

150th ANNIVERSARY of the JOSEPHINE CHARISM
OPENING CELEBRATION
Jan. 14, 2024

Reader 1: Hello, we are beginning our gathering as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Josephine Charism, Weaving Nazareth, as our motto says.

GREETINGS on-line, lay groups, ssj and fsj communities....

Reader 2: With a joyful heart, we welcome all the people who are present at this meeting. Thank you for the greetings we have just heard, and for those who have not arrived, and who are arriving at this moment, from so many different places: from 21 countries where the Josephine Charism is present, with lay women and laymen, Hijas de San José and Servants de San José.

Reader 1: All this makes us feel as a family...May we now ask for a moment of silence... and a special welcoming attitude in our hearts to the two leading characters who will accompany us throughout this prayerful encounter....

Reader 2: We request that the MICROPHONES BE TURNED OFF DURING THE ENTIRE ENCOUNTER. This will help us enjoy DEEPLY this experience of thanksgiving we are celebrating.

DIALOGUE Bonifacia-Butinyà

Butinyà: what a great joy to see the dream come true in so many places and people?

Bonifacia: yes, we are happy to know and to perceive that they are united... You had told me that they were communicating through the screens, but now that I see it, it seems more incredible to me...

Butinyà: they call it artificial intelligence, it helps them to communicate, and they are having a celebration from different parts of the world, with different rythms... I would like to know where they are from... let's listen!

Bonifacia: they have greeted in different languages and I also notice that they are dressed in different attire..., yes, yes, I want to listen...

Reader 1: Counting on this very special presence of Bonifacia and Butinyà and the company of so many others, we welcome each other.

WELCOME (in different languages) audios

Reader 2: We now listen to Magda Albertos, who is the General Coordinator of our congregation Siervas de San José:

To celebrate today the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Congregation on January 10, 1874 in Salamanca (Spain), is not only to remember that event, but to try to connect ourselves with the persons of Butinyà and Bonifacia, fundamental protagonists in that event, and to penetrate through them to discover that spring of life in which they drank, that fire of the Spirit that burned within them and made them initiate a project, a path of faithful response to what they felt was from God.

For this celebration to be a thanksgiving throughout the year, a Kairos in each one of us who feel motivated by this Charism, we also need to go deep into our being, and connect with that Gift that we have received through them, and we feel that it inhabits us, that it beats in each one of us, that little piece of the Gospel that soaks our life and our action making us collaborators in the weaving of that other possible world, where the daily life, work, relationships... are loaded with meaning and the flavor of the Kingdom.

The Charism, that Gift of God that first seized Francisco Butinyà and Bonifacia Rodriguez has continued to permeate our life, sprouting as fountains in the five continents, soaking the lands of Spain, America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, has flowed through towns and cities being salt and leaven in works, tasks, projects.

In the words of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (130), "the charisms are gifts for renewing and building up the Church, that Church on foot, that Church, the People of God" [108]. They are not a closed patrimony, given to a group to be guarded; rather, they are gifts of the Spirit integrated into the ecclesial body, from where they are channeled into an evangelizing impulse.

A clear sign of the authenticity of a charism is its capacity to integrate itself harmoniously into the life of God's holy and faithful people for the good of all. It is in communion, even though it may hurt at times, where a charism becomes authentic and mysteriously fruitful.

The foundational charism does not only refer to a particular way of carrying out the mission but to be the mission, to be an evangelizer, to experience communion for the mission.

But as it often happens, God always seeks channels for us to understand, comprehend what He wants to reveal. These channels are not completely finished and polished but continuously need care, affection, attention so that life can flow.

150 years ago, those paths, those initial channels were Butinyà and Bonifacia, the custodians of that Gift, the Nazareth of Jesus who prays and works with Mary and Joseph, poured out on them so that they could collaborate from below and up close to the Kingdom that God dreamed of from 1874 and it continues to do so to this day, turning it into a history of salvation.

Today, that Gospel page of Nazareth continues to beat with the strength of the seed. We can read it in countless responses, perhaps seemingly small, in gestures, relationships, words that are Good News within the poor working world, especially in this world with the face of a woman, that speaks of dignity, care, spirituality, justice, solidarity...

That Gospel page manifests itself differently and diversely in the lives of the Siervas de san José, Hijas de san José, the laity who share the mission, young people, who attracted by Jesus, feel that Nazareth inspires their life and gives them meaning, families who discover that daily living and work is a liberating force.

