

## General Chapter

# NEWSLETTER #03

2 August, 2025

## GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

During the 2025 General Chapter, held in Brazil from July 9 to 31, the Delegates, representing the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, spent days in prayer, listening, and discernment, united as “Women of Prophetic Hope, Walking Together, Risking the New, That All May Have Life”.

“The Chapter was a very joyful experience of our shared communion in mission, and of our unity in diversity. As Pope Francis said of the Synod, the Holy Spirit was the protagonist of our Chapter, inspiring and guiding us towards harmony. So we come to this moment with a deep sense of gratitude for the wisdom, discernment, and deep listening that shaped our reflections and discernment”, Sister Margaret Fielding, Institute Leader.



### New Leadership Council

Guided by the Spirit, the RSHM elected Sister Coltrida Mulima Mooya, from the Zambezi Area, as the new Leader of the Institute for the next 6 years (2025-2031). Sister Coltrida will work with Sisters Maria Teresa Nogueira, Sipiwe Phiri and Madalena Manhiça.

In the coming months, the new Leadership Council, in consultation with the Area Leaders, will appoint two more Councillors. The work of the new group begins in November.







*Sr. Sipiwe Phiri, Sr. Madalena Manhiça,  
Sr. Coltrida Mooya and Sr. Maria Teresa Nogueira*

## Celebrating the New Leadership Council

The central symbol of the Leadership Celebration was a bridge, a reminder of crossing moments. "Today, we cross a bridge. And we don't do it alone: we carry with us what has been woven with care, the seeds sown, the steps taken in communion, and the silent surrender of many sisters who, with zeal, faith, and courage, have led the mission in recent years. We are grateful."

Then, Sisters Margaret Fielding, Pará Moreira, Ana Luísa Pinto, Sipiwe Phiri and Monica Walsh, members of the Outgoing Leadership Council, lit the candles of the new ILC. In moments, the entire assembly was illuminated.

"By lighting the candles of the new Council, and illuminating all the others, we proclaim our unity, and with the light, we testify that we want to walk together. To be a living presence, women of prophetic hope, willing to risk the new, so that in us and through us ALL MAY HAVE LIFE. May the bridge be faith. May the crossing be trust. And may the light burning in us never go out."



*Sr. Coltrida Mooya and Sr. Margaret Fielding*







*Sr. Coltrida Mooya and Sr. Margaret Fielding*



*Sr. Florence Muuka, Sr. Maria Emilia Peliz and Sr. Bernardette Tesoura*



*Sr. Maria Teresa Nogueira, Sr. Coltrida Mooya and Sr. Conceição Pereira*





## Blessing the Outgoing Leadership Team

The Blessing of the Outgoing Leadership Team was filled with hugs and gratitude expressed towards Sisters Margaret, Paré, Sipiwe, Ana Luísa and Monica. During the celebration, the Area Leaders recalled the new foundations, the international mission, the Finance plan, the respectful way in which the Leadership Team facilitated the transition of the Motherhouse, the strengthening of institutional communication and the attention to the formation of the new generations. "We thank you for the seeds you have planted for our future."



*Sr. Monica Walsh, Sr. Ana Luísa Pinto, Sr. Sipiwe Phiri, Sr. Margaret Fielding and Sr. Paré Moreira*



*Sr. Rosa de Lima Pereira and Sr. Sipiwe Phiri*



*Sr. Catherine Garcia, Sr. Catherine Minhoto and Sr. Margaret Fielding*



# Final Ritual

During the Closing Ritual, the sisters gave thanks to Mary, Mother of God and truly our sister, who deeply embodies what we understand as a culture of encounter and as being artisans of care.

Sister Coltrida Mooya, the new Leader of the Institute, blessed everyone. “May God, who is the giver of all gifts, empower you to be a blessing to others. May the Son of God, who poured himself out in love, empower you to offer your lives in service to God’s People and all creation. May the Spirit of God, who is the source of energy for all that is good, fill you with faith and zeal.”





