



On the way to the

56° GENERAL CHAPTER  
2024

PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION

## WEAVING US WITH THREADS OF HOPE

In the newness of the Spirit that accompanies the process of restructuring in the Congregation and in the context of the celebration of the birth of Jesus, who is life, the Province of Our Lady of the Presentation is born as fruit of the search for God's will for the structures of Bucaramanga, El Caribe, and Manizales. On December 17, 2023, the new province with its headquarters in La Turena, Floridablanca, Santander, was established.

A successful past, as a fulfillment of the promise of God in the history of salvation, brought us to the present to live in the key of hope; where together we will discover the will of God and consider the call to welcome our 359 sisters happily. This new structure is composed of 46 local communities, with missionary presence in seven countries: Brazil, Colombia, Curaçao, Ecuador, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela, will make the territory for the Province of Our Lady of the Presentation.



# MISSIONARY PRESENCE

## BRAZIL

### Sao Jose Da Mata: Diocese of Campina Grande

Community integrates its missionary activity with a sister who is a teacher in a public-school. Others involved in evangelizing work with women's groups in crafts, gardens, and bio-dance, reaffirming the unwavering commitment to defend equality for women and offer them dignity, empower them, and achieve their rights on all fields. They accompany the children preparing for first communion by teaching catechism in the parish.

### Alexandria: Diocese of Mossoró

The sisters use circles of Bible as an instrument of evangelization giving witness of a church that goes forth, discovering spaces of encounter and reflection on the Word of God. In addition, they participate actively in the parish activities and visits to the families.



BRASIL

## COLOMBIA

### PASTORAL MINISTRY IN THE PARISH

Sisters carry out this mission in collaboration with priests and laity. It is achieved through various pastoral spheres: liturgy and sacraments, catechesis, health care, family ministry, formation of laity, youth and children. They accompany the needs of the community, human promotion through solidarity projects, such as organic coffee production and production of ecological bricks from recycled material with a group of 30 women. This dimension of our Charism comes to life in the Communities of Buesaco (Nariño), Las Mercedes, Tibú and Ocaña (Norte de Santander) and Vélez (Santander).

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

#### Betania Social Works, Manizales

This mission focuses on providing decent housing to low-income families in the city of Manizales, accompanied by services of nutrition and health care. In addition, we organize social gatherings: dance, soccer, educational support, English language, and further, to improve the quality of life and well-being of the vulnerable population.

### Blessed Marie Poussepin Social Foundation

This institution puts three centers together: House of Encounter in La Turena, The Little Home in Cúcuta and the INCAPSO Social Training Institute, Piedecuesta. From these centers, we focus on strengthening education for employment and human development as well as informal education to accompany vulnerable population, starting with building a social fabric to offer them dignity and formation in human and Christian values.

### SERVICE, WITNESS AND WELCOME

The history of our Congregation with the memory of those who have preceded us who faced difficulties with courage, charity in action, to build the Kingdom of God amid the world and the Church, are a reference of fidelity to the Charismatic intuition of Marie Poussepin. As missionaries, it is time for us to imagine creatively our service of charity.

Communities of Welcome: Central House (Bucaramanga), Marie Poussepin (La Turena), Community of Welcome (Cali), Retreat House (Ibagué).

Community of Elderly Sisters: in La Turena: Saint Anne and Janville; in Cali: Sainville and Saint Dominic.



### HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

Our sisters who are nurses continue to strengthen the charism with their dedication and service in nursing care in the houses of elderly sisters, in various local communities, and in Alternative Therapy (TANO).

#### Presentation Clinic - Manizales

From this Clinic, our sisters, lay people, and professionals provide complete health services up to the third level of complexity, based on human and Christian principles within the Charism of Marie Poussepin.



## EDUCATION MINISTRY

We have many private schools called Presentation Schools, in Bucaramanga, Cartago, Neiva, Pitalito, Ibagué, Santa Marta, Piedecuesta, Santa Teresa in Cúcuta, El Paraíso (in agreement with Uniminuto) and the Educational Institution called Citadel in Cali, la Milagrosa Institute in Santa Marta. We are also responsible for public Schools in Salazar, San Gil, teachers training School in Convencion, Santa Teresita Kindergarten in Manizales and Infant Jesus of Praga Community Home in Bucaramanga where sisters give their best daily to provide comprehensive education, based on values that mold children and young people, putting every effort to create a more humane and just society.

### Catholic University of Manizales

It is the only University of the Congregation. This institution has been committed to high-quality education focusing on humanization of knowledge for new generations offering services for 70 years. This immense work is a pride for our community, in the university system, and its educational quality.



To celebrate its 70 years, Block C “Saint Dominic of Guzman” was inaugurated, an infrastructure project to modernize its campus, aimed at taking advantage of spaces for administration, academic, and recreational use as well as investment in technology and innovation. Let's continue together in this project of love that aims for excellence.

## INTERPROVINCIAL NOVITIATE

The interprovincial novitiate operates in Villa Clara house at Morrogacho, in Manizales. Currently, we have five novices of canonical-year and six first-year novices.