Today, this way of following Jesus, the worker in Nazareth, as one among many, continues to be the leaven that ferments in the hearts of people, creating synergies and contributing to making the Kingdom of God have the taste of Nazareth.

Let us live with gratitude for feeling that Gift which, like a spring, originated in Salamanca, continues to dwell within us and continues to impel us to permeate this world, this reality we live in.

Magda Albertos ssj

Reader 1: With these words, we open this period of thanksgiving for the birth of the Josephine Charism on January 10, 1874.

Reader 2: This Charism that we share invites us to contemplate Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Nazareth and commits us to be side by side with the working people, fighting for their dignity and sharing their joys and concerns.

SONG "NAZARETH, NAZARETH".

MONITION:

The celebration of 150 years that today opens this "time of grace", is an **ACTION OF THANKSGIVING** in capital letters and highlighted. It is not an advertising spot to captivate people, but the great truth that inhabits us and that we want to celebrate. It is the life of our charism that gives us light and peace. [CALLE TRAVIESA](#).

Back in 1874, the Spirit whispered and filled the hearts of Bonifacia and Butinyà, and guided by him, they set to work to give a concrete response to "the unemployed young girls and other women". From that moment on, a chain of passionate hearts throughout the world uninterruptedly and enthusiastically vibrated among the people. [LAKE OF BAÑOLAS](#).

Each one of us here today feels that the charism has warmed our hearts, fills our work and our vocation with meaning, occupies our minds and hearts and fills us with hope. [CHRIST OF ZAMORA](#).

This woven chain of fidelity and commitment, of which we feel part, is the one that summons us today, in this feast, the whole Josephine family. [WORLD MAP](#).

From different points of the planet, at different times of the day: at dawn, at midday and at dusk. An image that speaks to us of the continuous presence that dwells in us at all times.

We all carry in our hands the hopes and sorrows of the men and women of our time and especially those with whom we share life and mission. All are with us.

The true history of the 150 years of the charism has been written in the great initiatives and in the faithful steps of everyday. [SEEDLING](#)

Our great history has been engraved with small stories, with intuitions that have been sustained in the quiet and daily dedication of men and women seduced by the Spirit. In projects, in meetings, in the streets, in workshops, in homes, in courtyards, in hospitals, in offices, in our families, in communities... A spirit that has forged people who proclaim the good news of work, a place of encounter, of holiness, of dreams, of fulfillment, of transformation. [PENTAGRAM](#).

To be grateful for and contemplate this journey with God's gaze is like listening to a beautiful symphony that, with its movements, tempos, rhythms...delights us and invites us to say how great is the love of God, in the choruses and voices of the different cultures and accents. It is contagion, enthusiasm, faith, love, work, charity, influence on one another, that becomes good news and forms the melody that comforts and nourishes, that encourages many. A song that crosses and sustains the love of one for another. All in the pentagram of faith, work and love.

May this celebration and time of grace help us to remember gratefully so much good received and shared.

Reader 1: Yes, let us make grateful memory recognizing God's passage through our lives. This good God of Nazareth has always been there, and continues to be there, and goes before us, accompanies us and guides our journey.

DIALOGUE Bonifacia-Butinyà

Bonifacia: with the story we have just heard, those words of the Evangelist Luke come to my mind and to my heart, when he narrates the experience of the two disciples of Emmaus. **PEOPLE WALKING**

Reader 2: listen to the Emmaus text read by two SSJs in Swahili and Tagalog.

Lk 24:15, 28-31. 35

They were talking on the road, and while they were asking each other questions, Jesus himself came and spoke with them...

When Jesus came to that village, he made a gesture to go on ahead. But they urged him, saying:

- Stay with us, for it is evening and getting dark.

So, he went in to stay with them. As he sat with them, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. And they told what had happened to them as they went along the way, and how they had recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

DIALOGUE Bonifacia-Butinyà

Butinyà: yes, we too, like those of Emmaus, recognized Jesus, the worker in Nazareth, walking beside us, in those beginnings that were uncertain and, at the same time, trusting in God who accompanied us, ...

Bonifacia: our hearts burned with ardor in our days of work with the women who went ahead. We shared our work and the fruit of it. Prayer transversed through everything and what joy we had, we lived with confidence....

