



25 YEARS OF PASSION IN THE MISSIONS SECTOR...

Our Origin:



On March 21, 1991, the General Council of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, in consultation with the Missions Director, the Provincials, and the sisters on mission in Brazil and Haiti, decided to establish a Missions Sector, a distinct entity from the provinces of the congregation.

This decision brought forth much enthusiasm, a breath of fresh air for the far-away missions and made it possible for the missionaries to collaborate in a common project. At the same time, a house was purchased to create a hospitality center for the missionaries. The Cadillac residence became a meeting place for sharing experiences, to celebrate, and to rest.

Denise Girard, SNJM



Sr. Denise Girard, SNJM
1st MS Coordinator

Liberate endangered life:

Uaua was a great challenge. A hundred ecclesial base communities were already established in the rural areas. We visited them, formed faith sharing groups and in so doing discovered the needs of the people. This population of goat farmers suffered from a lack of drinking water and a corrupt government.

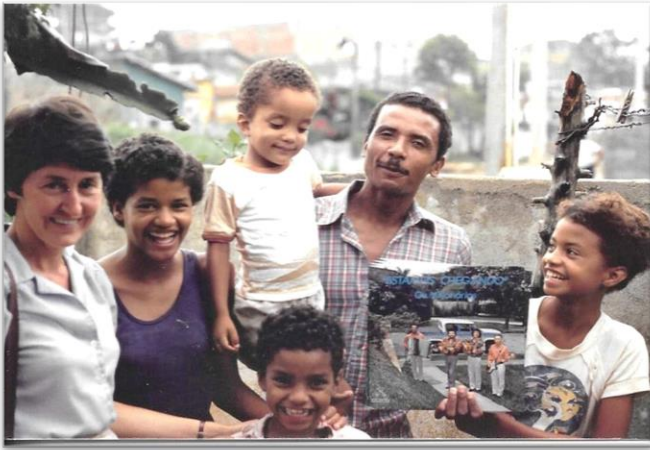


We organized literacy groups, and, using a method developed by Paulo Freire raised adult awareness. Men and women joined together to stand for their rights. With the help of an NGO, the people took matters in their own hands, for example the construction of cisterns and the care of the goats. This gave them a better life and prevented the youth from leaving for the cities. Many people, doing little things together can save the world!

Monique Fortier, SNJM

Sr. Monique Fortier, SNJM,
with one of the ecclesial base communities.





Sr. Jacqueline Aubry, snjm, (left) with a family.

Jacqueline's ministry in Uava and São Paolo

Over a long period of time, our mission in Brazil focused on facilitation of the ecclesial base communities, organized after Vatican II. We found these groups to be nourishing and life-giving. Our contribution led to the formation of lay leadership, persons committed in the name of our faith. The formation for and the facilitation of a "pastoral approach" with the working class as well as the literacy programs offered to the disadvantaged in our respective *milieux* provided us with the means to help fulfill our passion to "liberate life". Through our base communities we welcomed young Brazilian women and accompanied their formation. We did our best to share our SNJM charism with them. *Jacqueline Aubry, SNJM*

Joanne's ministry

Since my arrival in Brazil in 1987, my ministry has always been with impoverished people, especially women and children. I served as a pastoral worker in a parish on the periphery, and in the center of São Paulo with street children and prostituted women.

On arrival in Maceio (2008) on the north-eastern coast of Brazil, I worked with girls who suffered sexual abuse, and now I collaborate with the team of our SNJM project, the *Mother Marie Rose Social Center*. This "adventure with the Spirit" continues to provide me with challenges, enrichment and joy!

Joanne Pundyk, SNJM

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Sr. Joanne Pundyk, SNJM, with young women and girls of the Centro social Madre Maria Rosa.



A whole life experience!

As soon as I arrived in São Paolo in 1989, in response to the referral from a hospital, I began to accompany families who had members suffering from HIV. Volunteers made home visits to insure that medication was properly administered and habits of hygiene were maintained. Younger volunteers went to schools to provide HIV education. Each month, social workers met with adults, teenagers and children in separate groups. The goal was to provide a space where each could find courage and support. Within an ocean of difficulties, there is always a drop of hope!

Élisabeth Giroux, SNJM



The children with whom Srs Elisabeth Giroux and Ana Maria, SNJM worked

My experience in Maceió

What will I do in Brazil? There are no schools! Maceio providing a ministry of pastoral work with young children is a perfect fit for me. It includes visiting young disadvantaged families and being a presence and a support to pregnant women, mothers, and children up to 6 years old. Monthly visits give me the opportunity to follow up on regularly on some basic issues: health, vaccination, nutrition, school attendance, child development and the rights of children. Praising their efforts, and offering food and personal health products encourages and supports the mothers. Families meet at the CSMMR to weigh children, to play and to enjoy snacks. The mothers are offered a presentation on a topic which they chose or a topic deemed helpful to guide them to fulfillment as women, mothers and citizens. The goal of the gatherings is to provide a space where the women can communicate with each other. **The pastoral ministry** with children is based on love; it is a struggle in the hope to offer them a rich and abundant life.

Françoise Bernard, SNJM



**Sr. Françoise Bernard, SNJM,
Children's Pastoral**



Associates : Cristina, Edna, Aparecida and Roberta - Sr. Agnes

Agnes in São Paulo

When I arrived in São Paulo in 1994, the sisters said that I would discover my ministry. There is much to do since almost everything is lacking on the periphery. Through the Ecclesial Base Communities, together with the people, the

sisters recognized the needs. I was initiated into a literacy project - a surprise for me to meet adults who never had the opportunity to study. I collaborated in the organization of the ecclesial base communities, calling forth leaders in catechism, liturgy, children's pastoral. I was well received, learned a lot, made friends and remain. There was a request for English classes, a work which has grown.

The people fondly remember the presence of the sisters in their midst. Our associates are the fruit of participation in the Ecclesial Base Communities. Attracted by the charism of the congregation, Maria Cristina Malaquias and Maria Aparecida Florentina, former SNJMs, continue as Associates. Edna de Araújo and Roberta Andrade, after discernment, also chose to become Associates. To this day our Associates keep the charism of Marie Rose alive using their gifts in education, as social workers and care-givers. Long live Maria Rosa in the midst of the Brazilian people!

Agnes Hoy, SNJM

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