# CURAÇAO:

From the Catechetical Institution of the Diocese, our Sisters coordinate the pastoral care of all the Catholic schools on the island and accompany the pastoral care in Aruba.

Parish life embraces from the catechesis for the preparation to receive the sacraments, childhood mission association, youth ministry, family ministry, healthcare, Legion of Mary, charismatic groups, immigrants, and Pro-Life movement.



## CURACAO

# ECUADOR

Here we focus on variety of missionary involvements where daughters of Marie Poussepin serve the children and youth through academic education based on human-Christian values and principles, with a personalized teaching that develops the potential to create leaders in a changing society.

The sisters also fulfill their mission in the rural Chapel in Pifo, which is located away from the main city; its inhabitants are committed to agricultural and productive work in the countryside. There, the sisters accompany the community in developing their faith, planning mission, visits, and accompaniment to families.



## ECUADOR

# PARAGUAY

## Arroyos y Esteros

The community is based in Arroyos and Esteros in the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, and from there, they travel to Parishes in Saint Raphael of Jean of Mena and Saint Blaise of Cleto Romero. They work together with priests in the formation of catechists, visits to families, ministry to children and youth and preparation for the sacraments.



## Mbcayaty

The sisters radiate the strength of our charism in parish ministry with catechesis for the sacraments of initiation, childhood mission, youth ministry, adult ministry, and visits to families and small villages that belong to the parish. They also serve in the local schools and in the Catholic university campus of Our Lady of the Assumption.

# PUERTO RICO

## Bayamón, Archdiocese of San Juan

The Charism of Marie Poussepin is made legible in this portion of our province through the animation of religious life as secretary of the Conference of Religious of Puerto Rico and an inter-congregational service that has provided a space to listen to the voices of the marginalized and support the most needy.

One of our sisters provides her missionary service as an educator, at the Claret Academy with elementary school students, promoting Christian values. Another sister visits sick people and is responsible for the administration. The community actively participates in the life of the Claret Parish and vocational ministry on the island.



PUERTO RICO

## Marie Poussepin, Diocese of Arecibo

This community is located in Arecibo. The community is involved in the service of charity with pastoral ministry and giving classes at a College in Hatillo Town, in collaboration with lay people. In addition, the community cares for and visits sick people as well as supports and participates in parish activities. One of the elderly sisters collaborates in the catechesis and works with abused children.

## VENEZUELA

### Janville Caracas

The mission of this community is to be a house of preaching: welcoming lay people and sisters, organize retreats and workshops. In addition, elderly and sick people are cared for in the Brisas del Paraíso (Breezes of Paradise) neighborhood, and they offer retreats to confirmation youth. One sister is a professor at the Center for Religious Studies and Theological Institute in Caracas.

### House of Mercy - Maracaibo

The sisters, in alliance with lay people, professionals, and benefactors, provide care for the elderly and indigenous people, malnourished children, offer medical and dental services, clothing, and food for 600 families.

## EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Education in Venezuela has gone through transformation at various moments in its plans and projects. The struggle to maintain our educational mission according to the values of the Gospel has been highly demanding.

To maintain the goals of education according to the philosophy and pedagogy of the Presentation, we need to be bold and creative, given the fact that the inflation in the country has affected our schools, private ones or with ones subsidy. The migration of the teaching staff and families, affects the process of education; every day, we need to address a new need.

Amidst this entire whirlwind that surrounds us, we continue to support quality education for children and young people, who are currently the most vulnerable population in our country, and the reason for our mission:

- ◆ Marie Poussepin Basic School, Sierra Maestra
- ◆ Mérida Presentation School
- ◆ Tovar Presentation School
- ◆ Maracaibo Presentation School



## CHALLENGES OF OUR PROVINCE

- Live the spirituality of encounter and delve into the knowledge among us and understand the culture of the countries where the province is present, to experience a new way of renewing our identity as consecrated women and artisans of care.
- Reread and contemplate our history to update our charism in the different experiences of exodus we live today as Province of Our Lady of the Presentation
- Unify, strengthen, and energize vocational youth ministry.
- Safeguard the community environment: prayer, liturgical life, sharing at table, rest, fraternal correction and meetings.
- Continue with the knowledge of the mission of the Province, to continue promoting the work already begun taking into account: human talents, mission and vision.
- Grow in generosity and availability for the service of Charity in emerging missions with the most vulnerable and in the seven countries where the province is located.
- Together to build the new missionary map for our structure.
- Walk together to make our province a gift from God for our people, and let us be credible and joyful witnesses of the Gospel and Kingdom.
- Continue the process of resignification, renewal, and restructuration that allows us to listen to God's voice, driven and animated by the Spirit to reinterpret our charism to respond to the present reality and its challenges.



From left to right, Sisters: María Eliza Almánzar, Irma Jiménez Afanador, María Elizabeth Caicedo Caicedo, Superiora provincial, María Escayola Coris, Superior general, Diana Lucía Rivera Murillo y Clea Marina López Páez.