# NEWS FROM CABRINI WORLD

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | January - February 2025| www.cabriniworld.org



New Year celebrations at Mother Cabrini Shrine in Colorado, Mass Dec. 22 at St. Philips Parish in Ethiopia with confirmation and baptism of several young people, Mass at the school in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, celebrations with lay missionaries in the Bethany Community in Argentina.

### Happy Holy Year... a year full of Hope!

NUMBER 16

In all the Cabrinian missions, the beginning of the new year was welcomed with great joy and enthusiasm. Among the many celebrations that have taken place, we remember one in particular. At the end of December Father Cesar in the Community of Betania, Argentina, celebrated a Mass followed by everyone sharing a meal together. Sr. Stella Maris who was in Argentina at that time gave a short speech for the holidays and how to make the most of 2025, the Jubilee Year.

In Sant'Angelo Lodigiano a visit to the Basilica of Saints Antonio Abate and Francesca Cabrini was organized for the children of the Cabrinian school who then went to see the creche. Later there was a moment of communal prayer and joy before the Chapel dedicated to St. Francesca Cabrini.

At the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Denver, Colorado, several celebrations started the new year. The weekly newsletter of Guadalupe Province began a column



Column "Hope"

entitled Hope, where, for the Jubilee several Sisters and lay people will leave messages of hope. December 22, 2024, marked a significant and joyous occasion within the community in St. Philips Parish, eSwatini, as a group of young adults took part wholeheartedly in a celebration. This special event included both the Rite of Confirmation, the Sacrament of Baptism as well as that of the Eucharist, bringing together families, friends, and community members in a spirit of unity and joy.

## 8 February – Day of Prayer and Awareness on Trafficking in Human Beings

February 8 is the liturgical Memorial of Saint Josephine Bakhita, the Sudanese Canossian Sister who, as a child, suffered the dramatic experience of having been a victim of trafficking.



**JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2025** 



**January 6** Epiphany of the Lord



January 18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Únity





#### **MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERALATE**



Sr. Patricia and Sr. Josephina at the Vocational Convention in Madrid.

In February, Sr. Eliane visited the MSC communities and ministries in Ethiopia for the first time, accompanied by Sr. Barbara and Sr. Patricia.

From February 7 to 9, 2025 Sr. Patricia together with Sr. Dicelia and Sr. Josefina were in Madrid at a Vocations Convention entitled "¿Para quién soy? - Congreso de vocaciones - Asamblea de llamados para la misión" which was held in the 'Madrid-Arena' Pavilion. The Congress, organized for the Church of Spain, was a time to reflect and seek answers together with 3,000 other participants! An attempt was made to answer the question "For whom am I?"

On February 11, Bishop Sabino Ocan Odoki of the Diocese of Arua in Uganda visited the Generalate in Rome. It was a joy to be able to welcome him and share some time with him!

Pope Francis was hospitalized at Gemelli Polyclinic on February 14. Sr. Gilda, General Assistant, prayed the rosary in front of the hospital for the Pope's health.

During the month of January, Sr. Stella Maris accompanied and supported the Bethany Community. She then attended several Zoom meetings for the logistics of the Health Jubilee. She had several meetings with builders and engineers to see the development of some new facilities at the Cabrini School in Villa Amelia and the renovation of the "Cabrini" Retreat House and the "Sagrado Corazon" Conference Hall (Flores). From February 3 to 7, there was a visit from the Provincial Superior of Santa Francisca Cabrini Sr.



Bishop Monsignor Sabino Ocan Odoki's visit to the Curia.



Meeting with the Provincial Superior Sr. Rosa, Treasurer Sr. Sandra and Sr. Rita, General Assistant Sr. Stella Maris with Sr. Maria del Carmen.

Rosa de Lima, and the Treasurer, Sr. Sandra, to the new construction of Villa Amelia Cabrini School, Cabrini Retreat House, Sagrado Corazón Conference Hall, former Colegio Santa Rosa Caballito building and the Clínica San Camilo. Sr. Stella Maris then visited the construction sites under construction and the former Colegio Santa Rosa (Caballito), where part of the facilities have been leased to a school for preschool, primary and secondary levels, which will begin operation this year.

