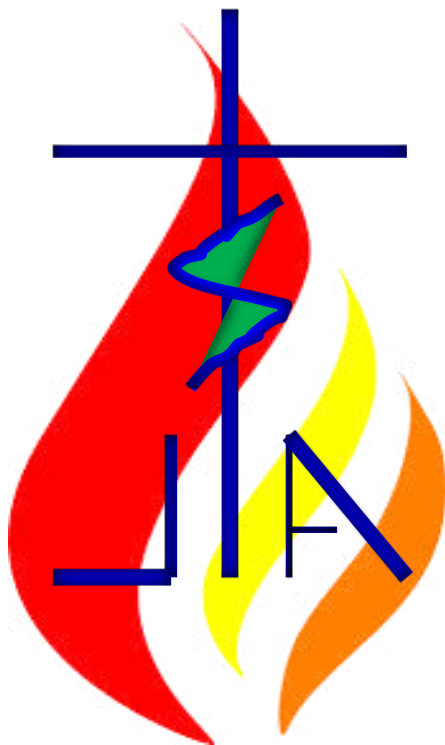


Associates of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Appari-



A spirituality for Ordinary
People in
Ordinary life

My Congregation brings together
the diversity of human
skills and personal gifts
at the service of others”

St. Emilie de Vialar



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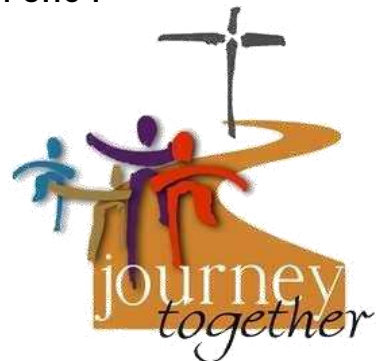
Dear Friends,

Happy Advent 2022!

It is with great joy, that I present to you this new Draft Booklet of the Associates of Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. "A Spirituality for Ordinary people in Ordinary life." It was lovingly compiled by Sr Jacqueline Jones in July 2022 from other SJA sources.

On the journey of life, we are always at the beginning! since every day is a NEW day and the Spirit of God is always calling us forward into an unknown future in our troubled but beautiful world.

During this Advent season we invite the Lord Jesus "to come again" into our lives and into our world with peace, hope, love and justice. We celebrate at Christmas the Mystery of his first coming as a child, Emmanuel God with us. St John says "God loved the world so much that he gave his only son so that whoever believed in him may not be lost but may have Eternal Life." Jn 3:16 .



St Emilie was so enraptured by this “new life” or LOVE of God that she founded our Congregation on Christmas Eve 1832 to share that love and new life with others. Her spirit lives on today. Her charism is an “EVERNEW” gift for the Church and the whole world.

I hope this small Draft Booklet, will inspire and encourage you to enter deeper into the story of St. Emilie, her sisters and Associates and to discover anew the Mystery of Love that inspired her life. This same LOVE continues to draw us into the Future with confidence and hope.

May we support each other on the journey. Let us walk and make new paths with Emilie De Vialar and discover new ways of living her charism today.

We are always at the beginning! Let us go and do all the good we can.

Sr. Anita Callaghan

SJA Delegation Leader W. A.





Welcome and Introduction

Collaborators of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition:

The Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition, welcomes your interest in becoming their Collaborator.

This handbook has been compiled to introduce you to the SJA Mission, Spirit and Charism. It also includes some guidelines for you to live it out faithfully and enthusiastically wherever you are.

SJA Associates are women and men who, together with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition would like to deepen their understanding of the Mission of St Emilie de Vialar and what animated her life. She dedicated her life and her Congregation to the service of the poor, the uneducated, and those who suffered. Particularly, Emilie's passion was to make Jesus and His Gospel known around the world.

