



On the way to the

**56° GENERAL CHAPTER
2024**

VICE-PROVINCE OF ACONCAGUA

A LITTLE HISTORY...

With the first sisters sent by the Province of Bogota, the Congregation arrived in Chile in 1960, in the Diocese of San Felipe, to take responsibility for two educational institutions: the Abdón Cifuentes School in San Felipe and the Dolores Otero School in Putaendo.

Only two years after the foundation in Chile in 1962, new sisters arrived to serve in two foundations and provided their missionary service at the Esther Bunster Technical School (currently Nuestra Señora de la Presentación School) in Melipilla, and the Santa María Goretti Parish School in Concón.

In 1964, a house was opened to accommodate young university students in Santiago, the capital of the country, a building that change over time to become the Vice-Provincial House, the administrative center of the Structure.

From 1986 to 2020, the Congregation was present in Argentina, in the Communities in El Cruce, Santiago del Estero (1986), Junín (1987), Bandera Bajada (1990) and La Favorita, Mendoza (2004), in 2020 the last mission in Argentina, La Favorita Mendoza was closed.

From the beginning, the sisters of the Vice-Province have assumed the service of charity through the mission of education, parish ministry care of the sick, home visits, alternative medicine, and health care positions, especially while we were present in El Cruce.

THE VICE-PROVINCE TODAY...

20 sisters of perpetual profession, of two nationalities:

- ◆ 6 Colombians
- ◆ 14 Chilean



OUR MISSIONARY PRESENCE:



This challenge commits us to discern together, to get out of our comfort zones, enlightened by the Word where the force of the Spirit is taking us to discover the challenges in the reality in which we are present: social migration, increased insecurity, school

dropouts, social conflicts, ambiguity in the definition of the identity in the young people, decrease in vocations, loss of the meaning in life, new family paradigms, etc.

This post-pandemic reality that we are just beginning to understand in its depth teaches us that we cannot cling to preconceived schemes but that we must renew ourselves and open ourselves to new possibilities: use of the SMC as valid instruments of evangelization, accompaniment, and an opportunity to approach, strengthen the capacity for active listening, value together the small and modest ways with multiple opportunities for progress in different areas of pastoral ministry.

Each community continues to advance in the commitment to make God's dream present, walking with the laity and striving to live synodality.

PUTAENDO COMMUNITY



From left to right:

Sr. Doralisa Martínez,

Sr. Carmen Leonor Cortés,

Sr. Luz Marina Rincón,

Sr. Margarita Pulido,

Sr. Hilda Aguilera,

Sr. Aurora Calderón,

Sr. María Cristina Silva and

Sr. Nilda Miranda,
Vice-provincial Superior

The community present in the Diocese of San Felipe has a double mission: the house that accompanies and cares for the older sisters and also trains children and young people at the Marie Poussepin School, offering quality education and training in values, with an extended academic trajectory, standing out among other schools in the area.

The sisters also collaborate at the diocesan level, specifically in the Episcopal Delegation for Education, and from this responsibility, they assume the legal representation of three schools of the diocese in Petorca, a town located an hour and a half from Putaendo and the parish ministry and accompaniment to groups of older adults in the area. Some sisters are part of the Community of the Missionaries of the Presentation.

MELIPILLA COMMUNITY

Since the founding of the community in the Diocese of San José de Melipilla, the principal mission of the sisters was focused on the Professional Technical training of the students who opt for this School to obtain knowledge and skills that prepare them for their future world of work.

The sisters work side by side with a qualified team of laymen and women, teachers, and education assistants who carry out the learning processes together, which allow the young people to live their professional technical education to obtain a Degree in intermediate level in the specialties of Graphics, Clothing and Textiles, Kindergarten and Accounting.



From left to right: Sr. Nilda Miranda, Sr. Berta Tapia, Sr. María Bernardita Casanova, Sr. Gabriela Vergara

The community actively participates in the zonal Conferre (Religious Conference) and the Community of the Missionaries of the Presentation.

CONCON COMMUNITY



From left to right: Sr. Licarayen Torres, Sr. Margarita Vergara, Sr. María Mercedes Escalona.

The community is present in the Diocese of Valparaíso, leading the human-scientific formation of children and young people at the Santa María Goretti Parish School, providing necessary tools to continue their studies at a higher level.

Here, the sisters carry out the mission in the accompaniment to the educational community with a sister in the Pastoral Coordination and a sister in the Administration of the School (Sub-direction) together with the work in the Vocational and Youth ministry of the Vice-Province.