Butinyà: what a great challenge and overwhelming. There was no institution in Salamanca that took care of the young women of modest condition... I remember well our beginning on that January 7 and 10, at 6:00 in the morning, in the middle of that cold, ... yes, *our heart was burning* with the desire to start community life and to continue in the workshop thinking of those women. **CLERECIA**

Bonifacia; as a child I used to hear those words, remembering them when there were difficulties "...from among your stones my spirit gathered: faith, peace and strength" and that sustained us....

With admiration I see that my daughters, over the years, have passed it on to many people. Who would have thought that today there are so many. And they combine it with today's artificial intelligence... surely, they have lived through many changes in the course of time...

Reader 2: God has accompanied us in our daily lives and has been light in the midst of darkness, difficulties and also mistakes, in order to be able to sow the Charism in the midst of the world.

Today, we look with gratitude to the Lord of History who made a small seed germinate and grow in an uninterrupted chain for 150 years. And we give thanks...

Psalm of thanksgiving.

We want to sing for joy, because you Lord,
have been great with us and we are happy.
Thank you for life, for your love, your goodness
and your faithfulness. For making it possible for us
to live this time of thanksgiving as a Josephine family.

Thank you for the life of Bonifacia and Francisco,
so docile to the Spirit that they observed and committed
themselves to the reality of the impoverished working world,
focusing their attention on the working women of their time.

We thank you, Lord, with all our hearts,
because your close, warm and always living presence
has accompanied us in every step we have taken,
from Salamanca. Thank you for your invitation
to make a journey with you and with the men and women
of every time, from the beginnings of the utopia of Nazareth.

Thank you for sending us to announce to our sisters and brothers
of diverse realities the Good News of work; they have been the ones
who have painted our history with thousands of colors.

Thank you because in the journey of these years,
we also carry in our hearts the faces, names and flavors
of the realities that welcomed us, where the Josephine charism
was interwoven and strengthened.

Thank you, Lord, for our communities and our choices,
for our shared dreams to make possible a more dignified
and equitable life for all. For so much life given,
shared and received, Thank you Lord!

Reader 1: Through "harmonized" work and prayer, our founders taught us to make the Charism a reality, as Jesus, Mary and Joseph did in Nazareth, finding God in our daily life of relationships and work, seeking to do good to every person in need of our attention and care.

SONG: "WORK AND PRAY".

DIALOGUE Bonifacia-Butinyà

Butinyà: how beautiful! prayer and work have taken root in them. They have incorporated it very well, ... offering the work of each day, working like Jesus in Nazareth.

Bonifacia: there are Talleres, educational centers, kitchens and dining rooms, homes, porters' lodges, ... they are at the bedside of the sick, with the families who leave their land.... Everything has left its mark, it has taken root in so many ways ... how much creativity ... God grows in your heart, in the midst of so much technology that helps to root the charism in your daily life. So much beauty unveiled!!! and sustained!!!!

Reader 2: We continue to contemplate this beauty by approaching the communities or lay groups that accompany us and being able to see the symbol with which they celebrate this event and the candle they have lit.

We CONTEMPLATE the symbols, keeping the microphones off.

We can use the chat to express what this event means to us.

Give SERENE time for them to express themselves and show what they have prepared.

Reader 1: We know that the Josephine Charism is present in many places, we ask Jesus of Nazareth to help us to incarnate ourselves in the reality where we are as He did, close to the joys and sufferings, the challenges, the creativity, ... accompanying people in their search for progress and a dignified life for all.

Reader 2: This is what our Founders did, and they continue to remember...

DIALOGUE Bonifacia-Butinyà

Butinyà: we lived through difficult times at the political and social level... in the church, moments of change that made us suffer... it was especially difficult for me to leave the project that had just begun and to leave Salamanca...

Later, when I arrived in Catalonia, I continued to nourish our dream in my heart. God had put the TALLER in my heart and encouraged me to continue to promote it.

Bonifacia: And when we went to Zamora, the sisters and many people believed in our project and entrusted us with works that supported us to live..., we trusted in each other and in the provident God who supported us...

Butinyà: through the letters I received news from you and saw that the project was taking shape. In the midst of the difficulties, you were able to lay up in you and in the community of Zamora a precious path of "holiness", we used to say then, of transformation they say now.

You knew how to save it. The hand of God accompanied you?

Bonifacia: I keep in my heart the great truth that you told us: "Do not be discouraged, even if everything turns against you" ... These words were our relief in many moments.