Our Mission

***As SJA Associates, we dedicate ourselves to
make Jesus present wherever we may be.***

***We do this through acts of kindness and understanding
especially towards members of our family,***

***at the workplace and
towards those we meet in our day-to-day life.***

Like that of St Emilie,

Our lives will remind people everywhere,

That God became one of us

To help us see the loving Face of our Father In Heaven

St Joseph of the Apparition

The Story

Emilie had contemplated this painting of St. Joseph which was a copy of one displayed in the Toulouse Museum.

It represented the first apparition of the Angel Gabriel to St Joseph after the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. She placed this painting over the Altar, above the Tabernacle in the convent chapel in Gaillac. It was blessed by Archbishop de Gualy on the 10th of May 1835 when he went to bless the Chapel and the convent three years after the foundation of the Congregation.



The aim of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph is to honour and give thanks to God for this great act of love towards humanity: the first official announcement of the coming of Jesus among us through St Joseph.

The Mystery of the Incarnation is at the core of our faith. It defines Christianity. Emilie wanted her Congregation to be in the world as an ongoing reminder of the coming of Jesus among us.

The Mystery of the Incarnation is at the core of our Faith



St Emilie de Vi-
alar:
a biograph-
ical
note



Emilie de Vialar was born in Gaillac in France, on the 12th September 1797, into a well-to-do family. She spent her first 7 years at home. Her mother taught her not only the teachings of the Church but to search her happiness in knowing God and His love for all people .

When Emilie was 13 years of age, her parents believed she should receive an education that was both Christian and academic. It was her mother who took her to Paris knowing that her father who was a medical doctor to the king, would keep his eyes on his granddaughter.

Unfortunately Emilie's mother died a few months later and after two years of living with her aunt and grandfather in Paris, she had to return to Gaillac to look after her father.

Her mother
taught her the
teachings of the





Emilie grew into a beautiful young lady. She loved finery and jewellery and accompanied her father on many social occasions. Yet, something about this life-style left her feeling unsatisfied.

About this time there was a Mission in her Parish, which involved a week of reflection, instruction and prayer. During this mission she had a deep spiritual experience.

Emilie describes it as a ‘fire burning within her’: the urge to make known to humanity God’s unconditional love.

At the same time she increasingly felt drawn to attend the poor, the sick and the abandoned in her town. Inspired by God she drew other young women to her and they began to minister to all who were in need.

With the death of her grandfather, Emilie inherited the means to purchase a house. At last, on Christmas night 1832, she left her father’s house and with her companions founded the first convent. Together they got to work, caring for the sick, visiting the poor, and tending to the needs of those around them whatever the place, race or religion! That was the nucleus of the future Congregation to which she would give the name the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition .



Cholera outbreak in Algiers 1835



As it happened, in 1835 there was a Cholera outbreak in Algeria. Her brother Augustin, who was already there, asked his sister to come and attend to the sick people in need of nursing care.

Arriving on the 10th of August Emilie, along with her three companions, began immediately to devote themselves to the victims of the disease.

In so doing, Emilie used up much of her fortune to buy the necessary medicine for the sick always trusting that God's Providence would watch over them and provide for what they needed.

*"He must be good
who makes you do
such things"*



Given that the greater part of her patients were Muslims, Emilie advised her Sisters to give witness to Jesus by their unconditional love and dedication rather than by preaching to them.

Emilie exemplified this practice to the point where one of her patients, looking at the Cross around her neck said to her "He must be good who makes you do such things". **For her and for her Sisters this was true discipleship in action.**





As time went on throughout her life, Emilie suffered many trials: misunderstandings and betrayal by those close to her.

She became so poor that she had to beg for a bowl of soup. Despite these setbacks, her mission continued to grow reaching many European countries, the Near-East, far off Burma and even Australia.

In 1852, under the patronage of Archbishop de Mazenod, the young Congregation moved its central house to Marseille.

It was here that Emilie died on the 24th August 1856 as the result of a hernia acquired many years earlier dragging a sack of flour to feed the poor.

At her untimely death she had established 42 houses across the world.



Bishop St Eugene de Mazenod, 1782-1861. Bishop of Marseilles and Founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

He was a good friend and supporter of Emilie's missionary zeal. He understood her founding charism perfectly.

