

SAGESSE INTERNATIONALE



Daughters of Wisdom in Pastoral Ministry

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DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM IN PASTORAL MINISTRY



*Sr. Nadige Jean-Charles, DW
General Councillor*

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me! [...] ‘Amen, I say to you: whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”
(Mt 25: 35-36.40)

Which Christian has not heard or read these words of Christ at least once in their life?

And the refrain—well known to the Daughters of Wisdom—found in Canticles 148 and 149 of our father de Montfort echoes this biblical passage beautifully:

**“It is necessary that I love, I love
God hidden in my neighbor.”**

These texts can serve as a kind of background for reading the articles in this bulletin. They converge with great clarity. To love God is to recognize His hidden presence in the one who is hungry, in the one who suffers, in the one who is alone.

As Louis-Marie also sings in the “Canticle of Charity”:

**When one loves, one knows
how to do all things;
Without love, one does nothing...
It is the one thing necessary,
The summary of all good... (C. 148: 1)**

And the second verse clarifies the nature of this love:

**When this love is visible,
Sincere, and from the depths of the heart,
It is the infallible mark
Of the love of the Creator.
One without the other is impossible;
Whoever denies it is a liar. (C. 148: 2)**

The central Gospel idea that emerges from these canticles is **that the love of God and the love of neighbor cannot be separated**. In Scripture, they are not two juxtaposed commandments, but a single movement. The love of God is invisible; the love of neighbor makes it visible. One is the root, the other the fruit. To separate them would be to mutilate faith. Christ does not say: “I was hungry and you thought about me”. He says: “You gave me food”. This is not merely occasional generosity—since helping others is not the privilege of Christians alone—but a transformed way of seeing: recognizing in one’s neighbor—especially the most vulnerable—a mysterious presence of God. The canticle affirms it strongly: “one without the other is impossible”. To claim to love God without concretely loving others would be a lie. One cannot love God without loving, in concrete ways, the person before us.

In Canticle 149, addressing the Daughters of Wisdom directly—this “Congregation of daughters that he wished to dedicate to the Wisdom of the Incarnate Word in order to confound false wisdoms”—Montfort explains to whom they must become neighbors and why:

**“O Daughters of Wisdom,
help the afflicted poor,
Those overwhelmed with sorrow,
the crippled, the rejected.
Those whom the world abandons
should touch you the most.
It is necessary that I love, that I love
God hidden in my neighbor.”** (C: 149,1)

These canticles of Father de Montfort retain all their prophetic force today. They are not merely beautiful spiritual ideas, but concrete actions. Not abstract compassion, but gestures—in a word: an “active love”. Montfort does not speak first of efficiency, but of the heart: “should touch you the most”. It is not enough to help; one must love. And love to the point of recognizing in the other a mystery: **God hidden**. Thus, to serve is not merely to perform a social work; it is to enter into an act of faith. Serving the poor is not only obeying a moral command; **it is entering into an encounter with Christ himself**. Pastoral action is not reduced to projects or programs; it finds its source in a living relationship with Christ.

We rediscover this relationship in the sharing of our sisters and even in the testimony of a former student of the Daughters of Wisdom in Malawi. They speak of a “pastoral ministry of small gestures,” describing their actions in terms of listening, presence, and visitation... For faith cannot remain invisible. It takes flesh in a shared

meal, in visiting women in prison, in accompanying university students on the campus in Manila or secondary school students in Pontchâteau, in the comforting presence of our sisters among parishioners, in service to migrants, the sick, in a smile, in a discreet act of service... **Each gesture thus becomes a living prayer.**

While they often must carry out their mission with limited human and material resources, responding at the same time to multiple expectations, the pastoral commitments of our sisters—as glimpsed through the articles in this bulletin—show that mission is not primarily a question of numbers or visibility, but of loving presence, rooted in prayer and oriented toward service. They remind us of our primary vocation: **to be a living memory of the Gospel at the heart of the world.**

This bulletin is therefore not merely a means of communication. It is both encouragement and invitation. Encouragement for our Congregation to move forward, to venture out into the deep in the face of all that is good and beautiful in our missions, and to give thanks for it. An invitation to continue making our communities places where one can truly say: here, love is visible. Here, God is not only proclaimed—He is served.

May the example of our holy founders continually inspire us to make our communities what they are called to be: a place where God is loved, a place where God is loved hidden in our neighbor.

[1] Grandet cited in the Complete Works of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Éditions du Seuil, p. 728.”

PASTORAL CARE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Our pastoral work takes place in Sicily, a land blessed by the sun and the sea.

We live in a suburb of the city of Catania, and our parish, “Risurrezione del Signore” (Resurrection of the Lord), has approximately 18,000 inhabitants. The parish community has many resources in the people who give their time to various groups, but it also has many problems: irregular families with many children, drugs, people in prison, domestic violence, unemployment, and low literacy rates.

