

Sept./October'24

Information Bulletin of the nº 482 Missionaries of Christ Jesus



“Go and invite everyone to the banquet”

The motto is the one offered to us by Pope Francis, inspired by the parable of the wedding feast.

Dear brothers and sisters, some key questions arise in my mind: Where do I have to go? Where does the Lord want me to go? And why should I go?

The Lord sends me “go and invite” the whole world to the banquet of fraternity, of the Eucharist, of friendship with the Lord;

An invitation made in the style of Christ - with tenderness, charity and closeness - who is the one who sends us and whom we announce. Because the salvation that Jesus has come to bring us is for “**all, all, all**” and, especially, for the last, the distant, the excluded.

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Jesus wants people to savour his presence, his close friendship, the consolation that is born from this friendship. **The Pope reminds us again** that “Every Christian is called to participate in this universal mission with the evangelical witness of his life, of his words and gestures in all environments, so that the whole Church continually goes out with its Lord and Master to the “crossroads” of

today's world to call it to the happiness that Jesus offers, despite indifference or rejection.

In this dimension of Mission, the centrality of the Eucharist is highlighted.

Starting from the celebration of the Eucharist, the heart of the liturgy, we receive a slogan that encourages Christians to commit themselves to the propagation of the Good News and to the Christian animation of society that restores hope to hearts, that their life is sustained by God and this unity to God. **"Whatever you do to one of these little ones, you do to me" Mt 25.** In the Eucharist we are invited to be another bread that is broken, to be food for others: in their homes, at work and in their environment or society.

At this moment in the history of our societies where restlessness, despair, pain, rage, struggle, divisions, injustice, crimes, plundering of the defenseless prevail... The Lord tells us again: **"Go and Invite."**



An extract from the message of the Holy Father on the occasion of Mission Sunday 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

For this year's World Mission Day, I have chosen the theme of the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (Mt 22:1-14). After the guests have rejected the invitation, the king, the protagonist of the story, says to his servants: "Go out to the crossroads and invite as many as you find" (v. 9). Reflecting on this key word, in the context of the parable and the life of Jesus, we can highlight some important aspects of evangelization, which are particularly relevant for all of us, missionary disciples of Christ, in this final phase of the synodal journey which, according to the motto "Communion, participation, mission", must relaunch the Church towards her priority commitment, that is, the proclamation of the Gospel in the contemporary world.

1. *"Go and invite!" Mission as a tireless going and inviting to the feast of the Lord*
2. *To the banquet. The eschatological and Eucharistic perspective of the mission of Christ and of the Church*
3. *"All": The universal mission of Christ's disciples and the completely synodal-missionary Church*

The disciples-missionaries of Christ always have in their hearts a concern for all people of every social or even moral condition. The parable of the banquet tells us that, following the king's recommendation, the servants gathered "all those they found, both bad and good."

The universal mission requires the commitment of everyone. For this reason, it is necessary to continue the journey towards a Church at the service of the Gospel that is completely synodal-missionary. Synodality is in itself missionary and, vice versa, the mission is always synodal. Therefore, close missionary cooperation is even more urgent and necessary today in the universal Church, as well as in the particular Churches.

Finally, let us turn our gaze to Mary, who obtained the first miracle from Jesus, precisely at a wedding feast, in Cana of Galilee (cf. Jn 2:1-12). The Lord offered the bride and groom and all the guests an abundance of new wine, a foretaste of the wedding banquet that God is preparing for everyone at the end of time. Let us also ask for her maternal intercession today for the evangelizing mission of Christ's disciples, with the joy and concern of our Mother, with the strength of tenderness and affection.



Spain - El Ejido

“Bridges that unite Histories”

Summer time in Spain is time for vacations and camps in different modalities. From July 21st to 27th, 2024, I was at a camp in Roquetas del Mar, where Ximena was last year. She also wanted to go, but could not because she had other responsibilities. This town is about 20 minutes by car from El Ejido, where our community is. It is the most populated town in Almería. It has more than one hundred thousand inhabitants and a third of them are migrants, most of them from South Africa. It is divided into two extreme environments: the area of poor migrants and the tourist area. Normally, in summer there are many tourists enjoying the beach and the landscape.



This camp was organized by a group called "Friends of Africa" in Andalusia that has been running it every year since 2017. It is an intercultural meeting of Spanish youth with migrants from different African countries. This year, the theme was “bridges that unite history” and the aim was to strengthen relationships. It is a week of animation and accompaniment with the children of migrants and Spanish classes for those who have recently arrived in Spain.