Lay Collaborators

Pope Francis Speaks to the Laity and their Baptism as the basis of Discipleship



"A layperson is a layperson and he has to live as a layperson with the power of his baptism, which prepared him to be a leaven of the love of God in society itself, to sow hope and make it grow, to proclaim the faith, not from a pulpit but in his daily life."

*~ Pope Francis,
then- Cardinal Bergoglio, 2010*

*Sow hope and make
it grow*





“It is the Spirit himself whom we received in Baptism who teaches us, who spurs us to say to God: “Father” or, rather, “Abba!”, which means “papa” or [“dad”]. Our God is like this: he is a dad to us. The Holy Spirit creates within us this new condition as children of God. And this is the greatest gift we have received from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Moreover God treats us as children, he understands us, he forgives us, he embraces us, he loves us even when we fail. In the Old Testament, the Prophet Isaiah was already affirming that even if a mother could forget her child, God never forgets us at any moment (cf. 49:15). And this is beautiful!” (Pope Francis)

Further Thoughts on Baptism

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: 1906-1945 *German Lutheran pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi dissident).*

Bonhoeffer hints that Baptism is simultaneously a call to be a person entirely in the world, rooted strong in the earth but now seeing this world in a light which shows to the Baptized person its needs and its hope. The Sacrament initiates one in a process whereby one is not taken out of reality but awakened to it. The authoritative Word of God in baptism speaks not once and withdraws in silence; rather, it is the creative power for the future, even to involving the Baptized person in the sufferings and helplessness of the world.

The place of the Laity in the Church

"Do this in memory of me" (Jn. 13)

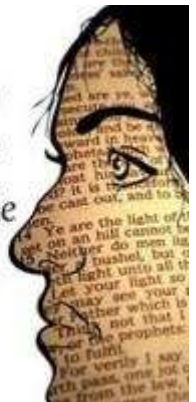


“ The importance of the lay state becomes immediately obvious when we think that our task is to liberate the world we live in, know, touch, smell, suffer, from all that corrupts and destroys it.

Their call is to commit themselves to the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God. To them, Jesus’ command is addressed first:

“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you”

Remember,
you may be
the only Bible
that others
read.





SJA Associates are first and foremost disciples of Jesus. As such, they wish to live their life witnessing to Emmanuel, God with us.

He became one of us so that we may become the face of Jesus in the world.

Every desire to live the Christian life more closely is a call to Discipleship (to be with Christ and to be sent out by Him)

The call that echoes through the Gospel and resonates most closely in the heart of a disciple is “Follow Me.”

The command to follow Jesus requires that we take a daily journey in the company of other people who are on the way.

It demands that we be lifelong learners and that we commit to constant growth and spiritual maturity. We are always at the beginning because each day is a new day of discovery of the Mystery of God with us.

Discipleship is a
call to me,
but it is a journey of “we.”

Michael Spencer



Pope Francis Speaking on Discipleship



“ We find happiness only when love, real [love], meets us, surprises us, changes us. Love changes everything!

And love can change us too, each of us.

The Lord wants his disciples to have a personal relationship with him and to make him the Centre of their lives.

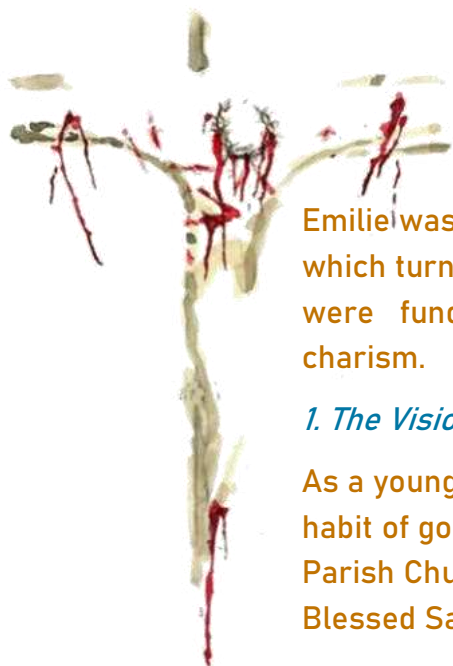
In the Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples: “Who do you say that I am?