We would define our pastoral ministry as caring in everyday life. It sees us committed to compassion and closeness to the poor, especially needy families and children.

CARE FOR CULTURE

In the parish, we have asked lay people and also the Friends of Wisdom to give some of their time to after-school activities, especially for those children who find it more difficult to study due to economic situations or minor cognitive delays.

In our neighborhood, there are many irregular families, and our attention also goes to them, especially those who have husbands or partners in prison.

HOPE FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN SOLITUDE

We are particularly close to people who are alone, widowed, or whose children are far away. We visit the elderly and the sick, and we stay in touch with them through visits, phone calls, etc.



We play with people who are alone

PROCLAIMING THE LORD'S MERCY AND SALVATION

Catechesis and the family group are the priorities of the apostolate. In coordinating them, we are assisted by lay people who are preparing to become increasingly responsible.

Every Saturday, we offer the children of the Oratory a physical place where they can pray, play, sing, but also participate in theater, fiction, and craft workshops.

All this is done in order to promote human and spiritual growth and socialization.

In the parish, there is a group of teenagers who are involved in the oratory as animators. We pay particular attention to their spiritual and human formation.

FRIENDS OF WISDOM

In the parish, there are many truly committed Friends of Wisdom. We support them in organizing a monthly meeting of reflection and prayer in Catania, which brings together all the other Friends from

Sicily and Reggio Calabria.

During the other months, we try to facilitate meetings in the various places of origin.

CARING FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

The diocesan coordination for catechesis for the disabled asked us to be part of their staff. Every week, we visit two facilities for teenagers and elderly people with disabilities. Our commitment is to show them, through our closeness, that the Lord loves them and cares for each one of them.



All Called to Be Saints - Catechesis

DIOCESAN CARITAS

We also make our small contribution to the Diocesan Caritas by distributing breakfast to many immigrant brothers and sisters and many unemployed men and women.

Our pastoral care can be defined as that of small “gestures,” but ones that give our brothers and sisters love, presence, closeness, attention, care, and compassion.

**Sr. Dell' Incarnazione and
Sr. Maria della Natività - Italia**

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

Five years ago, I arrived at the community of the Daughters of Wisdom in Pontchâteau, in the diocese of Nantes, which was dear to Father de Montfort.

MY MISSION

I joyfully accepted this beautiful mission of “Pastoral and Parish Coordinator” within the parish of Sainte Croix de Montfort, whose pastor and priests are Montfortians.

My mission for the past five years has been to collaborate in pastoral services with Father Hervé, the pastor of our parish, which includes eight churches. Together with him, I coordinate the entire parish.

DAY BY DAY

Every morning, after the office and Mass, I go to the rectory where I organize and coordinate parish activities and follow up on administrative tasks.

What fascinates me about this Church mission is the attention to people. Often, I have to leave the activity I have prepared, the computer, reading, to listen to the people who come knocking on my office door. A warm welcome and simplicity in relationships are essential for each person to feel recognized. Every day, I learn to let myself be disturbed. It's not always easy.

ACTIVE AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The content of my mission is specified with Father Hervé, the parish priest, and the Pastoral Animation Team (PAT), of which I am a member. Together, we organize the Pastoral Year.

However, my activities are more specifically in these areas of pastoral care:

- Training mothers who provide catechesis to young children and prepare them for their first communions.
- Welcoming parents who request baptism for their children.
- And, above all, preparing adults for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Together with a member of the community, I accompany them on their journey of faith that leads them to know Jesus Christ and his Church. It is an exciting mission. Hearing and seeing the action of the Holy Spirit in each person gives me the impetus to give thanks to God for all the wonders I witness.

And now

I am very happy to be living out this mission of the Church near Calvary in Pontchâteau, where Father de Montfort preached, taught catechism, and built. He set many volunteers in motion and trusted them. Now it is our turn to follow in his footsteps.

**Sr. Chantal RABIER, DW
France**

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM IN INDIA IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

This report presents the pastoral ministry experience carried out by Gnana Nilaya community at our parish over a period of time. We are actively involved in distributing Holy communion to the sick, visiting the elderly in their homes, and serving the choir during the mass celebrations. These pastoral activities allowed us to grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially while serving the faith community.

DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK

One of our most meaningful pastoral responsibilities was distributing Holy communion to the sick who are unable to attend Mass physically. Once in a week we visit the elderly the disabled and distribute communion. Every week two sisters along with the formees visit their houses. This ministry requires spiritual preparation, reverence, and a deep sense of responsibility. This experience allowed us to witness profound faith among those suffering from illness or age-related issues. Many of them expressed deep joy and gratitude for receiving the Eucharist. They eagerly wait for our arrival.