Then, on Wednesday, February 6, she attended a meeting with the Provincial Superior, the Treasurer, and Sr. María del Carmen for the purpose of conversing about the missions in Argentina. She then went to visit and care for Sr. Maria Regina Ardissone MSC, who has been bedridden since Feb. 2.

On February 22, she returned to the Curia in Rome.

#### **CABRINIAN NEWS**

## **News from Missions and Formation**

The Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Dubbo, Ethiopia, actively involves young members of the community through organized retreats and various spiritual activities. This occurred in particular during the Advent period with the, organization of a retreat for about 35 young men and women. The first group of young people belonged to the various youth groups of the parish. Retreats are



Photo of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish youth group with Sr. Asnakech Assefa MSC and Sr. Berhane Ashebo MSC

usually intended to offer young people a space for reflection and growth. The second group consisted of about 17 young people who also participated in a retreat that focused specifically on the exploration of different vocational paths such as religious life, marriage or single life. The retreat helped them in the process of discernment to understand and respond to their vocations. These retreats involve the MSC together with the parish and are now a tradition. All these formation activities for local young people began with the arrival of MSCs in Ethiopia and have evolved over time to meet the needs of young people and the parish community. Participation in these activities provides children with a complete spiritual education.

**\*** At the beginning of each year, in January, the MSCs in Nicaragua perform a special mission of going out and sharing the Gospel in



Educational team at the College of San Lorenzo in Paraguay.

the countryside near their ministry. Life there is totally different from that

of the city. A young woman writes: "The mission in these areas is an enriching, challenging but also rewarding experience. It allows us to appreciate the daily sacrifice of very poor people. This year we went to the community of La Danta and saw how they work and struggle on their land to get food for their families."

🗱 From January 3 to 10, 2025, the MSCs and lay people of Paraguay accompanied the educational team of the Our Lady of Schoenstatt School in San Lorenzo on a cultural trip to Rio Grande do Sul, Canela and Gramado. Joy and respect reigned throughout the day among

teachers, parents and students. In addition to being a cultural pilgrimage, it was also an opportunity to strengthen ties and cultivate values such as brotherhood, unity and harmonious coexistence. All this is part of an educational mission that aims at the same time to broaden the horizons and touch the hearts of all participants.

- \* At the beginning of January, Cabrini Health Australia launched the first neurodiversity assessment center designed for women.
- \*On 11 January, the Madre Cabrini Nursery School in Sant'Angelo the young women during Mass with Fr. Andrew. Lodigiano, Italy, held an Open Day to raise awareness of the school and its educational program.



Sr. Suany and Sr. Evarylin with the community of St. Philips Parish.



Sr. Albertina, Sr. Patricia and Sr. Alemenesh with

\*Saturday, January 11, within the Come and See Program held in Dzaipi, Uganda, the sisters invited Father Andrew to talk about the Cabrinian charism to young women from Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. His presence was a source of inspiration and encouragement for all participants. He conducted a very beautiful Eucharistic Celebration in the refugee camp of Pagirinya on Sunday, January 12 with the young women and sisters

participating, which filled the hearts with peace, joy and a spirit of community.

On January 12, 2025, a new pastoral ministry began in St. Philips, Eswatini. Every Sunday the sisters commit to go to the most isolated communities outside St. Philips and lead celebrations and prayers in the parish. This is intended to help those who cannot reach the parish of St. Philips for the Eucharistic Celebration, to promote a sense of community and spiritual growth and to bring the

essence of the Church to those who do not have access to Sunday Mass. By traveling to different places around St. Philips, the sisters aim to ensure that everyone feels included and connected to the larger church community.

- **\***On January 13, the Province of Guadalupe reaffirmed the Institute's position on immigrants, which focuses on the following guidelines: WELCOME, SUPPORT, EDUCATE, REVIEW and WORK.
- \*On January 20, the educators of the Mother Cabrini School in São Paulo gathered at the Casa Sagrado Coração de Jesus for a formation



Formation Casa Sagrado Coracao de Jesus.



Mission to the countryside in the community of La Danta in Nicaragua.

day. It was a day of sharing and mutual growth in the Cabrinian spirit.