Although there are religious congregations working in the area, the group has chosen this town because there are many children who need to change the reality of their lives a little. Their families live in the so-called “two hundred” houses where the gypsies who were gradually leaving used to be and now the majority are occupied by migrants. It is not a healthy environment for children. The drug problem is increasing day by day. There are many types of social problems: drugs, prostitution, theft, family problems that affect innocent children.

The camp has been a good experience, with a very intense schedule: starting



the day with prayer, group activities and meeting with the children in the morning and after the activities, a small evaluation. In the afternoon, a talk or training and Spanish

classes for the migrants, particularly those at the first level. The children's activities consisted of workshops organized in different age groups, and in general it was done through games.

During the activities, I spent two days with the teenagers and I saw that many of them are very sensitive, affected by small events and their anger comes out in rage. The other days I was with children doing different activities such as: painting, drawing, playing games, singing, dancing, etc. In my opinion, these children, although very young, are also affected by the social environment where they are living.

This camp not only aims at helping migrants, but also to train



volunteers to strengthen life and mission, especially in the complex situation of this time. We had training/information talks on: prostitution, the experience of a migrant, life in prison and Religious Vocation. This training was given by a nun, a lay person who accompanies women victims of prostitution, a priest a White Father, a migrant and some of our fellow volunteers who are in prison pastoral care with a concrete and profound experience. It was like a short-term mission but integrated with mission and training.

Although it was a one-week camp, I still have many feelings from this accompaniment of the children, the meeting and the Spanish classes with the migrants who arrived in Spain. In addition, I learned how to work in team with this group and the volunteers to organize and collaborate in the activities and enjoy the friendship and closeness.



I thank everyone: our community, the family of Juan Luis and Ma. Angeles (main organizer) who gave me the opportunity to participate in this camp, for the group's visit to our house in El Ejido and their financial support for the mission of the Missionaries of Christ Jesus. Thank you all very much.



Thelma Nangcas, MCJ

SUMMER EXPERIENCE IN NIJAR

"Our service, like that of Jesus, should respond to the real needs of the human group with which we share our life, respecting their freedom and rhythm of evolution, and cooperating, according to the different circumstances, with our potential and the gifts God has given to each one."
Const-9

Sisters, with this sentence from the Constitutions I want to share with you my experience of volunteering for two weeks in Nijar. Nijar is a municipality located 23 km from Almería and one hour and 20 minutes from El Ejido.

In Nijar I worked with a Jesuit association called "S.J.M." which stands for: Jesuit Service to Migrants that has been functioning for a year and a half. This association has three key verbs:

- 1. Accompany,**
- 2. Serve,**
- 3. Defend.**

Its objectives:

- ✓ That the migrants leave the slums so that they have a dignified life
- ✓ That the migrants have documents.

The association works with a powerful woman who owns a housing company. The company rents out the houses to the association and the association in turn rents them out to migrants. There were three young people from Madrid and I. What did we do? Give Spanish classes and workshops.

SPANISH CLASSES

From twelve to two we had classes in the park. Many of the students work in the morning.

WORKSHOPS

1. How to manage when it is very hot in the greenhouse

- Always have a bottle of water,
- Start hard work in the morning,
- Put on light-colored clothes (white, light blue...),

- Rest outside the greenhouse,
- When a colleague gets dizzy, put a wet towel over her/his head or forehead and give her/him a drink slowly. If necessary, call an ambulance.

2. Housekeeping

As a large group is living in the new houses in the centre of Nijar, we had to teach them how to clean the kitchen, the hood, the oven, the fridge, the bathroom, the shower, the windows, the washing machine, the floor...

3. Handling food

Migrants work in the greenhouses, so it is important for them to learn how to handle food; when can food be contaminated?

- Always wear gloves,
- Direct contamination, indirect contamination,
- Food hygiene: these are the conditions in which food must be kept...
- Disinfection: this is when the bacteria are killed...
- The food production chain: these are the steps that food must follow...

4. How to manage stress?

First, situate myself in my reality. Write on the map of my country the good and the bad, what I miss; then write on the map of Spain the good and the bad. Using the drawing of a thermometer, you try to answer some questions from 1 to 10. For example: I don't have papers, I don't have a job, I don't have a home, I don't have friends, I feel far from my family, I don't have money... What is the problem that bothers me the most? Each person points out on the thermometer what worries them the most. Some advice to overcome stress: get away from others to be alone with your truth, call friends and express what you are going through and what you feel, know how to say no to family, to people who ask you for money. Have the courage to say no to family (I don't have a job, I don't have money...).