“Everyone is called to respond, in his own heart, letting himself or herself be illuminated by the light that the Father gives us to know his Son, Jesus.”

Like Peter, one might confirm enthusiastically, ‘You Are The Christ.’ (2018)

St Emilie's Spiritual Experiences

The Five Wounds of Jesus



God prepared Emilie to follow Him
more closely

Emilie was transformed by two experiences which turned her life upside down and which were fundamental to the development of her charism.

1. The Vision of the Wounds of Christ Crucified:

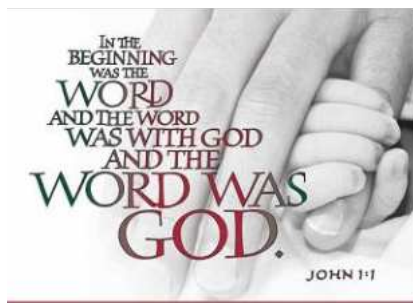
As a young woman Emilie had developed the habit of going, two or three times a day to her Parish Church St Peter's, to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

One day...“during a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, I was alone in the Church, praying calmly and fervently. Suddenly I saw Jesus Christ in the tabernacle. He was lying down; his head was resting on the Gospel side and his feet on the Epistle side.

The arms of the Saviour were outstretched in the form of a Cross. I could distinguish his face and his hair falling on his shoulders. I noticed on his neck a lock of hair...what drew my gaze most were the five wounds which I could discern very clearly, especially that of the right side; I gazed intently at it; a few drops of blood were oozing from it”.

(Emilie de Vialar, *Account of Graces*, 1848).

St Emilie's Spiritual Experiences



2. The Revelation of the Mystery

Following the vision of the five wounds, Emilie enters more and more deeply into the Mystery of a God who makes himself close to humanity.

Emilie understood that God in Jesus assumed the whole of what it means to be human and gave his life to take us back to his Father.

The Holy Spirit continued to deepen this experience in her and led her to:

- give her life without counting the cost
- lead other young women to share her desire to establish a Congregation, to which she would give the name of St. Joseph of the Apparition
- show to all, especially those suffering hardships, the tenderness of the Father, through every human action (Const:

Like St. Emilie, we too are called to enter into the mystery of God's love for all people who are suffering today.

**'Wherever you
are,
Be the Presence
of
Jesus'**



Following in St Emilie's Footsteps: Her Human and Spiritual Growth



St Emilie learnt that every transformation, like every growth, is painful and carries with it an element of darkness, sadness and maybe even confusion. This is what she wrote:

“I continued to love God with a tender love, but I was not satisfied with myself regarding my spiritual life. The constant distress I experienced at being unfaithful to God led me to commit various faults more easily, so that even though I loved God, I did not stop offending Him”.

On His side, God was patient with Emilie. Slowly she learnt to trust Him even in the midst of much opposition and misunderstandings; the loss of all her fortune and of having her newly founded Order spoken about in her own Town as resembling more of a disorder.

But just as God took on Himself the task of guiding her, Emilie, on her part gradually learnt to trust her Guide: She writes to her sisters:

“I need your prayers because I'm treading a tough path.”

“As you know, I'm still poor but God sustains me in this painful state.”

“In everything we must trust the events God

**“I will not cause pain
without allowing
something new to be
born” Isaiah 66:9**





EVERY HUMAN JOURNEY MUST LEAD TO TRANSFORMATION

Our human journey, much like St Emilie's, has a lot in common with the life of a butterfly.

One day a farmer came across a cocoon and realized that a butterfly was struggling to get out. He decided to crack open the cocoon and set the butterfly free! As he did, the butterfly escaped the shell of the cocoon.

The farmer waited to watch its first flight; but the newly born butterfly couldn't fly. Its wings hadn't been strengthened by the challenge of pushing against the walls of the cocoon. Not being able to move or fly, it soon died!