On January 22, the MSCs and four young members of the parish of Saint Philips in Eswatini went to volunteer at the Malindza refugee camp in the east of the country. Due to the ongoing unrest, the Malindza refugee camp is currently hosting people mainly from



Volunteering at the Malindza refugee camp.

Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique and some from Tanzania,. It was an enlightening experience and a reminder of the importance of community and support. As it was a health screening day, we helped with the recording and translations (from Swahili to English) and met with the families listening to their stories and sharing hope and smiles .

\*On January 24, following the recent inauguration of the Trump administration, Cabrini Immigrant Services- NYC (CIS-NYC) actively engaged in rapid response efforts to keep immigrant communities safe. A Know Your Rights formation course was hosted on Monday with 150 participants, to ensure



Visiting families with Sr. Maria Oliveira.

that vital information reaches those who need it most. Through the Justice for Immigrants program, CIS-NYC is planning a series of upcoming events to continue this critical work.

★ Saturday, January 25, 2025, the day on which the conversion of St. Paul is celebrated, the Cabrinian lay missionaries and the sisters in Paraguay devoted themselves to the mission of visiting families, sharing the love of Christ and praying with people. In a spirit of compassion and service, they listened to the needs of the sick, recognizing in them the presence of the suffering Christ who

became poor and vulnerable to teach us about experiencing Mercy firsthand. In addition, they offered some material help as a concrete sign of charity and solidarity. Today's mission is a continuous daily conversion to which we are called and asked to be bearers of hope, faith and charity, becoming God's tools to help the needy.

\*On January 30 at Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS) in Dobb's Ferry a seminar was held with the title "Building one's own village in 2025: defending and strengthening in the new year". It was presented by Betsy Suarez, specialist in mental health consulting.

The Cabrini High School in New Orleans Class of 2025 held an unforgettable retreat for the final year students, a chance to deepen their own faith and strengthen the ties as a class. During the retreat there was



The principal of St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in NYC visiting Cabrini High School New Orleans.

a wonderful Mass and adoration of the Eucharist where the impressive number of confessions made were a sign of the opening of our students to God's grace.

\* On Sunday, February 2, the morning session was called "Coffee and donuts". At the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine after the 8 o' clock Mass they all enjoyed a cup of hot coffee and a delicious donut. It was the perfect way to start the Sunday morning and get together with friends.

\* On February 6, the students of Cabrini High School New Orleans participated in a special assembly in which Julia Attaway, Executive Director of the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York told them the story

of Mother Cabrini, the challenges she faced in the early stages of her ministry and how her responses to these challenges are an example of quality that girls can emulate in their own lives. Cabrinian women are naturally endowed with God-given strength and we consider it an honor and a service to guide the students as they discover God's plan for their lives.

\*On February 10, the second online webinar of the Cabrini Global Health Commission was held entitled "Recent phenomena and the future of Global Health; and the Global Burden of Disease".



The 'Coffee and Donuts' Initiative.

\*On February 20, the first talk of the Jubilee of Hope Events was held at the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York. They were very excited to welcome Monsignor Roger Landry, the new director of the Pontifical Mission Societies.



Let us pray for the beginning of Lent!

"Lent: a time to return to the essential, to strip ourselves of the superfluous and embrace God's grace" - Pope Francis

#### **IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE INSTITUTE**

#### **National Vocation Conference**

From January 3 to 5, the National Vocation Conference 2025 was held at the TH Carpegna Palace in Rome in collaboration with the National Service for Youth Ministry of the CEI, in which the theme 'Believe, hope, love' was explored. Design itineraries for vocational youth ministry'. General Assistant Sr. Patricia, Sr. Maria Belén, Sr. Assunta, Sr. Dicelia and Sr. Tatiana of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus from the Mater Gratiae Province participated.



Sr. Assunta, Sr. Patricia, Sr. Maria Belém and Sr. Dicelia participate in a jubilee moment of the Convention.



#### An MSC appointment for CONFREGUA

Congratulations to Sr. Mercedes on her appointment to the Vocational Pastoral Commission of CONFREGUA (Conference of Religious Men and Women of Guatemala). In fact, this new coordination was chosen with great joy and hope. It will take on the challenge of accompanying and guiding young people in their vocational discernment, fostering the culture of vocation and promoting Christian commitment among the new generations; it is a fundamental step in the journey of strengthening their evangelizing mission.