Zamora "The goodness of Bonifacia was notorious".

Reader 1: Bonifacia, doer of good, this is how she was known in Zamora.

Francisco Butinyà, a prophet and a light for the world of work.

SONG: "FRANCISCO BUTINYÀ".

DIALOGUE Bonifacia-Butinyà

Butinyà: I knew the great advances of my time and how much I enjoy seeing those of now, a great success to have come to the celebration...and I see that the current means help much more.

Bonifacia: we can enjoy and be thankful to see how our dream is growing... you can see them happy, with a lot of enthusiasm and strength in what they say and do.

Butinyà: they have discovered the great treasure of Nazareth. Something so simple that contains something so true. Time and patience bring the truth to light at the right time.

SONG "FROM BELOW, FROM WITHIN, FROM CLOSE BY, ...

Reader 2: Nazareth, the Gospel page we look at in our daily lives. Our homes are called "Talleres de Nazareth" where work is sanctified and life is shared. And in this pluralistic world we live diversity, interculturality as a wealth and a great challenge.

Reader 1: Our creative hands spread the Charism throughout the world... We listen now, in present-day people, the way we live the charism we have received today.

Elma Tuzón, SSJ from Papua New Guinea. Rodrigo Fernandez LJ from Spain. Gabriel LJ from Cuba. Elena Manquemilla LJ from Chile and Ana Romero, FSJ from Colombia.

DIALOGUE: Bonifacia - Butinyà

Bonifacia: our heart continues to burn now, listening to these experiences of people of different ages, cultures, spaces, who continue to live the charism...

Butinyà: and I perceive that the road is still open, there are young people, ... and they allow themselves to be enthusiastic about this project.

Bonifacia: they are hope and apostles for many people. Yesterday and today "The Lord uses weak instruments for his greatest undertakings" as Bishop Lluch y Garriga told us on that January 10, 1874....

Readers 1 and 2:

The road is still open...
We need hard-working hands that caress life...
Complicit glances to serve,
Enthusiastic hearts to accompany ...
Embrace that reconcile and heal,
Words that encourage and soothe ...
Attentive and loving listening, and smiles that enlighten and, ...calm...

DIALOGUE Bonifacia-Butinyà

Bonifacia: To see the charism spread to so many places fulfills our desire. To share the bread, like those of Emmaus, is to recognize Jesus' present in every moment and to make him known on every occasion.

Butinyà: We encourage you to continue seeking and loving as you have done until today.

Bonifacia: May love and forgiveness take root in your hearts, and may you love the most disadvantaged as the apple of your eye. And do not forget, even if everything goes against you, do not be discouraged. Always trust.

Reader 1: We are coming to the end of our meeting. As an expression of our BEING FAMILY, we would like to invite you to pray this prayer together.

Reader 2: Andres, a young Josephine from Colombia, will pray and each one of us will pray in our own language, slowly, experiencing the common-union with all the people who share the Josephine Charism. We keep the microphones off.

Final prayer:

We thank you Lord, because in this story, your story, you have been the great protagonist with many actors capable of creating truth, goodness and beauty.

You have placed in us a charism that creates life and meaning, hope and creativity for many men and women.

Conscious of our fragility we look to you, to learn to be simple and humble of heart.

Make us grow in trust and love that transforms everything. We count on you. In you we trust and rely on you.

To you, worker in Nazareth, together with Mary and Joseph, we entrust our lives, families, communities, projects and activities. Accompany us on our journey. Amen.

Reader 1: We want to thank all those who have helped in the task of making this meeting a family experience.

Reader 2: We can also express the joy of feeling like a family by singing this song that we know, especially the antiphon: "And recreate, today the workshop..."

After singing it, we open the microphones and greet each other full of joy and gratitude.

I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU

I want to put my foot in your footsteps,
My hands where yours
Earned bread.
Let your voice pierce my skin,
Let your gaze teach me to look.

I want to leave your name in the air,
To sow in the furrows
Drops of your existence;
To walk the paths that you walked
Passing on the torch that I received.

And recreate today the Taller, With my gaze on Nazareth.

I want to enflame my breast in your fire,
To open the morning with freedom;
To live with no other source than my work
To give what I have and what I am.

I want to live of faith and hope,
To love above all reason;
To enjoy the silence
Which is the forge of the soul,
To love JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH.