

ON THE WAY TO THE 55° GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

Province of France

March 2019

Yesterday

A brief history of the provinces in France

On May 10, 1874, Mère Du Calvaire erected the first structure of the Congregation: the Province of Bogotá. Little by little, according to the pace of missionary expansion, numerical growth or other circumstances, the structures were multiplied or transformed.

It is always to be at the service of a better organization, a more immediate contact with missionary realities, a more dynamic presence, a growth of communion, according to the animation and the demands of apostolic and community life. It is the following criteria and the same spirit that have determined the history of structures in France: always to be...

1957 - NORTH PROVINCE of France and SOUTH PROVINCE of France

1966 – The communities of Italy and Switzerland pass to the new Viceprovince of Italy

1967 – GENERAL RESIDENCE IN ROME

June 28 1967 – Circular of Mère Thérèse des Anges: decision to transfer the Congregation's government to Rome.



1968 - PROVINCE OF FRANCE CENTER

March 25, 1968: construction of a third Province, the "Center" for a more rational and equitable distribution of the houses of France, which would allow the adaptation of the three Provinces to the "Apostolic Regions", thus facilitating relations with the Episcopate and Integration in the general pastoral ministry.

April 15 1968 – ERECTION OF THREE PROVINCES IN FRANCE

The “**PROVINCE OF THE NORTH**” (headquarters in Paris), includes the houses located in the North apostolic region, Paris, those of the west and east; the houses of England and the mission in Alto Volta (Actually Burkina Faso)

The “**PROVINCE OF THE SOUTH**” (based in Toulouse) includes the houses located in the apostolic regions of Center-East, Southwest, Midi, Provence-Mediterranean, houses of Algeria and Morocco, during some time.



The “**PROVINCE OF THE CENTER**” (headquarters in Tours, Petite Bretèche) includes the houses located in the Apostolic Region of the Center.

- The **MAISON-MÈRE**, Grande-Bretèche. To which are assigned the Interprovincial Novitiate, the School of Special Educators and the House of Sainville "Cradle of the Congregation". Also in the Mother House is where the General Secretary carries out the coordination that implies the interdependence of the three provinces of France, taking into account the common Novitiate and the apostolic priorities.

1969 - Mother House group with the communities of England and Jerusalem

1980 - Merger of the **VICE-PROVINCE ITALY-SWITZERLAND to FRANCE-CENTER**

1988 - PROVINCE FRANCE: The 3 provinces of France form a single structure.

The Mother –House group continues to be an independent structure

In October 2004: Unification of the Province of France and the Mother House

Only one Province: “**THE PROVINCE OF FRANCE**”
(headquarters in Paris)



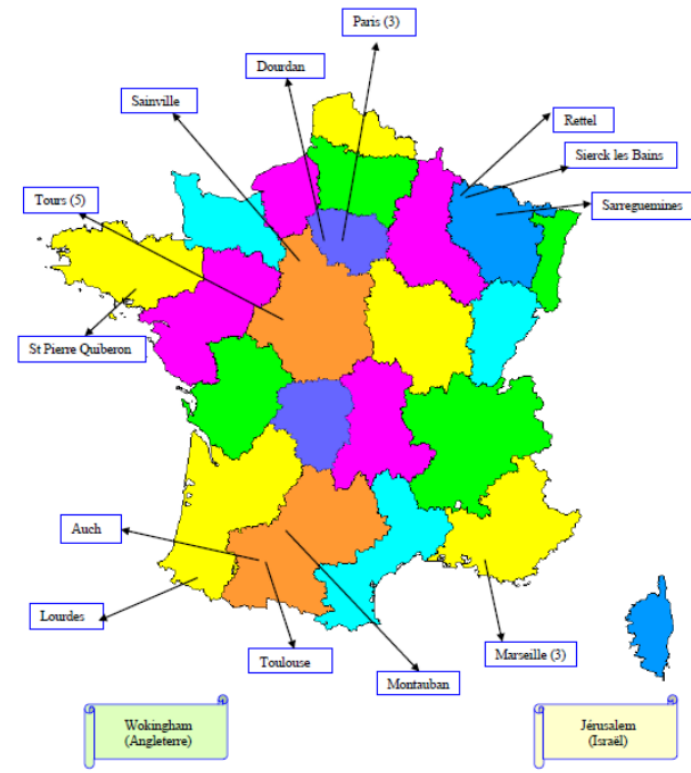
The Maison-Mère group is an integral part of the Province of France; La Grande Bretèche maintains its specificity as the Mother House.

