

General Chapter

NEWSLETTER #02

23 July, 2025

GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

The Delegates of the General Chapter 2025, representing the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary from 15 countries, are meeting in Belo Horizonte until July 31. Together, they are reflecting on the way forward and preparing for the discernment that will lead to the election of the new Institute Leader of the RSHM.

The sisters described the first days together as “an experience of synodality and respect for differences.” They appreciated the positivity, the calm facilitation, the sharing in small groups, and the presence of younger sisters.

During evening prayer, the sisters also paid tribute and prayed for all the RSHM sisters who have entered into fullness of life since the last General Chapter in 2019.



Themes

The Novitiate, the Extended Family, the Global Network of Schools, Béziers, and the Beatification of Father Jean Gailhac were some of the topics discussed on Tuesday and Wednesday (15 and 16). On Thursday and Friday (17 and 18), the Delegates worked on the Constitutions.

The Chapter Coordinating Committee expressed joy at feeling a great unity during the retreat and discussion of the Constitutions, one of the main focuses of the last few days. “There are themes and priorities that are emerging in a convergent way, and new calls that are shaping the vision and direction of our Institute for the next six years.”

The next few days will be spent reflecting on the calls of the world today. Where and how is God calling us? What does it mean to be women who work for justice today?



Sr. Beatrice Magaya



Sr. Catherine Vincie and Sr. Ursula Canavan



Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan and Sr. Florence Muuka



Sr. Cristina Caetano and Sr. Ana Luisa Pinto

Conference of Sister Liliana Franco Echeverri (OND)



The 2025 General Chapter also welcomed Sister Liliana Franco Echeverri (OND) on Sunday (20) for an inspiring conference.

“Liliana offered us a message of hope and invited us, as consecrated women, to a new form of presence in the Church and the world today” Chapter Coordinating Committee.

A Conferência teve transmissão ao vivo pelo Zoom e o vídeo ficará disponível no Youtube em breve em português, inglês, espanhol e francês.



Sr. Maria Helena Morra, Sr. Liliana Franco, Sr. Margaret Fielding and Sr. Brid Long



REALITY OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

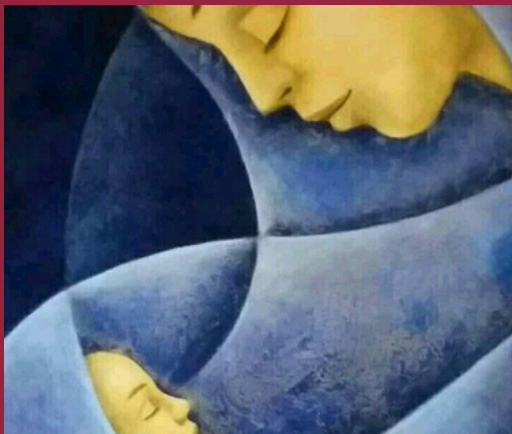


**We need to
“extend the table
so that there is
room for
everyone.”**

**“When the intensity
of our relationship
with God diminishes,
we are unable to
create something
new.”**



**“True reform comes
from encountering
Jesus, listening to his
word, and assimilating
his way of life.”**



*Phrases and photos credit:
Sr. Liliana Franco Echererri*



Next Transmission: July 31st

Closing of Chapter Ritual

The link and timetable will be sent out in the next days

Visit to the Sacred Heart of Mary Community

During the week, the Delegates had a meaningful moment to visit the Sacred Heart of Mary Community, which welcomes the older sisters in Belo Horizonte. The joy of the encounter was evident in every glance and gesture, reflecting the beauty of the Charism that unites us.



Sr. Maria Timoney and Sr. Marta Santos



Sr. Daniela de Jesus Santos and Sr. Maria Isabel da Silva



*Sr. Maria Flora Dunguza, Sr. Marta Santos,
Sr. Catherine Vincie and Sr. Catherine Garcia*



*Sr. Valeria Erneio, Sr. Kathleen Kelemen and
Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan*



Sr. Breda Byrne, Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan and Sr. Marlena Roeger, SSJ



Sr. Catherine Vincie and Sr. Isabel Grangeon



Sr. Maria Cláudia Oliveira



Sr. Marie France and Sr. Maria Auxiliadora Simões Gomes



Sr. Margaret Masarakufa and Sr. Pará Moreira



Sr. Carlinda Silva and Sr. Catherine Patten

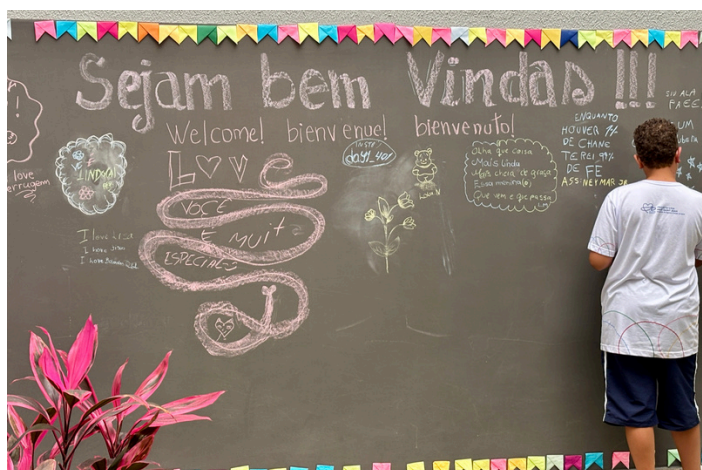
“Projeto Vida Irmã Saint Jean”

In Belo Horizonte, the sisters from all Areas also visited the “Projeto Vida Irmã Saint Jean”, housed in the former novitiate building. The sisters were warmly received by the children, speaking in various languages. "Welcome," "bem vinda," "bienvenida," "bienvenue," said the little ones, on a day filled with smiles, music, and shared memories.

The project, which opened six months ago, hosts 90 children after school, offering artistic, cultural, and educational workshops, including classes in robotics, jiu-jitsu, capoeira, music, and other areas such as dental care.



Rita de Cássia, Simone Afonso and José Fernandes Afonso





Sr. Coltrida Mooya, Mage Magalhães and Sr. Valeria Erneio



Sr. Aelita Otavio da Silva

Visit to St. Francis Church - Belo Horizonte



*Sr. Rosemary Mwagarezano and
Sr. Kathleen Kelemen*



Sr. Sipiwe Phiri



*Sr. Catherine Minhoto and Sr.
Catherine Garcia*



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RELIGIOUS
OF THE SACRED
HEART OF MARY