Photos of CONFREGUA's nominations.

#### One MSC in Kenya... and one in Brazil !

On February 15, 2025, in the Province of Santa Francesca Cabrini, in the community of Boni Consilii, Sr. Rosa Maria da Silva Sousa was sent joyfully on mission to the International Novitiate in Kenya. On February 19, 2025, in the Province of St.Frances Cabrini, the community of the Provincial House joyfully celebrated Holy Mass, conducted by Fr. Francisco Galvão, of the Congregation of the Paulines. During this celebration, the community welcomed Sr. Tigist Loha, who came from Ethiopia to gain missionary experience in the Province .



Left: Blessing of Sr. Tigist at the Provincial House Community in Brazil. At right, Sr. Rosa de Lima, Provincial Superior, sends Sr. Rosa Maria.

#### **IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS FOR THE INSTITUTE**



Poster for the January 5 event at Tabor Church.

#### January 5 – Procession of the Missionary Child in Codogno

On January 5, for the Centenary of the Consecration of the Tabor Church, the missionary child of St. Cabrini, which is usually kept in the Cabrinian Museum, was taken in procession to the Tabor Church where it was enthroned and will remain throughout the Centenary. The invitation was open to everyone. Following was the Eucharistic Celebration conducted by Msgr. Iginio Passerini and at the end of the day a Christmas concert.

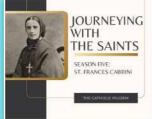
#### February 14 - Valentine's Day

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the *Cabrini Mission Foundation* brought fun and a touch of sweetness to the Sacred Heart Convent in New York, joining the older Missionary Sisters for an afternoon Bingo party. The event was more than just a game: it was a reflection of the charism that unites our Cabrini community: love, compassion and the joy of being together.



Sr. Diane Olmstead with guests from Sacred Heart Convent.

#### **READING ON THE JOURNEYS OF MOTHER CABRINI**



La copertina del podcast

"The Catholic Pilgrim".

Amy Thomas of The Catholic Pilgrim has started the fifth season of her popular podcast, Journeying with the Saints. Beginning on February 1, the reading aloud and reflection on the letters of Mother Cabrini began. "We love Mother Cabrini's letters because you can hear her voice so clearly - her good humor, her kindness, her wisdom." Amy then read aloud a portion of the book in each episode and provided a brief reflection.

You can listen to the Journeying With the Saints podcast on Amy's site or find it on all major podcast platforms. Have fun !



The Italian dvd of Francesca Cabrini's film has been released!

February 7 was the Day of Odd Socks!



Let us pray for the Pope and the whole Church!



## In this new column, we combine the theme of the month Video with the Pope's prayer intentions, with an event or news from the Cabrini world!

#### Video of the Pope in JANUARY: for the right to education

Nella In the Nursery School and Primary School in Madrid during the month, families were invited to send a video in which they told how they promote peaceful coexistence through their work. In secondary school students drafted a manifesto for peace, based on the phrase: "To be a light for others." Together with this message they created a candle as a symbol of light. Finally, they concluded the month with a celebration for peace together with the entire educational community. In this event they also welcomed the second year pupils of the first primary school.



Pope's January video.



Pope's February video.

#### Video of the Pope in FEBRUARY: for vocations to the priestly

#### and religious life

A In Madrid they dedicated the month of February to the role of the missionary and how to become missionaries. The motto chosen by the school is the same as the campaign theme: "I share what I have". This campaign of the Pope's seeks to promote mutual aid among the children of the world. They reflected daily on the importance of being grateful, sharing, and helping other children. In the classes, a piggy bank has been distributed so that the children can contribute on a voluntary basis to the different missions that need their help. As every year, they gathered to celebrate the School Day for Peace and Nonviolence together. This year's guiding theme will be "Light a light and make it shine".

