



# News

## CJ ZIM/MOZA REGION



*January-June 2024*

### **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AS A REGION IN ZIMBABWE**



On May 18, 2024, members of the Congregatio Jesu in the Zimbabwe-Mozambique Region gathered to express gratitude to God for these 25 years. Although the Congregation has been present in Zimbabwe for over seventy years, it officially became a separate Region from the Mainz province only 25 years ago.

The Mary Ward sisters, friends, and collaborators gathered for a thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration presided over by Very Reverend Bishop Rudolf Nyandoro of Gweru Diocese. Priests who work closely with the sisters concelebrated the thanksgiving Eucharist.

The colourful celebration was given a first spark with poems of appreciation by learners from Mary Ward Primary School. The Children thanked the sisters for their selflessness and the sound values they impart on them.



In her opening remarks, the Regional Superior Sr. Maria Goretti, paid tribute to her predecessors, Sr. Xaveria Bachmann, Sr. Hildegardis Chimhanda, Sr. Salome Mateko and Sr. Mercy Shumbamhini. She acknowledged the presence of the General Bursar Sr. M. Anna Schenck CJ and General Assistant Sr. Pratima Pinto CJ and thanked the many Bishops who have invited and allowed the sisters to extend their apostolates in their Dioceses. Heartfelt gratitude went to our benefactors, the Generalate and CJ sisters from other Regions and provinces for their continued support. She

highlighted many significant achievements, including the opening of four new convents, a clinic, a preschool and two schools and going for new mission in Mozambique in the past twenty-five years, with a gradual increase in the number of members. During his homily, Fr. R. von Nidda SJ emphasized that the sisters were shepherds, encouraging them to emulate Christ—the good shepherd—by leading, being present among, and following their flock.



He also acknowledged the significant progress of women in society since the inception of Christianity. The sisters’ impactful work exemplifies the truth of Mary Ward’s prophecy that **“women in time to come will do much”**.

In a prayerful and heartfelt congratulatory message, Sr. Pratima Pinto CJ, representing CJ Sisters’ General Leader Sr. Veronica Fuhrmann CJ, expressed profound joy and gratitude for this remarkable sign of growth and resilience. She commended into our Lord and Master’s hands all the members of the Zimbabwe-Mozambique Region, encouraging them to remain rooted in the charism and find solace in the maxims of Mary Ward.

In a gracious acknowledgment, Fr. Maviya, the Vicar General of Gweru Diocese, conveyed the Bishop’s appreciation for the skilled and impactful work of the sisters in Kwekwe. He expressed a heartfelt desire to foster further collaborations with the sisters as they continue their mission of reaching out to the marginalized in our society.

Indeed! The presence of the sisters in the country is making a bold statement as role played by the learners from Mary Ward High School, through their words against drug and substance abuse and their uplifting music encouraging the sisters to continue widening the space of the tent.

The day concluded with a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the historic event, accompanied by music from Mary Ward High School. A delightful lunch and social interactions rounded off the festivities.



## EXPLORING AND UNDERSTANDING SAFEGUARDING ISSUES



Members of the Congregatio Jesu in the Zimbabwe-Mozambique region convened for a training workshop focused on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The workshop was expertly guided by Tina Campbell, our CJ consultant with extensive knowledge in safeguarding practices. The workshop was timely as we finalize our revised edition of the Safeguarding policy and cognizant of how in most of our apostolates, as teachers, social workers, pastoral workers and nurses, we come face to face with the issues around the abuse of children and vulnerable adults. It was of paramount importance that we leave no stone unturned and make sure all our sisters are well versed with the current issues in this field of safeguarding.

Tina highlighted to the sisters, the two lenses used to explore and understand abuse. The narrow lens which limits abuse as being sexual, contact-based or using culture as an excuse. She enlightened the sisters that young adults and vulnerable adults are also at risk of being abused and that abuse regards all forms which are deeply wounding to the victims.

Misuse of Power was pinpointed as one of the main sources of abuse. Misuse of scripture to control congregants, inappropriate messages, physical assaults among many other forms the abuse may take. It was new knowledge to many, how neglect has become a common form of abuse as parents and guardians fail to attend to the needs of the young and vulnerable adults.

