, Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia, Cabrini Ministries Eswatini and the mission in Uganda. Mr. Thinky Mabaso is the Director in the Region for Mission Integration along with Sr. Diane. A full and fruitful meeting was held.



❖ Experience Sharing – Holy Week Youth Retreat, eSwatini

At St. Philips Mission, from Holy Thursday to the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, there was a retreat for the youth of St. Philips Parish. During the retreat, Srs. Meseret and Evarlyne, both shared with the young people about what is Vocation and our MSC charism.



It was an enjoyable and prayerful experience for the young people, and a special moment in Holy Week for the youth.

With Gratitude 🧡 🙏



- ✦ We would like to express our gratitude to the Clementini family from Italy, who have generously donated some funds to the mission in Ethiopia to assist in the health and education of poor children.
- ✦ Also, we thank Olivier, from Switzerland, who generously continues to give support for those who are unable to pay for hospital care at St. Mary's Hospital – and especially for those who have chronic conditions such as diabetes and epilepsy which require ongoing medication.



❖ *HSR News:*

- We welcome Sr. Evarlyne to her new mission in eSwatini. 🧡 🎉
- Sr. Barbara has been appointed to the Board of the Religious Formation Conference in the US, with her term beginning January 2024. Congratulations, Sr. Barbara! Blessings on this mission!
- Sr. Hanna attended the meeting of the Cabrini Global Health Commission in Codogno in February 2024.
- Sr. Maureen, Abba Petros & Dr. Mekdem from the Addis Ababa Archdiocese met the Australian Ambassador, Julia Niblett, on March 5, at the Australian Embassy. Some points shared were about the social and pastoral activities of the Archdiocese, and funding possibilities.
- Sr. Genet visited Ethiopia for a few weeks to spend some time with her family and rest, then returned to New York.
- Sr. Francisca expressed her thanks to all for the wonderful time she had while in Ethiopia for the 25th Anniversary celebrations, before heading back to Brazil 20 February. She caught up with many old friends while in Dubbo.
- Sr. Lucy was also in Ethiopia for the Anniversary celebrations, and then went to the Uganda mission with Sr. Tigist for a brief visit before heading back to Chicago.
- Sr. Tigist renewed her Vows on February 2 in the Addis Ababa Community Chapel. Congratulations, dear Sr. Tigist! 🧡
- In Addis Abba, some Religious Sisters and Brothers met recently to re-start a chapter of the Anti-trafficking organisation 'Talitha Kum'. COVID had stopped the earlier fledgeling group from developing. Srs. Suany and Maureen from the MSCs are participating in the new group, which is sponsored by the CMRS (Conference of Major Religious Superiors).



❖ *Prayer Requests* 🙏

Please remember the following persons and requests in your prayers:

- ✦ Sr. Suany asked for prayers for a family friend of hers, whose family is struggling with mental illness.
- ✦ For Sr. Gloria & Sr. Albertina who are experiencing some health issues at this time.
- ✦ For our sick and elderly sisters in Mater Gratiae Province, Guadalupe Province & Sta. Francisca Cabrini Province.

- ✦ For all MSC ministries across the world, and especially for Holy Spirit Region – that we may bring love and hope to those whom we serve.
- ✦ If anyone would like the sisters and partners to pray for their special intentions, please feel free to contact the Editors of the newsletter.



❖ *A Word From Mother Cabrini* ♥

‘Yet, in the depths of my soul, I feel Jesus continually infusing me with a spark of courage, saying in an almost audible voice, **“Follow me, for I was saddened for you even unto death.”** Yes, my beloved Jesus, I want to follow you, surrendering myself entirely to your holy will.’ (*Journal of a Trusting Heart. pg. 61, Retreat, Our Lady of Grace, Codogno, 2nd day of Lent, 1883*)



❖ *Stories of Life of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

You will find on the Cabrini World website (and YouTube) personal stories of the MSC sisters - a legacy for future generations of MSCs and to those who would like to learn more about Mother Cabrini’s charism through the precious missionary lives of her daughters.

From February 2020 to December 2023, over 160 Sisters stories have been filmed spanning 9 countries and 19 cities! These Sisters have lived and been missioned around the world, and their lives have impacted the very communities with whom they have lived closely with and who they love and serve.

For more information on our Cabrini World, check out the following websites:

✦ www.cabriniworld.org	✦ LinkedIn: Cabrini World
✦ info@cabriniworld.org	✦ www.motherscbrini.org
✦ Facebook: @cabriniworld	✦ http://www.museocabriniano.it/
✦ Twitter: @WorldCabrini	✦ facebook.com/mscprovinciasfcabrini
✦ Instagram: @cabriniworld	✦ www.cabriniministriesethiopia.org/

Thank you & God bless you! ♥

Blessings of the Easter Season to all of you have already celebrated the Easter Feast!

May the Risen Lord accompany each of you, and give you peace and joy.

And blessings for those of us in Ethiopia who are still travelling through the Lenten season!

May our hearts become transformed into the likeness of Jesus.

FOR
GOD
SO
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SON