5. Intercultural Dinner

One day we had an intercultural dinner. Since there are people from Mali, Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, Gambia in the group, each group brought the typical food from their country. The association team (Spanish) brought gazpacho, the volunteers brought the typical dessert from Spain. And I also cooked fufu with gombo, a type of vegetable. That afternoon there were at least 8 different dishes. Each group explained to the others what the food was called, how it was cooked and when it was eaten. It was an afternoon of communion and fraternity. Joaquín, who is in charge of the administration of the association, exclaimed: this is a true Eucharist. Each one had his place, a plate, a glass; there was everything for everyone. After dinner there was dancing and music from each country, the joy was so great that the neighbors came to find out what was happening.

The situation and reality of migration is a difficult and delicate subject because the mafia within this has reached a very high level. As long as there is no justice among humans, the migration situation will continue because it is a way for some to get rich. Sisters, the mission of Jesus and the needs of humanity continue to grow, we ask God for his Spirit to guide us and show us how to work to give hope to those around us. It is a pleasure to share with you what I experienced in Nijar.

A hug, Veronica





“PRETTY GOOD”

I spent a few days in the hospital, now I am in the infirmary and as the saying goes: “You will not go to bed without learning one more thing,” I am a teacher! I have learned at 96 years what the adverb **“ENOUGH “means: It is what I have heard so many times from the sick sisters when they said to me: “more or less” or “as I can.”**

Now when they ask me how I am, if I say fine, I feel like a liar, but if I say bad, I feel ungrateful. How can I say bad if I don’t have pain, if the nurse opens the fridge and tells me “you can have whatever you want”, if from my window I can see a beautiful garden, etc...

A few days ago, a very nice article by the Mexican journalist ARMANDO FUENTES was posted on WhatsApp in which he complains that those who make the FORBES list of the world’s millionaires have not included him, who is a multimillionaire because he has a family that loves him, eyes to see the immensity of evil...

That’s why I say “pretty good”, I feel calm, and so does anyone who asks me. It works!

I have hope of being cured, but some sisters I ask no longer have it, that’s why their “more or less” or “as I can” has so much value and sincerity. I thought that enough always meant abundance: Enough rain, enough work, but now I have understood that it also means: sufficient.

I think that their “more or less” has more meaning because I sense that it means: LESS, with less strength that corresponds to, AS I CAN.

MORE, with more peace and trust in the Lord. So, although none of us says it, but I think we feel it: **QUITE A LOT CLOSER TO THE ENCOUNTER WITH HIM.**

Carmela Taravillo



Sisters of the International Course

Our life in Eureka (The Spanish language school)

Dear sisters, we come to you to share our first step in learning. As you well know, learning a new language is an experience that requires a lot of effort and time.

For us, learning Spanish has been a rich and transformative experience, full of challenges and moments of satisfaction.

We want to share our experiences. When we started learning Spanish at Eureka, we were full of curiosity, but also uncertainty. On the first day of class, we entered the classroom nervously, surrounded by classmates who, like us, could barely pronounce a few words. The teacher, however, began speaking almost exclusively in Spanish from the beginning. This was a bit overwhelming, but also a total immersion that, over time, proved to be very effective. One of the most memorable experiences was when we were divided into small groups to practice basic dialogue. Although at first it was difficult to understand the instructions or form complete sentences, little by little we began to feel more comfortable. The conversation exercises and homework became fun and a useful part of learning, as they allowed us to apply what we had learned in a more realistic context.

Here are some of our experiences:

- Feeling happy to have this opportunity to learn Spanish and understand Madre Maria Camino's native language
- Having the opportunity to meet different people and different cultures
- The teachers and classmates are very lively and friendly.
- The Spanish language is very different from our native languages, which is why it is very difficult. To learn it well, you need more time, because the learning time is short.

In short, learning Spanish is not just a matter of memorizing words and grammar, but of embracing the culture with perseverance and teamwork. In the end, the journey is full of small achievements that make all the effort worthwhile.

As Mother Camino says, "If God wants it, He will do it."

We thank you for your support and accompaniment. We also count on your prayers. A hug.

Louise, Teresa and Marie



Africa

Experiences in the “Ex - Mama Yemo” Hospital of Kinshasa D.R.C

Dear Sisters and friends,

We wish you the peace of Christ from the community of Kimwenza, in Kinshasa/DRC.

We are happy to share with you our experiences of a month of hospital experience in the “ex-Mama Yemo” General Hospital in Kinshasa, precisely in ward 12, where the “destitute” are housed, those people who are injured, physically and morally, abandoned by their families and the orphans. This experience has remained engraved in our lives. It was on May 19, 2024 that the 3 novices made contact with the person in charge of the destitute ward, Sr. Inés. She welcomed us with joy and kindness. The next day we were already there at 8 in the morning. Sister Inés introduced us to the service team and the patients, and told us not to work, but to watch how the assistants did it so we could imitate them, entrusting us to the assistant who looked after the patients so she could teach us how to work. The next day, Sister introduced us to the management. The services they asked us to perform were the following: we began by emptying the dishes, sweeping the ward, washing the patients, giving them breakfast, putting water in their bottles for them to drink and staying to chat with them and attend to their needs. At 12 noon, we shared the meal with them and fed those who could not do it themselves.

In the image of the Good Samaritan, we share our experiences with you:



BEATRICE KALANGA:



«We left home at 7.30 in the morning and walked quietly praying the rosary. Our work started at 8.30 in the morning and finished at 2.30 in the afternoon. When we arrived we greeted everyone and put on our work clothes to begin.

First we washed the sick, which was not easy. They told me that I was small, like their daughter or granddaughter, and that I could not wash them; «You don't touch me!» Sometimes they even insulted me.

They said to me: «So you are not going to get married? No, because if I were married, you would not see me here helping you. I would be helping my husband and my children. But I want to dedicate myself to God to help my brothers and sisters who need help.» In the end, since they could not wash themselves, they called me.

Then we helped give breakfast to those who could not even sit down. I was very happy to have washed the sick, because at first I too was embarrassed to touch a man, because they were really like my grandparents and my father. I overcame this difficulty and all those that would come, thanks to prayer, the formation I received and the charism of the Institute itself. One very important thing was to be close to the patients to give them the opportunity to speak: and, indeed, they showed me great confidence: I admired their frankness and the affection they showed me. I spoke to them about God and everything I could help them:

Thanks to this experience: I learned to love the poor. I discovered the face of Christ in the sick, the suffering of Christ in them. And I have good memories: their openness, their trust, their love for me and the spirit of listening. All this will help me in the future. When I spoke to them about the love of God, their faces lit up with joy. And I too felt the presence of God when I spoke to them or fed them: in doing all this, I discovered the greatness of God's love for all: this is how Christ inspires me to love my neighbor, as I see in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).

To all of you, to the Missionaries of Christ Jesus and to all our friends who accompanied us with prayer, thank you.

ANNE LUKAMATA tells us:

«Before we left to begin our experience, when our novice mistress told us the date of departure to begin, I was anxious and scared. I said to myself: 'I won't be able to do it.' Before leaving, I shared my feelings with her. She asked me if I had ever helped a stranger in my life. I said yes. A sick person, in a village where there was no one to help him. I would go to visit him and bring him something to eat. When I shared this experience, sister encouraged me and told me that what I had done there was not much. Now what I would do at Mama Yemo Hospital would be even more if I did it with love. That helped me, and also the meditation and prayer we did before leaving took away my fear and anxiety. And I felt great joy and love for doing this service.



The prayers we said on the way to the hospital helped me a lot, especially the rosary. I entrusted myself to Mother Mary, telling her to accompany me in what I was going to do for her children and to give me the joy she had when she went to help her cousin Elizabeth. After that prayer, I felt the joy of doing this service.

But at first, I could not wash the men or bear the smell. Before starting, I prayed with this sentence: "Lord, it is you I wash, take away my shame and fear." And then I overcame everything thanks to the prayer, love and compassion I felt for them.

When they finished breakfast, I really liked to stay and talk with them. In this conversation I discovered the face of Christ in them and his true love in this service. I felt, and still feel, that they have inner wounds, and their experience saddened me very much. There were different cases: those who suffered from epilepsy, wounds, paralysis, tuberculosis... some abandoned by their relatives because of illness and others whose life experience had brought them there and they no longer recognized their relatives because of the time they had spent in other countries or provinces. To those who had been abandoned by their families, I asked them: "If someone from your family came to see you, what would your attitude be?" They answered that they

had no problems that they had already forgiven them. And it is clear that a person needs his/her family. I felt sorry for them.

Another great pain that stayed with me was the day when one of the women took us on a tour of the hospital through the different wards; I could not bear to see how our brothers and sisters suffered especially in the emergency room and where the needy are left. One time we picked up a man who had sores all over his buttocks and he had not eaten anything for two weeks. His body already smelled rotten. When we washed him and fed him some oatmeal, the man said to us: "Thank you for all you have done for me: washing me and feeding me." And while doing all that, I remembered what Jesus had said: "I was sick and you came to visit me, hungry, and you gave me food..."

While touching the body of each sick person, I said: "Now I touch Jesus twice: in the Eucharist and in the sick."