## A beautiful family story...

In November, for the **Feast of Mother Cabrini**, the *Cabrini School* in Madrid hosted a **special guest**, namely Maira Cabrini, great-grandniece of our Holy Foundress. Here is her story:

"Mother Cabrini is my great-aunt. I have known this since I was young. My parents and grandparents told me. At home we had books and magazines about her and lots of photographs. But I had never felt her presence like when I went to visit the Cabrini School on the 125th anniversary of her beatification last November. That day I

realized what a deep mark she left on the world. Driven by a vocation that she could not ignore, by an overwhelming empathy and love for others, Mother Cabrini imagined a much better world than the existing one. And she built it to help others. If Mother Cabrini had been born in 1986, like me, in addition to being a saint, she would have become a leader and a point of reference in the world of social impact. She would know how to channel the power of the internet and social media to change negative narratives about immigrants. She would create alliances with governments and multinationals to focus on those in need. And she would take action to defend the most basic rights of



Maira Cabrini at Madrid College with the MSC sisters.

those who have lost everything. If Mother Cabrini had been our contemporary, she would have persevered, against all odds, to create a more just world, just as thousands of immigrants in Spain and Europe do every year. Today, 125 years later, it is her legacy that persists. The impact of her work is still palpable and

transformative. It continues to touch the lives of thousands and change the world. Few social organizations today can say the same. Thanks to her, a Ukrainian girl feels safe and integrated in the Cabrini School in Madrid. And an Algerian boy, who is still learning Spanish doesn't have to worry about falling behind in school. And these are just two of the children I had the opportunity of meeting during my visit. There are others. Many others, hundreds and thousands of people who still benefit from the work of Mother Cabrini and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Hundreds and thousands of people who have benefited in the past and who will benefit in the future. I feel pride and much responsibility. I have no doubt that her legacy lives on in us, her family, too. Although it is difficult to imitate the scope of Mother Cabrini, we can aspire to continue her journey and imitate her continuous search for ways to improve people's lives. My father dedicated his professional life to UNHCR, aiding refugees in countries such as Guatemala, Somalia or Pakistan. My sister, as a doctor, deals with people in the most direct way. I work in an NGO that supports people who are solving some of the most important social problems of the 21st century. It is 2024 and Francesca Cabrini is still very much alive in all of us and in the hundreds of thousands of lives she has touched. Thank you to Violeta - former student and mother of some students - and to the Cabrini School for reconnecting me with Mother Cabrini, with my family and with myself".

### SISTER ELIANE AND SISTER PATRICIA VISITING ETHIOPIA

February 12-19, 2025



From left: Sr. Eliane, Sr. Barbara and Sr. Patricia at St. Mary's Hospital, two photos of Sr. Eliane, Sr. Patricia and Sr. Berhane visiting Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia, photos of Sr. Eliane at the mission in Wallacha, Visit to Bishop Dejene Hidoto Gamo, Sr. Eliane, Sr. Barbara and Sr. Patricia at Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia offices, two photos of Baby Jesus Center of Life in Dubbo, photos of Sr. Eliane and Sr. Patricia in Dubbo, lunch at Wallacha Community with Sr. Elfinesh and Sr. Addise.

"I recognized in the sisters the passion for religious consecration and proactive donation in the various ministries. I am happy and grateful for the days spent with the sisters and everyone I met during my few days in Ethiopia. I pray for everyone every day. God opens new paths and strengthens missionary self-donation for the human dignity of all".

~ Sr. Maria Eliane

"Each day was a grace offered to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who made His presence known through the affectionate and joyful welcome of the Sisters and the many people who shared smiles and hugs filled with tenderness and selflessness. Jesus continues to bless the mission and the dedication in Ethiopia." ~ Sr. Patricia

#### Visits and meetings at various ministries:

12 February - Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia in Soddo (meeting with the Board of Directors, Sr. Berhane present).

13 February - Cabrini Ministries Ethiopia (meeting with staff and visit to the various community services - Outreach - kindergartens and the Baby Jesus Center of Life, for the care of malnourished children).

#### January - February 2025

#### **NEWS FROM THE CABRINI WORLD**



Photos of Sr. Eliane, Sr. Barbara and Sr. Patricia în Dubbo

14 February - Visit to St. Mary Hospital (meeting with Sr. Barbara, Bongani, Sr. Asnekach and Dr. Tsion).

The community and individual sharing with Sr. Eliane was marked by trust, love and hope. The overall priority was the life of each Sister and the encouragement to move forward so that "everyone has life and has it in abundance".