In June 2016: the communities of Rome are directly dependent on the general government.

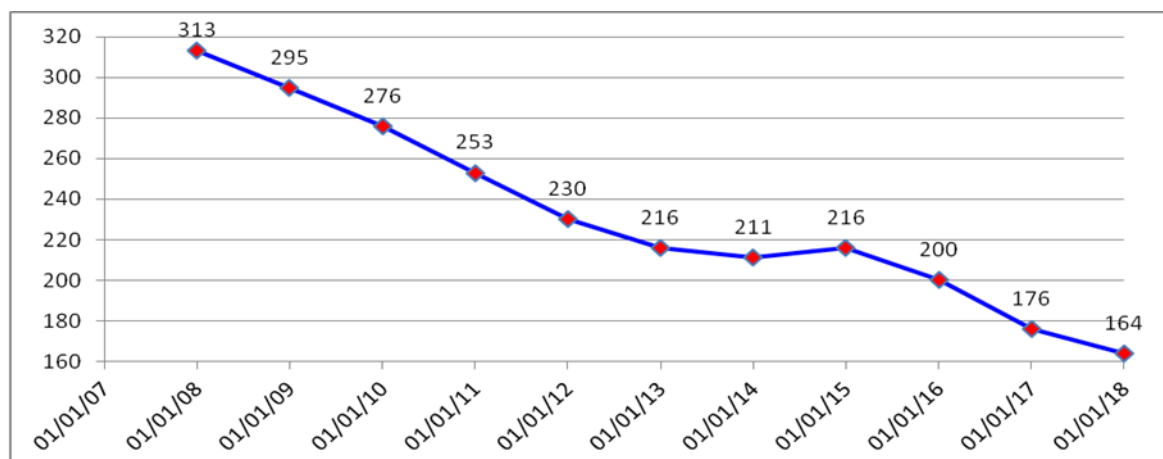
Today

Our Reality

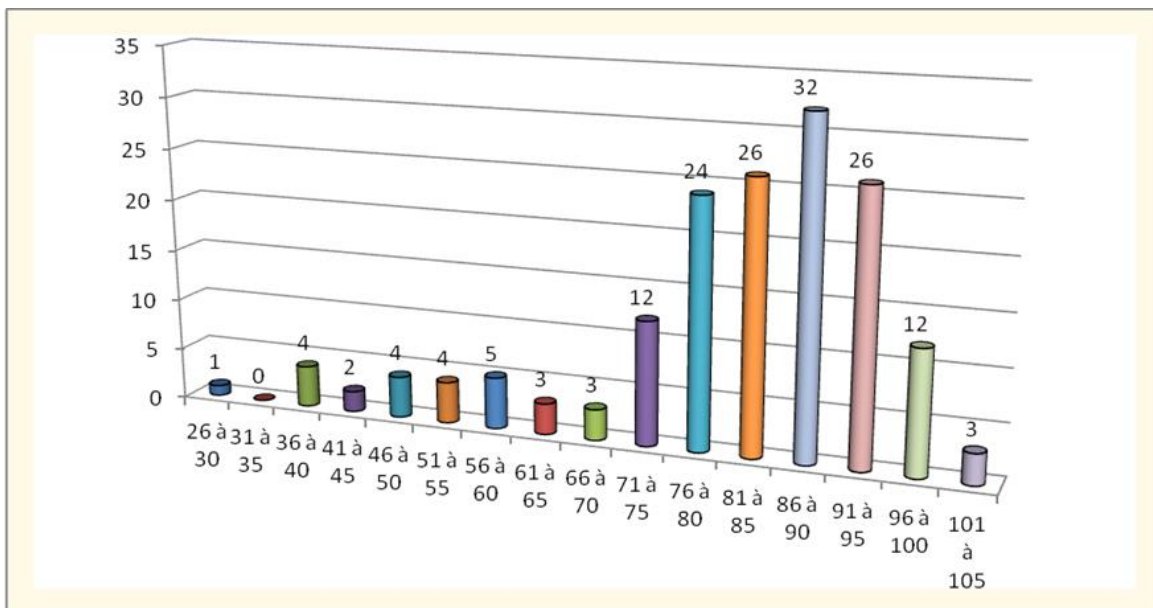
Until the last Provincial Chapter in November 2018, we were 161 sisters, two of which had temporal vows, distributed in 24 communities (23 because there are no sisters in Sainville) and two novices. Besides, 1 sister from the Vice Province of Africa works in the Province but is not assigned to it and 1 Sister from another Congregation who is in “*Transitum*”