Watching a larva wrap itself in a cocoon is pretty amazing in itself. But what happens next in the suspended cocoon is profound. Within its tightly wrapped sheath the worm-like monarch begins to change. Its cells turn off, one-by-one. The larva slowly dissolves from its former worm-like state into an unrecognizable, gooey substance and dies. But, within the goo is the promise of an unimagined new life; full of undreamt possibilities

Sleeping cells within the goo (present from birth) turn on and begin to build a new creature unlike the former. The change from an earthbound worm to a sky-bound butterfly is nothing less than a miracle: the emergence of something new and beautiful.

OUR HUMAN JOURNEY MUST LEAD TO TRANSFORMATION

"Every thing must be sealed with the sign of the Cross"



THE MISSION OF JESUS

The Mission of Jesus is to reveal to all people the face of the God of Love and the true meaning of life.

The Disciples of Jesus are called to take part in this mission in the place where they live and work.

The contemplation of the limitless love of God who became one of us, leads us in the footsteps of St Emile and her companions:

- To allow our faith and experience of the love of God for us to spread to everyone, wherever we may be. Such an attitude allows us to journey with every human being in humility and solidarity.
- To let our faith in God's love lead us to seek out the marginalized and go where Jesus is not known.

Like St Joseph, we are called:

- To live a life of humble faith trusting in God to lead the way.
- To be attentive and available to the unforeseen inspirations of the Holy Spirit within us.
- To put ourselves at the service of all that contributes to the protection and growth of human persons and their fulfillment in Christ.

“Go, and with what you have and will receive, do all the good you can”. St Emile





THE SJA CONGREGATION

“Wherever you are, be the tender love of the Father to Humanity.”

The Congregation today is made up of women of different nationalities. They are consecrated to God by the three evangelical vows.

It is a Missionary Institute. The contemplation of the Mystery of the Incarnation inspires every action and moment of the Sisters' lives across time and cultures.

Announcing the Good News of the Kingdom to the poor, fighting in the spirit of the Gospel against destitution and every kind of injustice, the Congregation is especially attentive to the appeals which often come from non-Christian countries and people whose fundamental rights are ignored or flouted”



Sr Lilian Bong SJA

Dressing a lady's foot in Myanmar



THE DYNAMIC POWER OF ST. EMILIE'S SPIRITUALITY

To all those whom she inspires to follow in her footsteps, St Emilie traces out a particular way of Spirituality and concrete attitudes to life.

- A life lived in the presence of God
- A 'Thank you' attitude for God's gifts and loving presence in our life
- A passionate longing for the Kingdom of God on earth
- A compassion towards everyone knowing that we are all wounded healers
- A Love that is universal and unconditional
- A relationship founded on gentleness and respect

Holiness, according to Vatican Council II, is a focus on sharing in the Divine nature, the acceptance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, allowing ourselves to be conformed to the image of Christ.

The Prophet Micah, puts this very simply:

This is what God asks of you, only this:

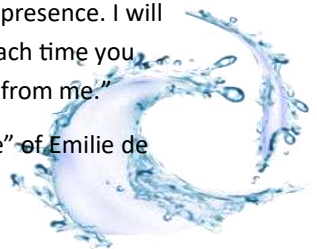
That you act justly,

That you love tenderly,

That you walk humbly with your God
(Micah, 6:8).

"Stay in my presence. I will recall you each time you move away from me."

"Interior life" of Emilie de Vialar



SJA ASSOCIATES : A Historical Note

For several years now, in the different parts of the world where the Congregation is present, SJA Associates (friends, collaborators in our works, former students etc.), accompanied by Sisters, have formed groups in order to:

- Deepen their commitment to their call to be disciples of Jesus largely in a secular environment.
- Increase their knowledge of St Emilie, her vision and her Congregation
- Share in the Mission of the Sisters in their works and
- Live out St Emilie's commitment to be the presence of Jesus in their family, work and community at large.

As early as 1989, in agreement with the General Chapter of the Congregation, groups began to be formed in certain Provinces like Australia, England and Malta.