During our visit some people shared their personal struggles, fears, and hopes. This visit not just a ritual but a moment of spiritual healing and connection. This ministry also opened our eyes to see the realities of the world in a better way. It also strengthened our spiritual life and also, we pray for them during our community prayer.



VISITING THE ELDERLY

Another important aspect of our pastoral work was visiting the elderly members of the parish community as well as the elderly neighbours. Many elderly individuals feel lonely, physical limitations, and emotional challenges. During our visit we engage in conversations and listen to their stories and pray for them. These experiences taught us patience and helped us to be empathetic towards the people. The experience deepened our understanding of Christian love.

SINGING DURING MASS CELEBRATIONS



In addition to home visits and communion ministry we also serve in the parish choir during mass celebrations especially on Monday. We encourage the young formees to be part of the choir, for this we give them regular rehearsals to prepare hymns. This ministry helped our formees to grow in self

confidence also it enriched our personal relationship with God.

Through these ministries we learned that pastoral work is rooted in compassion, humility, and dedication. It requires not only physical presence but also spiritual attentiveness and love. These experiences also strengthened our sense of responsibility within the church community. These small acts of kindness also can reflect God's love to the needy people.

Sr. Baby Jaya, DW
Gnana Nilaya - India

SERVING CHILDREN, IN THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

I give thanks to God for the mission entrusted to me within the Marie de Nazareth community in Antsakaviro for this year, 2026, during which I am living my inter-juniorate year.

Every Saturday afternoon, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., I accompany the children of our parish, "Mary Queen of Ankadivato", as they prepare for their First Communion, scheduled for June 2026.

In my group, I have 23 children, several of whom are street children and orphans lovingly welcomed by the Trinitarian Sisters at the “PAULAINS” center. Through them, I discover each week the face of Christ, poor and humble, who calls us to serve.



At the beginning of each meeting, I spend time teaching them the basics of good manners and respect: how to behave at home, in church, on the street, on public transportation, with friends, and especially towards the elderly. It is a concrete way to help them become true children of God and witnesses of Christ's love.

These two hours each week are a time of deep joy for me. I see in their eyes their thirst to know God and to grow in faith. Their enthusiasm touches me deeply and nourishes my own vocation as a Daughter of Wisdom.

To foster a fraternal atmosphere and maintain their motivation, I teach them a little refrain related to the theme of the new lesson, in order to inspire joy and enthusiasm and encourage them to participate faithfully in catechism every Saturday. I am convinced that singing creates a fraternal atmosphere and opens their hearts to the Word of God. Despite

material difficulties and sometimes precarious conditions, their thirst to know Jesus is a great source of joy and hope for me.

The catechists who work with me, often generous volunteers, are courageously committed to accompanying these young people in their preparation for the sacraments (baptism, first communion, confirmation). I also try to pass on our spirituality to them so that they can become true apostles to the children they teach. We also try to involve parents so that faith can be lived out in families and in daily life.

I entrust these children to your prayers, so that they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and become artisans of peace and light in their communities.

Sr. Geneviève SAMBENAY
Mary of Nazareth Community
Madagascar

OUR “VISITATION”

“I was in prison and you visited me”
(Mt 25, 36)

CIW (Correctional Institute for Women)
Manila Philippines.

If you enter the CIW compound, in the quarter of “life sentence”, you might be

surprised to see hundreds of women, wearing orange t-shirt, moving around, chatting with each other, doing their laundry or practicing songs for the Sunday Mass. No cells, no bars but at night the women are packed in small dormitories with double-deck beds, few toilets and no place for their belongings.

More than 3000 women live in CIW and many of them are not only deprived of liberty but also deprived of contact with their families. Some are coming from a poor family who cannot afford to send them money for their daily needs while others are rejected because of their previous wrongdoings.



The fourth Wednesday of the month is one of the most awaited day for the 45 women who join our socio-spiritual activities and pastoral care. When we arrive, it is so touching to see all of them, gathered in the chapel and waiting for us with a smile on their faces. Our first contact is to embrace each one and to greet her "Good morning, how are you". This is so important for women who did not receive any hug since many years and who long for a gentle touch of friendship and love.



For the following two hours, we sing, we pray, we reflect on a specific theme and we share life and insights. We meet the group four consecutive times and most of them share their journey of rediscovering God, His Love and His Presence in their lives. They also become more attentive and caring for their companions who are depressed, lonely or sick.

After each session, each one receives a small useful gift: slippers and underwear, toiletries or food. We also bring medicine and pay for laboratory tests if they are sick.

We are not alone in this beautiful mission: two lay partners join us every month and one of them, a young teacher, after one year of training, is now the one leading the reflection and activities.

All of us are very grateful for the time spent together. We enrich each other and we feel the presence of God and His love. It is an experience of deep faith, friendship and shared blessings.

It is a « Visitation » full of love.