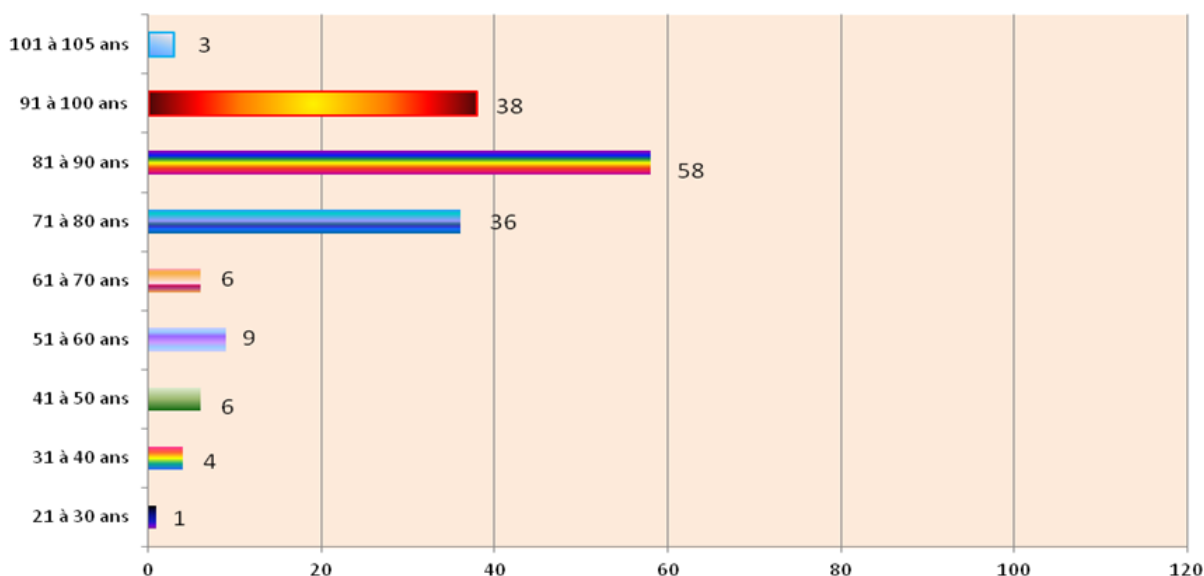
Between January 1, 2008 and October 31, 2018, the number of sisters dropped by 49% despite the merger with the Sisters of St. Catherine of Auch (2014) but with the departure of the 13 sisters of Rome in 2016. 43% of the communities have been closed.



Still, in November 2018, the average age of the sisters of the Province: 80.48 years



11 nationalities: French, American, English, Burkinabe, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Iraqi, Portuguese, Swiss, Czech.



There is only one French sister among the 11 sisters under 50 and 6 among the 9 from 51 to 60 years old.

The main missions of houses and sisters are the following

Hospitality

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| Lourdes | Hospitality community for pilgrims Pastoral St Pierre Quiberon Rest and holidays for everyone Retreats, sessions, conferences Ministry of Tourism at the diocesan and national levels Parish ministry |
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Educational institutions

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| Rettel | IME - with a community in place IME - Tours - with a community in place Liturgical animation, parish insertion Caritas Community service |
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Health ministry

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| Paris "Saint Jacques" | Direction, hospitality Group of Dominican Sisters Congregations (Groupement fraternelle) and CORREF (Conference of religious men and women of France) |
| Sarreguemines | Presence in a home for the elderly |
| Sierck les Bains | Assistance in a home for the elderly |