Other countries began to explore the possibilities of having their own SJA Associates.

In August 1997, a meeting of English-speaking Associates was organized in Gaillac, the birth place of Emilie de Vialar. The outcome of this meeting resulted in a preliminary Statute for the Associates.

At the 2001 General Chapter, for the first time in SJA history, three Associates took part.

Since then, the Associates have contributed greatly to the life and mission of the Congregation worldwide by collaborating in a variety of ways. Their contribution was affirmed in the 2019 General Chapter where the Spirit of God continues to send us to a broken world. "We are all wounded healers."

A charism belongs to the Body of Christ (Pope Francis)

Over the years, SJA Collaborators explained how their belonging strengthened them in their faith and its practice, on the level of both family life, Church and society. They had a sense of belonging to St. Emilie's family and a deeper belonging to the Body of Christ in which they play an active part.

The Sisters who heard this realized that the Charism of St. Emilie was already giving life to both laity as well as to the Sisters.

In fact, even at the International meeting of 2004, which included both Associates and Sisters, all participants became aware that St. Emilie's Charism and her spirit continued to inspire and motivate for the mission.

Today, Associates and Sisters are encouraged to work together to promote peace, justice and to care for our common home: the Earth (Laudato Si) in collaboration with other people and organisation. (General Chapter 2019)

“The Charism of a Congregation is not something to be kept in a bottle, like we do with perfume or distilled water. A Charism needs to be lived energetically as well as reinterpreted culturally. It belongs to the whole body of Christ. (Pope Francis)

A Charism belongs to the
whole body of Christ



Organization of SJA Lay Associates

(from International Associates handbook)

People who are attracted by the Congregation and the Spirituality of St. Emilie, for the most part are formed into local autonomous groups.

In general, the direction of most groups is undertaken by a Sister, helped by the Associates.

In other groups, the Associates themselves take the responsibility. It is the Sister present in the group, who ensures faithfulness to the Spirit of St Emilie and is the link with the Provincial.

The local groups are very diverse:

in the way they function;

the regularity of their meetings,

the name chosen for the group.

Often the Associates of the same country meet centrally on a regular basis.

Some Associates make a private promise to live the spirit of St. Emilie which is renewed annually at the feast day of St. Emilie.

International meetings are organized by the Congregations' General Government.



Growth and Formation of the Groups

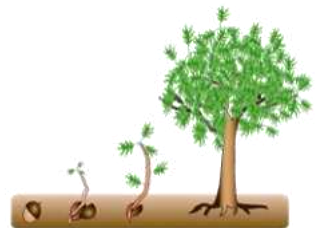
The members of the local groups meet regularly according to the needs of each group.

These meetings take different forms:

- Periods of reflection
- Periods of prayer, of recollection
- Periods of life-faith-sharing
- Occasions for developing friendship and family bonds
- Other suitable activities.

The meetings enable the group members to:

- Study more deeply the Word of God
- Be initiated into the life and Charism of St Emilie
- Grow in faith and love
- Foster commitments within society, the church and the mission of the Congregation
- Create bonds of friendship between the members, the Sisters and the communities
- Become more aware of the international nature of our Congregation.
- Recognize their partnership with the Sisters in making Jesus known and loved wherever they are.



“After me, the Sisters will perpetuate the spirit which God gave me. The impetus of Divine love which the Holy Spirit put into our hearts will continue as long as it pleases Divine Providence to make use of us”

Emilie de Vialar

“The Spirit is open to everyone to inspire and motivate for the challenging mission of today. Associates and sisters will journey and work together for the Glory of God. ”

*she has
fire in her
soul and
grace in
her heart*



The Relationship between SJA Associates and the Congregation

The Congregation is a religious missionary Institute of pontifical right, in the church whose members consecrate themselves to God with a view to the apostolate. (Const. 1)

The Superior General is the highest authority in the SJA Family, for both Sisters and Associates.