**Sr. Hélène Alic, DW
Philippines, Asia-Oceania**



"EACH OF US, NO MATTER OUR AGE OR HEALTH, IS FULLY PART OF THE CONGREGATION'S MISSION".

Our community consists of four Sisters, between the ages of 86 and 95 years, and our main Pastoral care is to each other. We sense needs, and offer friendly, loving help wherever we can.

Prayer of course is very important. The eldest member of our Community, Sr Philomena, is our prayer 'Guru'! Each morning and evening her door closes to us, whilst her heart opens faithfully to Jesus Wisdom, her spouse. What an example she is to us all.

Sister Norbert is Eucharistic Minister for our community and continues to collect clothes and household goods for people in need. A gentleman from the parish takes all collected items to the Salvation Army store. Finally, Sr Paschal takes responsibility for the Community Archives.



Volunteer Teachers of English for refugees

For myself, I am still (after 10 years!) a teacher of English to refugees living in our Community. We are an Ecumenical group of teachers who volunteer their time for free, and work so well together. One afternoon we

taught people from 10 different Countries! It is a joy to serve, and our students are so grateful and friendly. There is a real harmony between all.

Just prior to Christmas, I was invited to visit the home of one of our students, a lady from Madagascar and her daughter. Despite being married to an Englishman for many years, her visa application had recently been denied and there was much fear that she would have to leave her home here. We prayed together, and whilst I knew they had not been attending church for some time, I encouraged her and her daughter to attend Mass over Christmas. What joy I felt on arrival at Church on Christmas Eve to find my friend and her daughter there. It was a true delight to share the Eucharist with them.

I am also the Parish representative for C.A.F.O.D (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development), taking responsibility for the distribution and collection of gift envelopes on Fast Days, Lent and Advent.

Our community here pray the Rosary daily together. We pray for our dear departed Montfortian Family members, for intentions written and requested in our chapel book from the many people we come into contact with at home and within the Parish, and for peace in our troubled world. We try as much as possible to be a real presence in our church/parish and encourage people to approach us for prayer and comfort. We certainly feel that this presence is important when we receive calls of concern from people in the Parish, if we are unexpectedly absent from Mass.

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Community Praying the Rosary

We also pray regularly, and support in whatever way we can, a Montfortian Father in Malawi. He keeps us well informed of the work of our Sister's there and is so happy that 2 Sisters have just been sent to work as teachers in his Province – a presence that has been wished and prayed for, for some time! Two of us here in St Annes Community served for many years in Malawi and the continued growth of the Montfortian family in Malawi brings us great joy.

In our twilight years, we are all so aware that our physical abilities are diminishing. However, we know that so much Pastoral Care can still be accomplished through our daily prayers.

**Sr. Eileen Farrell, DW
GBI**

OUR MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE

Following Christ, Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, we are called to contribute to the work of creative Wisdom in the world (Rule of Life, No. 8). This call urges us to welcome the newness of the Spirit and to invent, together, appropriate ways for evangelization today. This shared quest invites us to live a dynamic faith at the heart of our daily realities. We place ourselves at the service of others by being attentive to the needs of the most vulnerable; by reflecting the Gospel in our words and actions, we make the presence of God's Wisdom concrete in our mission.

In Haiti, amid the many challenges facing the country, we strive to dare with Christ to faithfully continue the work of our holy founders, Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise de Jésus, in the different areas of our Province.

As a result, our mission in Haiti is structured around three fundamental areas: education, health, and pastoral care. Through education, we are committed to providing a comprehensive education to learners, promoting the harmonious development of their intellectual, human, and spiritual capacities. Through our actions in the field of health, we contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable people by providing care, prevention, and support services with respect for human dignity. On the pastoral level, we actively collaborate in parish and diocesan initiatives.

In this newsletter, I would like to share our missionary experience in Port-de-Paix. In the heart of this city, we run a school comprising a primary and a secondary section. However, the city faces serious environmental problems: during heavy rains, the streets become flooded, making it difficult to access the school and disrupting daily life. These floods highlight the urgent need to raise awareness among the population about responsible environmental management and the protection of our living environment.



With the students from the first two cycles, we organize radio programs to raise awareness among the population about environmental issues and the risks associated with flooding. We appeal to the solidarity of the inhabitants and local authorities to seek concrete and sustainable solutions. Through these initiatives, we are forming responsible and committed citizens, while bearing witness to Christ, Incarnate Wisdom, who guides our actions for the common good.

As Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort emphasizes: “I must love God hidden in my neighbor (Ct 149)”.

In May 2025, a paralyzed man was left at the gate of our institution. He was in great pain. We offered him food, but that was not enough to address the seriousness of his situation. Many people passed by without stopping.

Recognizing God hidden in this man named Pétion, with the authorization of the Provincial Council, we took steps with the state authorities to have him transferred to a better-equipped reception center, run by the Missionaries of the Poor, located in the north of the country. In fact, in Port-de-Paix, there are no facilities suitable for accommodating homeless people in extremely vulnerable situations.