SANTIAGO COMMUNITY

In the Archdiocese of Santiago, the host community carries out charity service in the mission with generosity and dedication to all the people who come to the house, both sisters and lay people, and this is also the Vice-Provincial House.

It is a community with open doors, a place that welcomes and provides a space for meeting, prayer, and strength, thus following the intuition of Marie Poussepin this community is a place where we get strength for ourselves and gain vitality for our mission.



From left to right: Sr. Jeny Obreque, Sr. Nilda Miranda and Sr. Ana Mercedes Rojas.

The sisters are part of the Community of the Missionaries of the Presentation of Santiago. Our Vice-Provincial Superior is a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Religious Men and Women of Chile.

CHAÑARAL COMMUNITY

The community belongs to the Diocese of Copiapó sisters who carry out the mission accompanying the Christian communities of the Our Lady of the Mount Carmel Parish.

The work in the solidarity kitchen, visits to the sick, and accompaniment to the ecclesial communities form a central part of the daily work of our sisters.

The community participates actively in the pastoral ministry of the diocese with the participation of a sister and the presence of the Congregation in all different activities carried out at the diocesan level.



From left to right: Sr. Nilda Miranda, Sr. Sandra Segovia and Sr. María Elena Espinoza.

ON THE PATH OF RESTRUCTURATION

Concerning the process that the Congregation is undergoing on the call to restructuration, not only of the structures but also in the personal level, we have been living a path that has allowed us to take few steps that are fundamental for us as a Vice-Province:

The process of raising awareness of the need for restructuration that bore fruit in the Chapter Assembly with a 'Declaration' that allowed us to take a position and commit ourselves to this process even without having any certainties, but with the willingness to move forward:

'At the end of our Chapter Assembly and strongly feeling the call of the Congregation expressed in the 55th General Chapter, to transcend borders to revitalize our life and mission, the sisters of the Vice-Province declare our commitment and option to make Restructuration a path that encompasses all dimensions of our life and radically commit ourselves to the mission of the Church.'

We offer our availability without having certainties yet, but open to the will of the Spirit for us to change, to uproot, to cross borders, if this process involves it, to make the response of the Congregation effective, to serve the poorest and most excluded, for an effective experience of interculturality.

Each local community will define and make explicit in its community project this commitment of all."

That is how we began an itinerary, realizing that we started with a lot of resistance and even with this, with hope, we projected ourselves to start a restructuration process with a nearby Province (if we see it from a geographical point of view), responding to the call made to us by the 55th General Chapter, from the reflection and sharing of an Open Assembly we projected ourselves with concerns, expectations, possible dates, etc. Two meetings were held between the Government Teams, one of them in our country, where we realized that there was no resonance of our searches with which they were living, in order to continue searching together. That discouraged us and leaving the first obstacle to the process.

As a result of this apparent difficulty, we started a new path, this time accompanied by a Redemptorist priest, who has helped us discover that restructuration starts from the awareness that it is a process and option from the inside and in a personal way, which does not only imply a change of place, but a personal conversion.

From that, we have been growing in personal knowledge, discovering that many times we cannot solve everything by our own means and that we need external help with professionals. This is something we have achieved that has helped us to work on certain difficulties in some of the sisters from a personal point of view which hinder work and community life.

For us, it has been relevant to identify positive aspects:

1. We continue to contribute from our reality to the life of the Church in the different dioceses where we are.
2. The process of awareness that we have already immersed in the Restructuration and it implies a personal and community commitment, even when we are not doing the process with another structure of the Congregation as we would have wanted.
3. The work that has been taking place with the accompaniment with the Redemptorist priest Carlos Pérez a formation phase, has allowed a process of growth and maturity that has made it easier for us to ask ourselves: what else should we do? What steps should we take? Where and how does God want us to be?

OUR PRIORITIES

- ◆ Being a Vice-Province that is outgoing, in an expression of our availability to mission, is capable of responding to the commitment to restructuration that the entire Congregation has assumed.
- ◆ Reflect, discern and search together a renewed way of living the passage from Dourdan to Sainville.
- ◆ Make a revision of our missionary presence in each of our services, to give new meaning, assuming the challenges that this implies.
- ◆ The mission and involvement of all in the Vocational Youth Ministry.



Liturgical Celebration with the Educational Community, school “Nuestra Señora de la Presentación” , Melipilla.



Sr. Licarayen Torres, in the formation of young missionaries.



Sr. Betulia Ávila. Chañaral Community , together with the parish community celebrating the feast of St. Peter



Missionaries of the Presentation Santiago.



Management team meeting



EGC , Tours 2023, Sharing.