In the SJA Family there are different ways of belonging:

The Sisters who make vows, form the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition. These vows bind them to the Congregation following the Laws of the Church (Canon Law). They have the responsibility for the life of the Congregation, for its evolution and its faithfulness to the Charism of the Foundress.

The Associates belong to the SJA Family in a different way. They form a group which has generally come to be called 'Associates', but in some countries have become known by other names such as 'Friends of St Emilie'. Their links with the SJA Family are not binding and have no standing in Canon Law.

They live the Charism of St. Emilie in a way which enriches both the Sisters and the entire Church. Through them the mission develops and expands in society. Their presence, experience and witness is greatly valued. Watching the Charism with which God gifted Emilie thrive in the Associates' social network is an affirmation for the Congregation that her spirit continues to point to the presence of Jesus alive in our world today.

Emilie endured
injustices and
betrayals and



SJA Sisters and Associates

Interconnections



In this SJA Family it is true to say that there are many bonds of affection and friendship between the Sisters and our Collaborators as well as among the Associates themselves, their own friends and families.

These bonds are strengthened by working and celebrating together which leads to a deeper understanding of each other and to an enriched and comprehensive Mission.

In union with the Congregation, the Associates are encouraged to celebrate these Principle feasts of the Congregation.

- **Christmas** (the Congregation was founded on Christmas Eve 1832)
- **St Joseph's feast**, 19th March
- **St Emilie's feast**, 17th June,
- **SJA Foundation in WA**, 24th May



The Commitment of the Associates Within the SJA Family.

Within the SJA Family there are different forms of Commitment:

- Some Associates, strongly attracted by the Charism and Spirituality of St Emilie, make a promise which they may renew each year using the following text and which can be adapted according to the needs of each Province:

"I promise to try to radiate God's love through all that I am and all that I do, towards all those whom I meet, especially the poor, in a spirit of faith, humility and availability, following the example of St Joseph and St Emilie."

- Others, well versed in the Charism of St Emilie, live their Christian and Missionary life close to the Sisters, without making any special commitment in the SJA Family.
- There are also members who, near and far, inspired by St Emilie, accompany the SJA Family by their friendship and their prayer.
- All are encouraged to pray particularly to St Joseph, who was the first witness of the Revelation of the Incarnation and to St Emilie, the Foundress of the Congregation.





St Emilie de Vialar by a Greek Artist

Sharing God's compassion for our broken world. Together, moving forward, following in the footsteps of Jesus paying attention to God's presence in all of creation especially the poor.



To^gether,
Movin^g Forward



We Journey Together

Organisational Matters

The General Chapter

There is a gathering of Sisters from all over the world, normally every six years, which is called the General Chapter. The group is the highest level of Authority in the Congregation who listens to the Holy Spirit at work in each member of the Congregation to point the way to the future. It is a time of renewal, challenge and renewed commitment to the Gospel.

It was at the General Chapter of 2007, that the older booklet was presented to all the delegates, including some representatives from the Associates. Further amendments were made at the 2013 and 2019 Chapters.

At the Local Level

- The local group remains the basic structure
- The members of each group will take responsibility for the organization of their group
- When possible a Sister accompanies each group
- Associates of the SJA Congregation are only to engage in something important in the Name of the Congregation, after first discussing and then obtaining the permission of the Superior.

Organisation at the International Level

- An International Commission of Collaborators and Sisters will be nominated by the Superior General and her Council. Its term of office is for three years and can be renewed once. Its mandate automatically ceases at the end of the Superior General's term of office.

Its Role is to:

- Coordinate the groups of Associates from the various Provinces and Delegations.
- Organize International encounters or meetings
- Ensure the exchange of information between the different Provincial groups and also between the groups and the Congregation.
- To take responsibility to deepen formation and the development of guidelines in the future.

Finance

- The Congregation does not expect financial support from our Associates
- The financial costs of the groups are organised locally
- Being an Associate does not entitle them to claim financial remuneration

A Common Symbol for Australia

A common Symbol has now been designed for all SJA Associates.