With the Friends of Wisdom, we also organize pastoral visits to the public hospital (Hôpital Immaculée Conception) and prepare kits for the sick to provide them with practical and fraternal support. Thanks to their contributions, they help needy students by paying off their school debts.

We also share our charism through prayer programs broadcast on the diocese's Catholic radio station, in order to help the population live in hope despite the critical situation in the country. In Port-de-Paix, the sisters are actively involved in various commissions created by the Bishop of the diocese, such as the Commission for the Environment and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, thus demonstrating their responsible participation in local church life.

In our Province, we provide pastoral care by also accompanying the deaf, offering them adapted schooling and vocational training. Through this commitment, we seek not only to promote their social integration, but also to enable them to fully develop their talents, autonomy, and dignity.

Following Christ and our Holy Founders, in our pastoral ministry as Daughters of Wisdom, we strive to make God's love visible, especially to the poorest and most vulnerable.

**Sr. Guettie Guandia Dalce, DW
Haiti**

ENCOUNTERING GOD HIDDEN IN MY NEIGHBOR

Pastoral experiences at the Marie-Louise Health Center in Lokutu

I am **Sr. Laurianne LOULA** (temporary vows). I am in my second year of religious life with the Daughters of Wisdom. Far from thinking that I would one day work with the sick, here I am on mission at the reception desk of our Marie-Louise Health Center in Lokutu.



Working at the reception desk is a true pastoral experience for me because I discover the **“Lord hidden in my neighbor”** (Montfort).

Every day, I welcome patients who arrive with their health problems. I try to listen to them attentively. My goal is to offer them a warm and caring welcome because sick people do not come to the Center by choice, but out of necessity. I have time to welcome them and give them hope before they go to see the nurses. Dignity and compassion are the small gestures that characterize the way I welcome each patient.

Of course, there is paperwork to be done when welcoming patients at the reception desk. There are fees to be paid. I try to put this aspect in the background because sick people deserve to be welcomed and

respected. This way of welcoming is an integral part of our Wisdom spirituality.



My name is **Sr Marie-Noëlle BOENDI**, Daughter of Wisdom, Head of the Marie-Louise Health Center in Lokutu. I have a team of lay nurses who work closely with me at the Center. Usually, patients prefer to be seen by me, a nun, because they feel at ease. I try to give them my full attention during the consultation. I listen to their complaints until the end. I accompany them during their treatment, especially in cases of leprosy and tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition in children and adults, etc.

The Health Center also has a prenatal (CPN) and postnatal consultation program for pregnant women before childbirth and government-supported vaccination.



Our center is like “a house built on a mountain,” visible to all. Patients receive quality care here.

Every day, I learn to be entirely at the service of the sick with passion. As a Daughter of Wisdom, I accompany them,

conscious of our charism and our Wisdom spirituality. I feel joy when the sick regain their health and their joy of living. I remain in thanksgiving for the mission at the Health Center.



CAMPUS JOURNEY...

As campus ministers, a vital part of our mission is to walk alongside students in their journey of growth and formation. Our role goes beyond academic support; we aim to provide a holistic formation that nurtures the whole person. This includes helping students develop spiritually, emotionally, and socially, so that they may become well-rounded individuals who are grounded in values and purpose.

One of the significant ways this mission is carried out on campus is through recollections and formation activities. At the beginning of the school semester, selected students from first year to fourth year, from different colleges, participated in a Value Alignment Formation (VAF). This formative experience was designed to help them rediscover themselves, reflect on their life goals, and grow into better persons.

The school’s core values, together with Gospel values, were presented as guiding principles to help them navigate their academic journey and move closer to their dreams with integrity and faith.



Giving Values Formation to Students

The formation became a meaningful space of encounter marked by joyful interaction, honest sharing, and mutual support. Students were given the opportunity to open their hearts, listen to one another's stories, and build deeper connections with their classmates.



Teacher and Co-Worker

Through this experience, they not only gained clarity about their personal values but also strengthened their sense of belonging within the campus community. Indeed, the Value Formation served as a timely reminder that education is not only about acquiring knowledge, but also about becoming persons of character, compassion, and purpose.

Sr. Maria Leonora Santos, DW
Philippines - Asia Oceania

COMMITTED TO SERVING PEOPLE

The Daughters of Wisdom of Cavallermaggiore seek to make themselves useful in the service of a simple pastoral ministry, lived out in everyday life.

Our community, made up of four elderly sisters, is enthusiastically dedicated to a diverse pastoral ministry.

“Together we become better.” “Selfishness impoverishes us,” while “love makes us richer and wiser, at every age, because faith unites generations” (Pope Francis).

PASTORAL CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Inspired by these words of Pope Francis, we feel the urgency to take care of this wounded part of humanity.

Sister Clementina Pesenti, minister of the Eucharist, visits more than 20 families during the week where there are sick and lonely people. She brings them Communion, stays with them, and listens to them with patience and love. She also accompanies the new parish priest to get to know the families and be close to them.



Sister Luciana Colusso, a nurse, provides home care and is available wherever she is called. She is always ready to accompany the sisters for medical visits and other needs.

Sister Eugenia Rovaris, although advanced in age, offers a valuable presence in the parish, assisting the catechist in teaching children.

Sister Maria Tocci is present in the parish Caritas, where she meets immigrants from different countries, Morocco, Pakistan, India, and listens to their needs. She also follows the small group of Friends of Wisdom. As a community, we participate in listening centers in families for the spread of the Gospel. We collaborate with the team in preparing the meetings.

LISTENING RESTORES SERENITY

Despite our advanced age, we continue to offer volunteer services, focusing our efforts on listening and helping with daily needs. We try to listen to their physical sufferings, but above all to their family dramas.

We notice that listening restores their hope and serenity, which is what they expect from us. In this way, we restore a sense of community to those who feel forgotten by society, and for some, even by their own children. In concrete terms, our community is a discreet, welcoming, and simple presence that meets the needs of the poor and the most disadvantaged in society.

We try to be close to the young people who reach out to us, we are open with our hands and hearts, responding creatively to the Church's invitations and to the cry of the world. Where nothing can be done materially, at least spiritually we try to remain close

through prayer.

Old age also contains a grace and a mission, a true vocation from the Lord.



Old age is a vocation. It is not yet time to “pull in the oars”. Pope Francis (March 11, 2015)

With this encouragement from the Pope, we continue to walk with joy in our hearts on the paths of Wisdom shown to us by Montfort and Maria Luisa di Gesù.

**The sisters of the community
of Cavallermaggiore (CN), Italy**

AT SAINT-MARTIN COLLEGE IN PONTCHÂTEAU, PASTORAL CARE THAT HELPS TO GROW

Having been involved at Saint Martin College in Pontchâteau for several years, I live out my pastoral mission in the footsteps of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise Trichet.

PROJECTS FOR GROWING TOGETHER

Respectful of each person's journey and beliefs, my mission seeks to help others discover a way of living, loving, and serving inspired by the Gospel.

In the spirit of the Daughters of Wisdom, imbued with the missionary zeal of our founders, I try to accompany young people and adults with boldness and creativity so that pastoral ministry is a true breath of fresh air that permeates the entire educational community of this school.

Thus, numerous projects allow students to have meaningful human and spiritual experiences. In addition to courses in human formation and Christian and religious culture, there are highlights that punctuate the life of the school: celebrations, Christmas nativity scene contests, encounters with witnesses, preparation for the sacraments, catechesis, the Way of the Cross at the Pontchâteau Shrine, times of interiority, etc.

The spirit of solidarity plays a central role. Sensitized to the realities of poverty, students and adults make a concrete commitment during the annual solidarity meal in aid of associations. Belonging to the

Menaisienne Tutelle also opens up an international dimension for them and encourages them to become actors of fraternity.



These proposals promote the human, spiritual, and social growth of the students. They encourage dialogue, listening, and the discovery of Gospel values, reminding us that a genuine education is not limited to knowledge but also aims to form the heart. In a world often marked by individualism and the omnipresence of screens, pastoral care in schools seeks to awaken a taste for encounter, service, and sharing.

A SHARED MISSION

This deeply collective mission is built with a committed team of teachers, educational staff, parents, and volunteers. Together, we form a community attentive to the needs of young people. Along with others and as a Daughter of Wisdom I wish to manifest God's love and tenderness, especially to those who are going through difficult times.



It is my hope that when students leave the school, they will remember the moments of fellowship and the words that helped them to grow. Thus, faithful to the spirit of our founders, I continue this mission of closeness to sow, day after day, seeds of joy and hope, discreet signs of Christ's presence among us.

**Sr. Christine Pichery, DW
France**

makes us reliable. That is why our institutions; schools and hospitals are mostly trusted.



**“WHO ARE YOU BECOMING
IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH CREATION?”**

This is the question that Wisdom asks us each and every day. As human beings we need to ponder on this question because God gave man authority over the rest of creation. The Bible itself shows when God gave Adam the authority over other creatures, Genesis 1:28 and also to take care of it Genesis 2:15.

Our state as human being gives us an authority over other creatures, what more about being a religious and furthermore as a Daughter of Wisdom. The state of being a religious makes us to be trusted by others and we are public figures in our society. This

The authority we have will be shown in how we are relating with other creatures in our mission. We may be collaborators or oppressors. Whether we are collaborators or abusers we are to face consequences of our actions. If we are good to other creatures, we will benefit from them and vice versa.

The example I can give is my current community, Our Lady of Wisdom where we have girls secondary school. Our school is well known for environmental conservation in the district and we are an example to other schools. We have trees, beautiful flowers and a good vegetative cover. This has made us make a partnership with clubs and organizations that promote tree planting and proper waste disposal e.g. wild life club and Waste Adviser Malawi.

Our school has been participating in a number of tree planting exercises in our campus as well as outside. Not only that but also our students are always encouraged to keep the surrounding clean. We have pits and bins where trash is thrown for proper

disposal. Some bins were provided by the organizations that promote and appreciate a clean surrounding. One of these organizations recycles and reuse the trash especially the plastics.



As I said that when you are good to the other creatures, the goodness bounces back and vice versa. I am saying this because we also benefit from the surrounding creation. We have fresh air to breath, a cool atmosphere when it is hot, firewood, among others. I came across a parent who wanted to enroll her child at our school. He said that “I have chosen your school because my daughter has eye allergies so because your school has trees and a good vegetative cover will be a conducive environment for my child”, and indeed it is.

**Sr. Yasinta Funsamtima, DW
Malawi**

A TRIBUTE TO THE DAUGHTER'S OF WISDOM

The Legacy of the Daughters of Wisdom

Mrs. Callista Jennie Mutharika

I have been prompted to pay my tribute to the Daughters of Wisdom after reading an article by Father Kachere a diocesan priest in Mangochi district, Malawi.

Reading the article Father shared brought back so many cherished memories. I am a proud and grateful product of these devoted Sisters. I attended Pirimiti Girls' Primary School as a boarder, and we were lovingly cared for by French, American, and Irish Sisters who raised us with the gentleness and discipline of true mothers.

“They nurtured our faith, instilled discipline, and modelled humility”

They didn't just teach us academics - they shaped our character. They taught us to live prayerfully, walk humbly, and serve others joyfully. I remember attending Mass every morning, praying the Rosary every afternoon at 4 p.m. in the chapel, and experiencing the serenity of Benediction on weekends.

We were part of clubs like the Legion of Mary and Charles Lwanga, and on some weekends, we would visit the elderly and the poor in nearby villages. These experiences taught us compassion, service, and the dignity of every human being.

Those were truly sacred years. The Sisters prepared us not just for school - but for life. Everything I've gone on to achieve, I owe in no small part to the foundation they laid in me.

A FOUNDATION THAT SHAPED MY JOURNEY

Because of their nurturing, I learned to be prayerful, focused, principled, and disciplined. That strong foundation enabled me to walk a journey I never imagined: from Lecturer at the Malawi Polytechnic, to Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister, Head of an international NGO, First Lady of the Republic of Malawi, and now, serving as Malawi's Ambassador to Kenya.

Everything I've gone on to achieve, I owe in no small part to the foundation they laid in me.

Through all these stages of my life, I have never stopped thinking of those Sisters as saints. Imagine the sacrifice-leaving the comfort of their countries to serve in a place marked by extreme poverty and hardship, simply out of love and faith. That is true holiness. Their lives were a reflection of Christ's love in action.

I also learned from them that to give and to serve is a joy - not a burden. I now take great delight in giving of myself and serving others because that is what they taught me to value and to live by.

MEMORIES THAT LIVE FOREVER

I have vivid memories of Sister Katherine Roy, An American Sister who was a nurse at Pirititi Hospital, Nguludi, Matiya, and Mayaka. She truly cared for us. Although she was not directly responsible for us boarders, she would come to the dormitories every Saturday and ask if we had any clothes that needed mending. She patiently taught us how to sew buttons, do backstitching, and hemming.

SISTER KATHERINE ROY - THE MOTHER TO ORPHANS AND THE POOR

Sister Katherine was ever smiling, kind and generous. She used to receive clothes from the United States and would share them with the communities and poorest girls in the school. She also cared for several orphans whom she regarded as her own children. On their birthdays, she would invite us to join them for scones and squash - what a treat that was!

Years later, I met some of those girls, and it is always such a delight to see how the support they received from the Sisters lifted them out of poverty. Sister Katherine worked tirelessly with communities, and many people still remember her fondly as Mayi Katarina (mother Katherine) - the saviour, the saint.

All the Sisters were loving, and each one played her part in moulding us.

After travelling to many parts of the world and seeing the good life they left behind to serve us - the poor, the hungry, the malnourished, the disabled, and the sick - I have always felt that these Sisters may not have been recognised on earth, but God has certainly recognised them in heaven. Perhaps, if they had served elsewhere and not in Africa, some of them might even have been canonised as saints".

SISTER MELISSE - THE AFRICAN MOTHER

Then there was Sister Melisse Chatata, or Sister Mary Josephine, as we fondly called her - an African Sister and our headteacher. She was strict but loving, ensuring we were obedient and well-mannered. She was always present, guiding us in everything. She would

remind us to cross our legs when seated and to keep them together when standing.

She also taught us how to prepare the altar and the priests' vestments for Mass. Imagine having the privilege of learning these sacred duties at the age of eleven, twelve, or thirteen!

My mother, who did her teacher's training at Providence in Mulanje also a Daughters of wisdom school, was amazed to see that I could set up the altar and lead the Legion of Mary prayers at such a young age.

Sister Melisse Chatata later left Pirimiti for higher studies in the United States. I remember we used to write letters to each other when I was studying in England, though I can't recall how we lost touch. I sometimes joke that I wish she had pushed me to become a nun – kikikikiki. We didn't have "Come and See" programmes in those days, so perhaps that's why I missed my calling!

"Lessons from Sister Melisse"

- Poise and discipline in every gesture
- Reverence for the sacred
- Pride in womanhood and service

A LEGACY OF LOVE AND FAITH

The Daughters of Wisdom didn't just educate us - they transformed us. Their lives were a living sermon of prayer, love, sacrifice, and service. They showed us that holiness isn't found in comfort, but in compassion; not in wealth, but in selflessness.

"They may not have been recognised on earth, but God has surely recognised them in heaven".

I will forever remain grateful for the seeds they planted in us - seeds of faith, discipline, service, and love - that continue to bear fruit in my life and in the lives of so many others who were touched by their ministry.

▶ ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Callista Jennie Mutharika is a Malawian diplomat, public servant, and philanthropist whose life has been deeply shaped by the values of faith, discipline, and service instilled by the Daughters of Wisdom. A former Lecturer at the Malawi Polytechnic, she went on to serve her country as a Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister, and First Lady of the Republic of Malawi. She has also led an international NGO and continues her life of service as Malawi's High Commissioner to Kenya.

Guided by the principles she learned from the Sisters - compassion, humility, and dedication - Callista believes that true leadership begins with service. Her enduring gratitude to the Daughters of Wisdom is reflected not only in her words, but in her life's work devoted to uplifting others.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU SR. MARÍA JESÚS PINEDO

It was in 2015 that Sr. María Jesús Pinedo from Peru generously volunteered to be part of the Intercultural Community in Huntington Station, NY. We were to serve the Hispanic immigrant community of St. Hugh of Lincoln Parish. The immigrants came from Central America (mostly El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala). Sr. María Jesús became an integral part of this community.

While taking English classes in a special program developed by the Dominican Sisters, she began counseling work with individuals and families. She also assumed a leadership role in the Spanish Religious Formation of Adults – RCIA, as well as giving presentations to the Hispanic young adults.

Sr. María Jesús offered a nutritional program to the mothers, in order to help them provide healthier and more nutritious meals for their families. She collaborated with Sepa Mujer, a Hispanic organization that fostered the rights, dignity and leadership of Hispanic women.

It is impossible to list all of the meaningful things that Sr. María Jesús has accomplished during her ten years in the community of Huntington Station, and in the parish of St. Hugh of Lincoln. She was a joyful presence in our community and in our parish. She will be greatly missed by all.



Thank you, Sr. María Jesús, and God bless you in your future mission. We all miss you!

**Sr. Marilyn Soeder, Sr. Bernadette Sassone
and Sr. Marie Josee Seide
United States**



PERPETUAL VOWS IN INDONESIA, ASIA OCEANIA

25 March 2026



Sr. Apriana Kartini Dumut



HAPPY EASTER!

*May the light of the risen
Christ illuminate our hearts
and fill us with peace!*

IN MEMORIAM

" I know in whom I have put my hope..."

Daughters of Wisdom

			Birth	Profession
January 2026				
17	Sr. Jeanne Lavallée Danielle de l'Enfant-Jésus	Maison Accueil-Sagesse Canada	01-09-31	02-08-53
21	Sr. Jeanne-Marie de la Trinité Andrée Grassignoux	Notre-Dame d'Espérance St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre	05-06-28	02-08-53
February 2026				
11	Sr. Elisabeth-Marie de la Croix Brodure Germaine	Tournai Belgium	30-05-33	02-02-59
16	Sr. Bernadette Richard Marie de Sainte Bernadette	Notre-Dame de la Sagesse St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre	21-10-42	02-02-64
27	Sr. María del Carmen Casallas Elvira de San Francisco	Enfermería María Luisa Bogotá - Colombia	21-02-43	02-02-64
March 2026				
26	Sr. Marlène Aucher Pascal-François de la Croix	Montgeron France	16-05-41	02-02-65

Company of Mary

March 2026

17	P. Piet Schoen	Nuth Netherlands	95 years	74 years
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Brothers of St. Gabriel

January 2026

23	Br. René Burgaud	Montaigu France	95 years	77 years
24	Br. Célestin Raud	La Hillière France	97 years	78 years