Photos of Sr. Eliane, Sr. Patricia, Sr. Elfinesh and Sr. Addise in Wallacha.

#### Visits and meetings with the sisters and in the community:

Hospitality, welcome, fraternity, sharing, listening, freedom of expression, joy, love, hope and faith were present throughout the arrival, meals and personal and community meetings with the sisters.

12 February - Community of Addis Ababa (Sr. Barbara attended).

13 February - Community of the Sacred Heart in Dubbo.

17 February - Community of Sadama.

18 February - Meeting with the aspirants in Addis Ababa.

Meeting the aspirants of the Addis Ababa community was a moment of spontaneous formation and

integration with the entire community.

#### Visits and celebrations in the Parish:

14 February - Visit to Bishop Dejene Hidoto Gamo (Sr. Barbara, Bongani and Sr. Asnakech attended).

15 and 16 February - Feast for Our Lady of Lourdes with the presence of the Bishop of the Vicariate of Soddo, Msgr. Dejene Hidoto Gamo and of the Vicariate of Awassa, Msgr. Gobezayehu Yilma. Prayer of the Rosary with the community of the faithful. 18 February - Visit to the St. Mary Community (Sr. Maureen and Sr. Alemenesh attended).

Feast for Our Lady of Lourdes in Dubbo.

#### Visits to the missions:

12 February - Mission to Wallacha (Sr. Elfinesh and Sr. Addise) - Visit to the parish kindergarten, to the school run by the S.C.J. (Dehonian) missionaries, a center where hundreds of people draw and drink water every day, numerous parish pastoral activities and various literacy projects. 13 February - visit to a family in Dubbo.

17 February - Mission and School in Sadama (at the Vicariate of Hosanna) (Sr. Amarech, Sr. Shitaye and Sr. Aynalem attended).

Sr. Eliane returned to Rome, enthusiastic about this visit and with a grateful heart for the mission carried out by the Sisters for this population. God be praised.

#### **MSC Communities and Missions** in Ethiopia.



Green color: Awassa (stage 1 and 7)

Orange color: Soddo (stage 2)

Blue color: Wallacha (stage 3)

Pink color: Dubbo ( stage 4 and 6)

Purple color: Sadama (stage 5)



Group photo of Sr. Eliane, Sr. Patricia and Sr. Barbara together with St. Mary's Hospital staff.

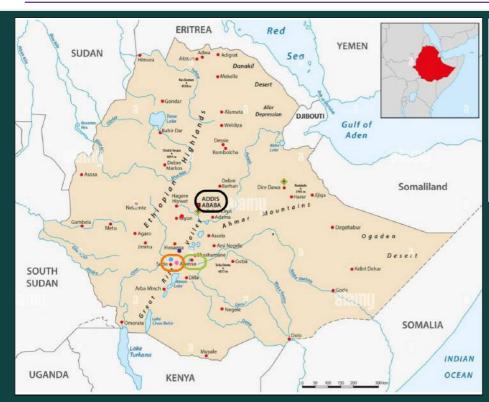




Photo of Sr. Eliane, Sr. Patricia with young aspirants at St. Mary Community in Addis Ababa.



Photos of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Photo of Bishop Mons. Dejene Hidoto Gamo with Sr. Eliane, Sr. Patricia, Sr. Barbara, Sr. Asnakech, Sr. Hana, Sr. Aynalem, Sr. Elfinesh, Sr. Alemenesh, Sr. Addise, Sr. Shitaye, Sr. Genet.



Photo of the Sadama Community with Sr. Amarech, Sr. Aynalem and Sr. Shitaye.



School photos in Sadama. Sr. Eliane, Sr. Barbara, Sr. Patricia and Sr. Amarech.



Photo of Sr. Eliane, Sr. Patricia at the Wallacha Community with Sr. Elfinesh and Sr. Addise.



Photo of the Dubbo Community with Sr. Asnakech, Sr. Hana, Sr. Eliane, Sr. Patricia, Sr. Berhane, Sr. Alemenesh and Sr. Barbara.

### Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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