The website of the Congregation is:

<http://www.stjoseph-appartion.org>





2019 CHAPTER LOGO

Christ, the Risen One is present in our broken world as the tree of Life which penetrates the earth and our broken world. Following St. Emilie it inspires us to continue to respond to God's inspiration through the Holy Spirit to heal our broken world.

We are wounded healers who are called to be pilgrims and to follow the Lord into new Life.

By responding generously to God's call we will be transformed and experience the Inner Freedom of the Spirit.



The SJA General Chapter of 2019 Directives

During the Chapter, the presence of the Lay Associates was affirmed and our commitment was renewed. One of the directives stated a strong call to collaborate with others: lay people, Associates, staff in our missions and with other organizations for the 'common good' and care of the Earth.

To explore creative ways of collaboration with others to meet the needs of humanity, and our common home.
(Laudato Si)

Lay Associates participating at the 2019 General Chapter in Rome





Commissioning of the Lay Associates during the General Chapter in Rome.

Representatives from England, Australia, Greece, Jordan and Malta are affirmed in their Mission by the Superior General.

“Go with what you have and will receive, do all the good you can.”



The General Chapter of 2019 believes that Inner Freedom in Action is a gift to be cultivated and allowed to develop in all disciples of Jesus and those belonging to the SJA family.

This can only happen in prayer which is the gift of the Spirit.

It is a treasure we carry in an Earthen Vessel yet this fragile vessel holds the promise of growth and transformation.

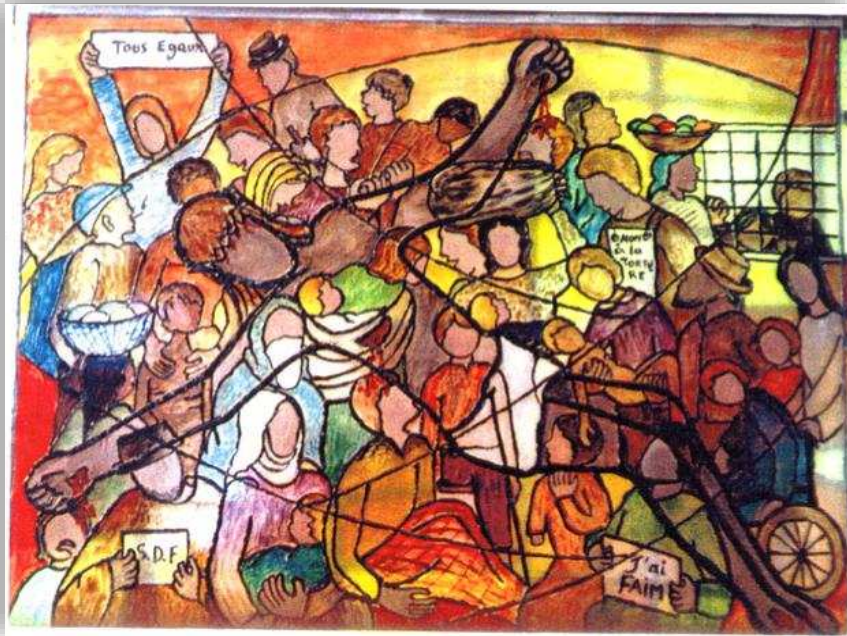
The Spirit of God continues to send us to a broken world to which we too belong. We sisters and associates are wounded healers.

We offer restorative inspiration and action to others while we ourselves are continually being restored, healed and renewed.

(General Chapter 2019: Evaluating Outcomes and Directives, Community of Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition, WA)

Together We Journey





The Wounds of Jesus , the Body of Christ in the modern world painted by Sr. Fausta, sja.

It reflects the suffering humanity which is the Body of Christ crying out for help, solace and care. Those women, men and children who suffer from war, oppression, violence, famine, climate change, confusion etc. cry out for our compassion and active care.

Pope Francis says we are challenged to hear and to respond to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth.

(Laudato Si)



**BE THE PRESENCE OF
JESUS IN THE WORLD**



**The Word came to live among us
and
We have seen His Glory**



**We work together
to make Jesus known
and loved**

