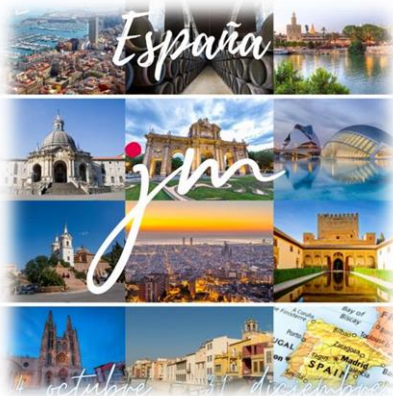




# GENERAL VISITATION BULLETIN

## SPAIN-MOROCCO



*Sr. Monica Joseph visited the Province of Spain-Morocco from October 4 to December 30, 2023, accompanied by Sister Encarna Viarnès. Later Srs. Núria Cuadras, M.Carmen Muñoz, Alejandra Diaz and Shanty George joined.*

### **Communities**

There are currently 21 communities in the Province. There are 168 sisters (166 with perpetual Vows, 2 with temporary Vows), 2 novices and 2 postulants. A young woman is carrying out an experience in a community. The average age of the sisters is 75 years.

- Alicante: Villafranqueza , Virgen del Remedio (Infirmery)
- Barcelona: Sant Gervasi, Virgen de la Merced (Infirmery), Sant Andreu.
- Burgos
- Granada
- Jerez
- Loyola (Gipuzkoa): House of spirituality and Infirmery.
- Madrid: Juan Bravo (Provincial house), Caridad del Cobre, Simancas.
- Murcia: San Ginés, Alfonso X
- Orihuela (Alicante)
- Oujda (inter-congregational community in Morocco)
- Pinos Puente (Granada)
- Sevilla
- Tangier ( Morocco )
- Valencia: Fernando El Católico, Fuensanta.

Some religious who belong to the Province are carrying out the mission in Ireland, France and Haiti. Other religious originally from the Province but currently belong to Africa, Andean, Bolivia, Europe, USA-Haiti, Delhi-Philippines, Pakistan and some are members of the General Council.





**Government team:** On May 22, 2022, a new provincial government team began its Pastoral service of Authority: Srs. Marta Guitart (Provincial Superior), Arantxa Gavilán, Maite Valls, María Rodríguez (Counselors) and Pura de Mazón (oficial-bursar,). The Secretary is the Sr. Rogelia Jiménez.

Four positive aspects mark the Province's itinerary for the coming years: Grow in fraternity, walk in synodality, concretize planning for greater apostolic service and continue deepening in the sense of the Shared Mission.

### ***Apostolic Mission***

The apostolic mission is animated by the work in the different sectors . There is a desire to promote interrelations between these various sectors to enhance the mission. There is a coordinator in each of them.

**Sectors:** Ongoing formation and Spirituality, Social and JPIC, Administration and poverty, Infirmaries, Schools, Youth and vocational ministry, Shared Mission Commission.

In the province of Spain there is a strong commitment to education in all fields, social commitment, formation and pastoral care. They develop their mission in:

- 19 Schools
- 3 nursery schools and 1 daycare
- 4 Family Homes: 2 in Barcelona, 1 in Alicante and 1 in Tangier.
- 1 Students Residence
- 1 House of Spirituality
- 3 Infirmaries
- 2 Social projects with Caritas
- Oujda Immigrants Inter-congregational Project



**Other missions:** Other sisters work in different institutions: Loyola-Andalucía University (Granada), Escuni Teaching Center (Madrid), Valencian Institute of Oncology. A sister provides psychological care in a Consultation and collaborates with the Vidal y Barraquer Foundation.

**Various areas of mission:** Catechism of adults, youth, children and formation of catechists, Collaboration in prison, Social and health pastoral work, Prayer groups and accompaniment of youth and adults, Leisure groups, Spiritual Exercises, School support, Educational projects and promotion of women, Formation for Adults, Social promotion and volunteering.



The Province has made great efforts to dedicate religious and lay people to Youth Ministry and the Youth Network.

**Educational centers:** We had meetings with the management teams, staff, catechists, collaborators, members of the AMPA (Parents groups), alumni and with groups of students.

The Centers offer a comprehensive quality education based on Saint Claudine's values and pedagogy. The teachers and staff at the Centers are very involved in the educational task. There is a family atmosphere and great collaboration in the schools, with a lot of love for Saint Claudine. The Centers are grateful for the support, motivation and advice that the "Equipo de Titularidad" (Central Team) provides, both for religious and lay people.

There is an increase in students from other countries in most of the Centers. This represents a richness and a challenge. Each center seeks creative paths that promote spaces for interculturality, common learning and openness.

The pastoral dimension is lived in all areas. There are quite a few teachers, PAS, families and former students who are actively involved in the day-to-day life and in the activities offered both locally and provincially. In most Centers there are spaces for the development of the interiority of children and young people.



**Family Homes:** On November 30, 2023, the two family homes *in Barcelona* moved to the new venue - Sant Andreu headquarters together with the community. *In Alicante*, the Shelter home for Children and Adolescents cares for pregnant teenagers or young mothers.

In Dar Tika *Tangier* (Morocco), girls between 6 and 14 years old sent by the Moroccan justice system are cared for.

**The projects for women and minors in La Coma (Valencia), the training workshops for women and the project with minors in Seville, the Al- Bikar project in Pinos Puente (Granada),**

are educational spaces that promote the comprehensive development of the person and work to protect children, young people and women at risk. We value the networking that is carried out, the activity of the professional persons and the dedication and commitment of the sisters involved and the volunteers.





The work that many sisters carry out in **local centres** for the social promotion of immigrants, accompaniment and formation of lay people is very notable. There is a good platform for solidarity in many cities and networking with other associations and institutions is highly valued.