Presence in an urban environment

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| Dourdan | International Novitiate |
| Marseille "The Chartreux" | Catechesis Visits to the sick Parish ministry St Joseph Hospital |
| Paris "106" | Government of the Province CORREF (Conference of religious men and women of France) Doctor in medicine works in jail Pastoral care in the school Sisters in study |
| Toulouse "Joly" | Youth Hostel |
| Tours "St Dominique" | Student Residence Novitiate Pastoral care of migrants Pastoral care of health |

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| | Caritas |
| | Parish ministry |
| Tours "La Bretèche" | Reception, Congregational Services Commitment with diocese Treasurer and Secretariat Province of France Parish ministry |
| Tours "Europe" | Commitment Parish Provincial Treasurer |
| Tours "St Thomas" | Home of young students |
| <u>In rural areas</u> | |
| Sainville | |
| <u>Elder Sister houses</u> | |
| Marseille "La Marie" | Services to the sick sisters Pastoral care of persons with disabilities |
| Marseille "Les Accates" | Commitment to the Inter Congregational House |
| Montauban | Elder people Visits |
| Paris "Villa Torelli" | Various commitments at the level of the EHPAD |
| Auch "Saint Dominic" | Services to sick sisters |
| <u>England</u> | |
| Wokingham | Presence at the Parish |
| <u>Israel</u> | |
| Jerusalem | Secours Catholique- Caritas – hospitality |

Tomorrow

With our situation, we want to continue to witness to of Jesus Christ with strength and realism.

To consolidate our future, we work with others. This is true in our works (youth hostels, shelters ...) but also administrative organization of the treasurer's office... Thus we can provide a spiritual and human animation.

It is in this spirit that two major projects are in progress:

The Saint Charles House in Paris: An intergenerational house



The mission of this intergenerational house is to continue the action of the Congregation articulated around hospitality and solidarity.

At the opening of the site, the Congregation will find housing that can accommodate 20 sisters. In the meantime, during the duration of the work, the older sisters are housed at the Village Saint-Michel nursing home, Villa Torelli.

Its main tasks will be to welcome single-parent families (10 homes) to help them reintegrate socially; to host students and young people aged 18-30 engaged in a dynamic of socio-professional integration; to accompany jobseekers (15 dwellings), to receive some guests of passage (15 rooms).

It will also have two large apartments for intergenerational gatherings, will provide rooms for social formations, seminars and conferences, associative events and worship, and will open places for people to meet.

In addition, it will have free accommodation. The management will be entrusted to the Habitat and Humanism Association.



This project is under way; the reconstruction should be completed in a year or so.

The Community will have a mission of spiritual and relational animation.

We are now in the reflection phase on the possibility of an inter-congregational community that would be part taking of part of the house project.

Le Grande Breteche in Tours



The Breteche will remain the Mother House of the Congregation with a place for the General Government, the archives of the Congregation, the documentation center and the annex of the General Secretariat.

The site will host a Community, an EHPAD (Accommodation for the Dependent Elderly) with 25 rooms reserved for the Congregation, a residence-services where will

house more independent sisters, a home for young students and an extension of Secours Catholique which already there.

The EHPAD and the residence-services will be managed by the Leopold Bellan Foundation, which has 67 institutions, most of them in Ile de France and a gerontological hospital in Paris. A non-profit institution, the Léopold Bellan Foundation, created in 1884, carries the values of solidarity and respect for others, it welcomes or accompanies without any distinction of origin, religious affiliation or means the people who seek it. Today, it brings the most appropriate responses to the care of needs in several other sectors: very young children, children, young people and adults with mental, psychic or sensory disabilities, children and young people at risk or in social difficulty, sick.

In all of our communities, the Sisters live their religious life with courage and have many missions that they pursue with great passion as suggested in the summary table of the missions above.

We emphasize the importance of the presence among us of sisters from other provinces; they carry with us the concern for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Marseille: a new community?

The great city where we have been present and where we are still is a multicultural, very cosmopolitan place where people of all religions rub shoulders. Some neighborhoods are very poor, many migrants are present.

We have the project to continue and strengthen the mission of the city.