

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°87 – DECEMBER 2021



Dear Sisters,

At the end of the year, Christmas bells are ringing and the streets, with many coloured lights, are full of joy and festivity as we bid farewell to a year that is ending and welcome another one that is beginning. In this context, we are sending you the December issue of INFO with which we draw close to the Pacific-USA/Asia Zone to continue remembering (or getting to know) the history and current happenings of the sisters and communities of the Congregation, this time in the United States, on the island of Hawaii and on the Continent.

The presence of the sisters in Hawaii is ancient. It is among the earliest missions of the Congregation, and we must go back to the 19th century and to the journeys made by boat by the missionaries leaving France, to meet with the pioneering sisters. We will read their names, and by letting them resonate in our hearts we will be able to pray for them and thank God for their determination and courage. By recalling the sad fate of the Marie-Joseph ship, we can appreciate the courage and audacity of those who stubbornly insisted on reaching such distant places, with all the adventures we read about in their travel diaries.

The missionary spirit, the courageous and daring attitude of the sisters, were transmitted along with the spirituality and charism. We will see this in the following pages. The sisters in Hawaii, in the course of time, decided to go as far as India and Japan, and the Congregation spread to other countries in Asia. It is a fact that far-off missions have been part of our family tradition from the very beginning.

At present, it is good to remember that with 414 sisters and 625 brothers, we are present in 21 countries (the sisters) and 33 countries (the brothers), spread over the five continents of the planet. A great wealth? Undoubtedly. Very challenging? Certainly. But the Spirit has wanted to extend our Congregation and has found sisters and brothers who can be counted on to do so.

In this issue of INFO, we present a brief account of the life of Sister Mary Gertrude Creac'h, born in Brittany (France), who gave much of her days to the mission in the USA where she received US citizenship. She spent many years in Hawaii becoming a true kama'aina, as she herself said, and is held in high esteem by the Hawaiian sisters who recognise her great contribution to what the Territory is today. It is to be hoped that the inculturation and commitment witnessed by Mary Gertrude will encourage and sustain the missionary vocation of each sister.

On this Christmas Eve, when the Christian world bows before a child lying in a manger, let us renew our consecration, remembering the many other children still waiting for justice and dignity in the thousands of cribs around the world.

May you have a happy Christmas. Affectionately.