



NEWS

Visit to the Province of SPAIN. 22nd January – 25th April 2017

Sister Monica Joseph RJM, Superior General, accompanied by Sister M^a Carmen Muñoz RJM General Councilor responsible for Europe, visited the Province of Spain from January 22, 2017 to 25 April 2017. This is the first Official Visitation since the creation of the Province of Spain.

We recall our history. The birth of Jesus and Mary in Spain was in the year 1850 in San Andrés (Barcelona), on that day a new path full of hope was opened. From that moment, the religious dedicated themselves generously to the apostolic mission and, throughout the years, the Charism of Saint Claudine kept extending to different places. This expansion made it necessary to divide the Province into two: Aragon and Castile, and this took place in the year 1950, the year of the centenary of Spain.

After 64 years of life as separate Provinces, and seeing the current reality, a process of becoming one province was initiated. After much discernment, the unification was approved and on March 22, 2014 the Province of Spain was constituted.

The Provincial House was designated in Madrid, Juan Bravo.

The Secretariat and the Historical Archives of the Province have been united, and have been located in Juan Bravo (Madrid).

The Province at present has 228 religious of perpetual Vows, 7 of temporary Vows and 2 Postulants. In the Province there are 28 communities. Some religious who belong to the Province are carrying on the mission in other Provinces of the Congregation.

The Provincial Government was named on March 22, 2014 for four years.

Its composition is the following:

Provincial Superior:	H. M ^a Ángeles Aliño
Councilors:	H. Rogelia Jiménez, substitute of the Provincial Superior
	H. María Viader
	H. Carmen Sanz
Councilor Bursar:	H. Nuria Cuadras

We thank Sister M^a Angeles and her Council for the unconditional and generous service that they are rendering to the Province.

The Provincial Government has done much good work in the process of unification of the Provinces. Sectors and zones were formed. They have facilitated and organized activities and encounters that have favored greater understanding and affection among the religious..



The Provincial Government has carried out a “Project for the Planning of the Works and Communities of the Province”. After discernment and dialogue, important decisions have been taken with regard to communities and apostolic works. The Province has accepted it in a spirit of faith, knowing that it is a path of detachment and pruning in order to give life; experiencing at the same time, the suffering involved in walking through this path.

The visit to the Province has been an experience of hope, fraternity and joy. Every community received us in a spirit of faith and affection; we were able to share their life and mission. We have spent some very happy days.

Sister Monica had an interview with each one of the Sisters. We had meetings with the communities.

The Mission:

It is carried out in:

- 20 Schools and 4 Pre-Schools
- 3 Family Houses and 1 house to receive young pregnant girls or with children
- 1 hostel of university students
- 1 House of Spirituality
- Projects formation for women and of attention to minors. Accompaniment in Spiritual Exercises, collaboration in the Parishes, Catechesis, Pastoral work with young people and Pastoral ministry for leisure time. Solidarity with South Sudan. Classes in the Faculty of Theology of Granada. Work in the Foundation Vidal and Barraquer of Barcelona. Literacy work, attention to migrants, cooperation in different projects of Caritas and other numerous services and tasks are undertaken.

It is carried out in the following places:

Alicante, Barcelona, Badalona, Bilbao, Burgos, Granada, Jerez, Loyola, Madrid, Murcia, Orihuela, Pinos Puente, Sevilla, Valencia and Tánger (Morocco). The Province began its presence and mission in Tanger (Morocco) in 2009.

We visited the different apostolates. We are grateful for the respect, affection, and joy with which we were received.

The apostolic work is extensive and the religious are committed to making Jesus and Mary known and loved wherever they are sent. We have seen and witnessed their zeal and generous dedication.

The missionary spirit has been and continues to be very strong. Many Sisters are carrying out the mission "ad gentes".

Solidarity in the Province is great, both in the communities as in the apostolic works.

In the mission there is preference for those in greater need.