## Acknowledgements

As we come to the end of the Chapter, we would also like to express our gratitude to the team at St. Joseph's Retreat House, to the Gravasom team, and all the sisters and lay people who worked during the meeting, providing the necessary support to the Delegates: Sr. Brid Long and Sr. Kelly Connors (Facilitators); Sr. Monica Walsh (Secretary); Miriam Lopes (Assistant Secretary); Sr. Joanne Safian and Sr. Catherine Minhoto (Minutes); Sr Lory Rothenbach, Sr Livramento Melo, Sr. Marlena Roeger, Sr Mary Jo McElroy, Zonia Dueñas, Sr. Maria Emília Peliz, Sr. Rosa de Lima Pereira, Sr. Marie-France Correau, Sr. Cláudia Pacheco and Sr. Luisa Almendra (Oral and Written Translation); Camilla Morteau, Sr. Previladge Gunyere and Sr. Rosita Eugénio (Communication); Sr. Margaret Masarakufa and Sr. Daniela Santos (Liturgy) and Juscélio Zanini (Technical Support). Our sincere thanks to everyone!



*Sr. Kelly Connors PM*



*Sr. Brid Long SSL*



*Sr. Joanne Safian, Sr. Maria Emilia Peliz,  
Sr. Catherine Minhoto and Sr. Rosa de Lima Pereira*



*Sr. Margaret Masarakufa and Sr. Daniela Santos*



*Sr. Coltrida Mooya, Sr. Previladge Gunyere and Sr.  
Rosita Eugénio*







*Sr. Mary Jo McElroy and Sr. Marlena Roeger SSJ*



*Sr. Rosita Eugénio, Camilla Mortean and Sr. Prevladage Gunyere*



*Miriam Lopes*



*Juscélio Zanini*



*Sr. Margaret Masarakufa and Sr. Daniela Santos*



*Juscélio Zanini, Sr. Pará Moreira, Miriam Lopes and Camila Mortean*



*Sr. Mary Jo McElroy, Zonia Dueñas, Sr. Marlena Roeger, Sr. Livramento Melo and Sr. Lory Rochenbach*



*Zonia Dueñas*





*Sr. Rosita Eugénio, Sr. Madalena Manhiça, Sr. Maria Flora Dunguza, Sr. Vália Erneo, Sr. Bernardette Tesoura and Sr. Jacinta Alberto*



*Sr. Ursula Canavan, Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan, Sr. Margaret Fielding, Sr. Breda Byrne, Sr. Kathleen Buckley and Sr. Mary Jo McElroy*



*Sr. Marie-France Correau and Sr. Aelita Otavio*



*Sr. Catherine Minhoto, Sr. Mary Genino, Sr. Catherine Garcia, Sr. Kathleen Kelemen, Zonia Dueñas, Sr. Fidelia Espin and Sr. Julia Trejo*





*Sr. Maria Teresa Nogueira, Sr. Isabel Grangeon, Sr. Manuela Queirós, Sr. Maria Emilia Peliz, Sr. Ana Luisa Pinto, Sr. Conceição Pereira and Sr. Cidália Dinis*



*Sr. Daniela Santos, Sr. Ana Helena Andreão, Sr. Maria Helena Morra, Sr. Rosa de Lima Pereira, Sr. Cristina Caetano, Sr. Paré Moreira and Sr. Lucilene de Oliveira*



*Sr. Catherine Vincie, Sr. Catherine Patten, Sr. Monica Walsh, Sr. Maria Timoney, Sr. Veronica Brand and Sr. Joanne Safian*



*Sr. Joyce Rushinga, Sr. Sipiwé Phiri, Sr. Beatrice Magaya, Sr. Coltrida Mooya, Sr. Aelita Otavio, Sr. Rosemary Mwangarezano, Sr. Margaret Masarakufa, Sr. Florence Muuka and Sr. Previladze Gunyere*





*Sr. Paré Moreira, Sr. Mary Genino,  
Sr. Veronica Brand, Sr. Catherine Vincie,  
Sr. Marie France Correau and Sr. Monica Walsh*



*Sr. Maria Flora Dunguza and Sr. Paré Moreira*



*Sr. Maria Helena Morra*



*Sr. Aelita Otavio, Sr. Mary Jo McElroy and Sr.  
Sipiwe Phiri*



## Newsletter Credits:

Editor: Camilla Mortean

Design: Ana Possas

Reporters: Sr. Previladge Gunyere and Sr. Rosita Eugénio

Translators: Sr. Marie-France Correau (French) and  
Zonia Dueñas (Spanish)



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OF THE SACRED  
HEART OF MARY