In the **Infirmaries** of Barcelona, Alicante and Loyola, the work of the teams of religious and lay health professionals and other services must be valued. One of the missions that the sisters carry out is to pray for the world and the Congregation.

## **Formation**

### **Youth and vocational ministry**

A Youth and Vocational Ministry program has been developed. At the Provincial level, meetings are held throughout the year or biannually: Youth Forum, Easter, Bacalaureate groups, Youth Network, open retreats, etc ... There is a lot of involvement of sisters and lay people in this work.



### **Initial Formation**

The Province of Spain has a program developed for each stage of initial formation taking into account the transversal axes of the JM Formation Book.

**The two postulants** live in two communities: San Ginés (Murcia) and Pinos Puente (Granada). Another girl is doing an experience in the Jerez community. The topics addressed promote human and integrative formation.

Currently there **two 1st year novices**. There are **three sisters in temporary**

**vows** , two from the Province of Spain and one from the province of USA-Haiti. They are in communities of Fuensanta (Valencia), Granada and Simancas (Madrid).

Sr. Shanty George met on November 4 and 5, 2023 with the postulants, novices and juniors in Los Molinos (Madrid). In a climate of reflection and dialogue, aspects of personal growth and identity, charisma-resilience and how to work on attitude toward life were discussed. Sr. Arantxa Gavilán, Novices Mistress and person in charge of initial formation of the province, was present.

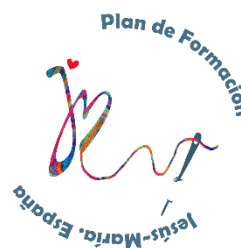


There is an Initial Formation Commission that meets three times a year made up of the provincial, the formation mistress and the superiors who accompany postulants and juniors.

Since 2021, the community of Fernando el Católico of Valencia has hosted the **International Juniorate experience**. We thank the provincial government and the community for facilitating this mission. We thank Sr. M. Puy Montaner, Juniors Mistress, for her involvement in this service which, in addition to helping to develop the dimensions of the religious life of the juniors, contributes to growing in the international sense of JM.

**The Sector of Ongoing Formation and Spirituality** coordinates this area through reflections and means that help Sisters, communities and lay people to generate transformative formation processes. They have carried out online and in-person activities, above all favoring experiential formation through workshops, meetings and videoconferences. It has delved into topics of synodal criteria, healthy and fair relationships and discernment.

The province offers a quality formation itinerary in order to accompany religious and lay people, all as companions in mission for ongoing formation through different courses and activities **of the JM Spain Formation Plan**: it is an inclusive and integrative proposal whose objective is *to offer a space for growth for people committed or linked to Jesus and Mary in Spain to care for, feed and grow what unites all those who make up this great JM family*.



It is the first proposal at the institutional level of a joint religious-lay Formation Plan that looks beyond the professional field. This plan includes six proposals: Contagious words / Look, Think, Act / Ignatian Spirituality / Identity and charism / Leadership for service / Theological update. The attitude and commitment of the participants is valued.

## ***Volunteering***

There is great work and promotion of volunteers from the Province and the Foundation Juntos Mejor. Many sisters are involved in the formation and preparation of these volunteers for places inside and outside the Province. It is an experience that greatly enriches the volunteers and constitutes a good pastoral and social platform.

## ***Association Family of Jesus and Mary***

The AFJM is very alive in the Province, and there are groups in almost all communities and works. They hold one or two meetings a year between the AFJM Coordinators of the Province and those responsible for each place. They have made a Plan based on the general JM proposal.



They carry out different activities:

- Biweekly or monthly meetings following the AFJM Project at an international level.
- Support and collaboration in the works of JM in the province and in other entities.
- Participation in the proposals and meetings offered by the AFJM International.
- Participation in some of the proposals of the Provincial Formation Plan.



### ***Reconfiguration and restructuring***

In the Province of Spain-Morocco these axes are being developed as follows:

**AXIS 1 – Inter-formation:** Currently, a junior from the province of USA-Haiti and a Sr. of Perpetual vows from the Delegation of Africa are part of the Granada community, sharing mission and continuing their studies. Some religious have gone to other provinces/delegations to learn languages.

**AXIS 2 - Consolidation of the life and mission of the province:** As a continuation of the previous work, since October 2022 they have followed a discernment for the planning process of communities and apostolic presences, between religious and lay people, as companions on mission. It has been done through assemblies, meetings, group dynamics and reflection. The Formation Plan is also an impetus to deepen and work on this axis.

**AXIS 3 - INTER collaboration networks:** They wish to establish collaboration networks with other provinces-zones of the Congregation to continue growing in internationality and sense of body. A sister is part of the new community of l'Angélique in Lyon to animate the project and another sister is part of the extended team. One sister carries out her mission in a school in the province of Ireland and two sisters collaborate in the mission in Haiti.



**AXIS 4 - Expansion:** Since its foundation, the Oujda Inter-congregational Project (Morocco) has depended on the General Government. At the invitation of the General Government and after a time of discernment from the Province, on October 6, 2023 the project became part of the Province of Spain-Morocco.

## *Provincial Assembly in Madrid (Juan Bravo)*

The final Assembly at the end of the visit took place on December 28 and 29, 2023 at the Provincial House in Juan Bravo Madrid, with the presence of 71 sisters. The novices also participated in the Assembly. They were days of sharing, of life and of recognizing the fruits that the mission is bearing...

We want to thank God for the work, commitment and involvement of all the sisters of the Province in the mission to which each one has been sent. Also for the generosity for many years, always responding to the calls of the Congregation, sending sisters to other provinces and sharing financial resources.

To each of the sisters, novices, postulants, AFJM, mission companions, who have made the visit possible: THANK YOU!

