



NEWS

Official visit to the Province of COLOMBIA

October 3rd to 31st, 2021

The Superior General, Sr. Monica Joseph, was accompanied by Sr. Alejandra, General Counsellor for the Province of Colombia. We visited the Province of Colombia from the 3rd to 31st of October, 2021. During the last week of the visitation, the two Counsellors, Srs. Ma Carmen Muñoz and Núria Cuadras also joined.

This visitation was done during the period of COVID 19 Pandemic; our Schools were in session following the requirement stated by the Government.



The Province is present in Colombia and Ecuador. Jesus and Mary arrived Colombia on the 8 of December 1957 and in the year 2000, they founded the Province of Ecuador.

These are countries of great human wealth, generous, joyful, grateful and with deep religiosity. In these two countries, we were able to meet the people (few in number) who share our mission with us, and with children, young people and adults of our Works and missions. We were enriched by their faith, their generosity, and we were delighted to be enriched by their living of the Preferences of the 37th General Chapter.

During this year of our visit, **Colombia** was once again experienced chaos, riots, protests and situations of violence, which destabilizes the peace so widely dreamed of.

Both **Colombia** and **Ecuador** are emerging from the hardest moment of COVID 19. They have been able to vaccinate many of their inhabitants, thus reducing the number infected persons of the number of deaths. Till now, they are struggling to overcome poverty, lack of work, and all the losses that this pandemic has generated.

Provincial data:

In the Province there are 7 **communities**, 6 in Colombia and 1 in Ecuador.

At this moment there are 35 Religious Sisters of perpetual vows, with the average age of 76 years.

The members of provincial Council are:

Sr. Elvia Cecilia Cárdenas	- Provincial Superior.
Sr. M ^a Eugenia Palacio	- Counsellor, Substitute of the Provincial Superior.
Sr. Margarita Aguilar	- Counsellor, Provincial Bursar.
Sr. Ma. Eugenia Echavarría	- Counsellor, Apostolic Mission.
Sr. Gloria Estela Ruiz	- Counsellor, Provincial Secretary

This Provincial Government Team was appointed for a period of 4 years, and began its pastoral service of authority on August 6, 2018.

We thank Sister Elvia Cecilia and her Council for the generous service they render to the Province.

Various meetings:

We met with the Provincial Government and we had two meetings with each community.

Sister Monica was able to have a personal interview with each sister.

In each of our colleges, we had a general meeting with representatives of the students, parents, teachers and staff, members of the AFJM, in which they expressed their gratitude for what Jesus-Mary means to them. Together with them, we prayed and celebrated life!

Also, we were able to meet with small groups of children, Youths, members of the AFJM from our communities of Cimitarra and Quito. It was a beautiful moment where we shared their learnings and dreams, life experiences and faith.

Some Bishops, Parish Priests, chaplains and Priests who were friends of the various communities visited us.

During the last days of our Visit, Sister M^a Carmen Muñoz met with the Provincial Secretary and she also had meetings with the staff of our three Colleges in Medellín, on the theme of Shared Mission and Companions in Mission.

Likewise, Sister Núria Cuadras, met with the Provincial Bursar. She had a meeting with the Economic Team and a discussion on the style of poverty in Jesus-Mary in the light of our constitutional texts, where the bursars of communities and the Economic Team participated.

We were able to visit our cemetery. We prayed for the repose of their Souls and asked them to intercede for the Congregation.

Apostolic Life:

The Province of Colombia has been offering the people quality education since 1958. We thank our sisters for their love and zeal to continue the mission that began over 60 years ago in these lands. It should be acknowledged that Jesus-Mary chose to be in places where poverty and violence, is a means to integrate our charism. Unfortunately, we had to withdraw from some of them, due to the lack of sisters. Passing through the communities, they remembered with great affection these pioneer religious, who courageously opened new paths of mission.

The Province develops its mission mainly in our own Colleges: Jesus-Marie de B ° Estadio and Jesus-Marie El Rosal, in B ° Castilla; this last one is officially administered by the Religious of Jesus and Mary, and in a third College at B ° Popular, de Fe y Alegría.

In the Communities of Cimitarra and Quito, the sisters organized a project called “I do my tasks”. They teach catechesis in the Parish or in our house, they have groups of Youths and / or adults, they visit families in the neighbourhood and bring the Eucharist to the sick. In Cimitarra, we restarted welcoming teenagers, from distant areas, so that they can continue their studies while staying in our house from Sunday to Friday.

One of the sisters is a member of a group that works with those who live in streets in Medellín. Once we were able to participate in its mission to take the ‘Tent of Meeting’ to various places in the city by welcoming vulnerable indigenous persons, the displaced, young people who indulge in drugs and prostitution. We prayed with them and marvelled their gestures of tenderness, generosity and the acceptance of their vulnerability.

A sister is writing the history of the Province of Colombia.

Both in the communities and in the colleges, there is a great respect for nature and the care of the Common Home.

Assembly at the end of the Visit:

At the end of our visit, we had an Assembly on October 30th and 31st in Medellín, with the participation of all the sisters of the Province.

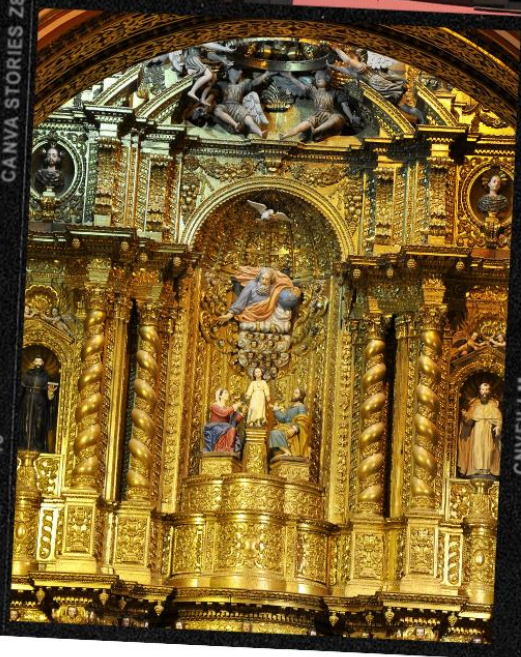
To conclude our visit, together with the Virgin Mary, we sang the Magnícat for the goodness that we have experienced in this Province.

As an Apostolic Family, journeying with hope, we desire LIFE for the Congregation and for the Province, so that the charism of Jesus and Mary may continue in the hearts of many people.

We thank Sister Elvia Cecilia and her Council, and all the sisters in the Province for their hospitality, love and openness which we experienced during our visit.

Let the images speak:









PRAISED FOREVER BE
JESUS AND MARY!