By sharing with them, I made them understand the meaning of forgiveness, especially for those who were wounded inside. For them, forgiveness does not exist and not even God forgives. He is evil, he punishes.

During all this time we have worked in collaboration with the assistants, the nurses, the patients and other religious who do the experience, as well as with the people who came to give gifts to the patients, and even with Sister Inés at the beginning and with Sister Stella at the end.

I am very happy to have been useful, and I say goodbye to all of you thanking you for your prayers.



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Mt 25, 35-36).

LILIANE LIEMA KATAMU, tells us about her experience:



«During this month of practice, I discovered the face of Jesus and his presence in these sick people. There I discovered the importance of religious life in the Church through the charitable works that the Sisters do.

During this practice, I learned many things, including how to love the poor with a simple, generous and patient heart, how to be compassionate and tolerant, and also how to work in a group or team, with a spirit of listening and humility, to provide this service according to the will of GOD.

Listening to all the experiences that our sisters had previously lived in Mama Yemo saddened me. Worse still, the day our novice mistress told us the date of the beginning of the experience, I trembled and cried, because I felt incapable of doing this service. Then I asked for support, shared what I felt and the mistress helped me with advice. It was then that I had the strength and courage to face this fear. Sisters, what we saw and touched was horrible. It was the first time in my life that I saw a living person with a rotting body that gave off an unbearable smell. At the beginning of this experience, I found it difficult to see the wounds of the patients, to touch the poop they made in their underwear, it made me feel disgust and I felt unworthy of washing people of the same age as my father and my grandparents. I felt afraid. But thanks to the meditation we had before going to the course, I overcame the fear I felt, and thanks to the power of prayer. I saw the assistants working with love and joy and that encouraged me to overcome anxiety. There were times when we were tired from the work we did, but as soon as we arrived at the service, we felt the joy and the value of working. When we saw the improvement in the health of some patients, their conversion, we felt joy. We accompanied others to receive Baptism and one of them received it before we finished our experience.

It was a great joy for us to see the trust shown to us by the patients and the peace they felt in our presence. On the positive side, I have some good memories of this experience, which will help me in the future, such as being able to bring joy to people who are sad, being responsible for the tasks

entrusted to me, having a spirit of listening and living in self-denial of all the good we achieve, that is, humility in imitation of Christ. I felt the presence of God in that hospital. Every time I washed the sick, fed them, gave them drink, listened to them... I discovered the image of Christ hidden in the abandoned, the sick, the poor, the hungry and the thirsty. Jesus invites me to be charitable to my neighbor, as Jesus said at the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan:

“Go and do the same”

The experience that the novices have every year in this hospital or elsewhere helps us a lot and gives us another vision of the society of our own country that we were unaware of. Our hearts become more tender, more understanding and tolerant of our own misery and that of others.

Beatrice Kalanga, Anne Lukamata, Liliane Niema

**“I will give you a new heart,
and I will put a new spirit within you;
and I will take away the stony heart out of your
flesh,
and I will give you a heart of flesh.
(Ezekiel 36:26)**



NEWS

VISIT OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE REGION OF AFRICA: From 14th October to 19th December 2024, the General Directress, Alphonsine Kitumua and Councilor for Africa, Adele Bikuma will visit two of the three countries in the Region of Africa: Cameroon and Chad.



INTERNATIONAL COURSE: On September 18th, SHEELA MARY WARBAH arrived from India to participate in the international formation course. This means that 10 sisters are participating in this meeting.

FROM OUR FAMILIES: Gone to the Father's house:

- ✎ On 24th August 2024: Maritina Marak, sister of Teresa Marak of the Region of India, died in India.
- ✎ On 26th of August 2024: Hadrian, brother of Willu Ferreira of the Region of India, died in India.
- ✎ On 14th of September 2024: Ms Antonia Riera Alcover, sister of Margarita Riera of the Region de Latin America, died in Manacor Mallorca
- ✎ On 2nd of October 2024: Teresa Val Davila sister of Marina Val From the community of heaven, died in Santiago de Compostela.
- ✎ On 2nd of October 2024: Teresa Claverol Mut, sister of Catalina Claverol of the Delegation of Spain, died in Mallorca

The Lord God will wipe away every tear from every face. He will destroy death forever. Is. 25:9

“Being Christian means being a witness to the Resurrection of Jesus, and it also means overcoming poverty, which is death, something inhuman, contrary to the will of God. If poverty is contrary to God's will for life, fighting poverty is a way of saying yes to the kingdom of God.”



GUSTAVO GUTIERREZ
(Lima, 8th of June 1928 - Lima, 22nd of October 2024)



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