The educational Centers provide an integral formation. A warm, joyful family spirit is perceived. Pastoral ministry is a priority. Inclusive schools are a reality; the Centers are open to accept any child who wishes to be educated with us.

The meetings that we had with the Staff of each of the Centers has been a time of reflection, dialogue and sharing on the Charism and the educational style of Claudine. In the encounters with the older pupils we have seen their interest in knowing the Congregation.

Pastoral work with the young is promoted. Every class is offered: prayer groups, formative activities, Spiritual Exercises, accompaniment, celebration of the Paschal Mystery, activities for leisure time, and formative activities during the summer. etc.

They also offer the possibility of national and international volunteer work. Throughout the years the young people who have rendered service in different places of the Congregation have been numerous both in the "as gentes" mission as well as collaborating in different works within the Province. There is a good formation programme prior to their departure and there is a follow up after their return, so as to continue their contact with JM.

In the Casas hogars for minors: a true home is offered to the children and to the adolescents; they are filled with tenderness, so as to prepare them to face a future with hope.

The Hostel for university students in Granada, provides accommodation for 180 university students. From an all-women's hostel it has become a mixed. The young people greatly value the accompaniment offered and the possibilities for formation they receive.

The Center of Spirituality in Loyola is a place of peace that facilitates the encounter with God for the persons who go there.

Great work is carried out for the disadvantaged women and minors through projects and workshops for them.

For several years, much work has been done on Shared Mission. The majority of the laity are given major responsibility in the JM mission.

The Social Sector has convoked several encounters of formation for religious, for the personnel of our apostolic works and for our collaborators. The causes of impoverishment and injustice have been studied in greater depth.

In Tanger intercultural and interreligious work is being carried out. They work in a pre- primary school and in boarding.

The apostolic dedication of the sisters who have retired, continues to give life to the apostolate and they work with illusion in the service of their brothers and sisters in different mission fields and offer remedial support to the pupils in the Schools.

The communities of the Infirmaries are very well equipped in order that the Sisters are taken care of well. The fidelity of the sick Sisters is a great gift for the Province, for they contribute to the mission by their prayer and the offering of their sufferings.

Let us thank God for the commitment with which the Three Priorities of the General Chapter 2013 are lived, both in the community as in the mission. The slogan chosen to present the Second Priority: *"In your shoes and in mine"*, has succeeded in being something vital for all.

Some of the events and encounters lived:

On February 11 in the Parish of Villafranqueza (Alicante), Sister Monica had the great joy of receiving the perpetual Vows of Sister Rosario Oltra. We lived a profound and heartfelt celebration.

We had a day of encounter with the religious of Temporary Vows. It filled us with joy and hope to witness their desire to give themselves to God.



We met with several groups of the AFJM and of former pupils; the love that they all have for Saint Claudine is evident.

We met with the "Equipo Titularidad". It supports the educational Centers. It draws up and prepares strategic plans, making it possible to follow well-defined lines of action in each one of the fields: pedagogical, pastoral and administration, and to have common objectives for all the Centers. It offers many formative opportunities for the staff. The encounters of the personnel from the different Centers and the sharing of experiences, favors the growth in the knowledge, the union and the affection of one another.

In the meeting with the "Fundación Juntos Mejor" JM—they explained the numerous projects that they carry out in favor of those in greater need. There are many persons, educational centers and apostolic works collaborating in different ways.

We participated in the "Annual Encounter of JM Choirs". This year it was held in Juan Bravo (Madrid); excellent voices and songs and a beautiful environment of union and fraternity.

To meet with the relatives of our religious in the different cities filled us with joy. We lived with them moments of cordiality and affection, feeling part of the same family.

The Provincial Conference at the end of the visitation was celebrated in Madrid. Juan Bravo.



Through images we share some of the many moments lived.





*In behalf of the General Government,
 through the intercession of Mary our Mother,
 Saint Claudine and Blessed Dina,
 we ask Gods blessings upon the Province of Spain,
 for each one of the religious, communities,
 apostolic mission, educators, pupils and families.*

Praised forever be Jesus and Mary