In our discussions and sharing, it was seen that abuse has been and continues to take place in our society including the Church. The challenges of vowed life and the struggle to live up to the vows were also highlighted as causes or results of abuse.



Paying attention to the red flags, anyone can be a victim or a perpetrator of abuse. It is crucial that as CJ sisters, we develop a rapid response to concerns and allegations that are brought to us. It is also important for us to keep an open eye, and see how people talk to and treat those entrusted to our care in schools, clinics and children's homes.

Summing up our workshop, the takeaway message was to create a culture of care, protection and prevention of abuse in all its forms. As CJs, our top priority is the protection of children and vulnerable

adults. We, our staff and volunteers have an obligation and responsibility to protect, safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people and vulnerable adults with whom we work. It is crucial to maintain a zero-tolerance stance toward child and vulnerable abuse in all our communities and institutions. More importantly, we have to walk the talk!



## Mary Ward Primary School: Thanksgiving Mass and Commissioning of Multi-Purpose Courts & School Kitchen



The celebrations commenced with the blessing and inauguration of the school kitchen and multi-purpose courts. These facilities were officially handed over by the School Development Committee to the Responsible Authority during the Eucharistic celebration. The Thanksgiving Mass was a special occasion to commemorate how God has blessed these projects. It was a time to recognize the dedication and commitment of the parents as well as the responsible authority in prioritizing what is best for the learners. The hope is that this will significantly contribute to the holistic growth of the learners, enabling each one to explore their talents to become the best version of themselves. Given the drought conditions in the country this year, the provision of meals at school will ensure that the basic nutritional needs of these learners are met.

The Mass was vibrant and well-animated by the energetic Mary Ward Primary School choir and dancers. In his homily, Bishop Rudolf Nyandoro emphasized to the learners that these two facilities are a symbol of the love their parents, teachers, and sisters have for them. He urged the learners to make the most of this golden opportunity.



To the parents, he encouraged them to emulate Mary and Elizabeth's exemplary parenting skills, especially through sharing their joys and being there for their children.

In other speeches delivered on this auspicious occasion, it was highlighted that Mary Ward Primary was keeping pace with the current trends in education, equipping learners for the world's contemporary demands. It was stated that the feeding program would improve enrollment and motivate learners to attend school regularly. The feeding program served a dual purpose: not only did it enhance the health, nutrition, and education of children, but it also facilitated socialization among learners as they shared meals together, thereby improving their social skills. The day concluded with delightful poems, sporting activities, and a tantalizing lunch.

## *Friends of Mary Ward retreat. (12-14 April)*

Friends of Mary Ward Retreat has become one of the powerful annual events that unites us making us one big family made up of friends from the four regions in Zimbabwe. In April 2024 Mary Ward



Friends gathered in Chishawasha for our annual retreat that was facilitated by Fr Bingari. The retreat has widened a greater understanding of who Mary Ward was and is today as portrayed by the works that are visible through various apostolates carried out by Mary Ward Sisters (CJ). All the retreatants present were encouraged to follow the footsteps of Mary ward.

Mary Ward friends doing annual retreat in Chishawasha



*Pull away from the world and sit with God to renew, refresh and  
revitalize your soul*

## BUILDING UPON SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS- MARY WARD CHILDREN'S HOME SPORTS GALA



The sports gala was a momentous occasion for everyone in attendance, as it marked the first time in history that it was held. This event provided a unique opportunity to establish new traditions and foster a sense of togetherness among all the Catholic children's homes in the Gweru diocese. The event took place from April 17th to 19th at Mary Ward Children's Home. The electric atmosphere resonated with cheering spectators, the competitive buzz, and a contagious sense of excitement and enthusiasm—from young football players on the field to aspiring models on the runway and talented choirs on stage—for children from various homes. The sports gala was opened with Eucharistic celebrations led by Fr Matingwina and on the 18<sup>th</sup> the Bishop of Gweru graced the occasion and celebrated high mass for the children. In His Sermon Bishop Nyandoro encouraged the children to abstain from drugs and respect their elders.



After the mass celebrations, the competitions took place among Mary Ward, Loreto, Driefonten, and Rutendo children's homes. In the end, Mary Ward emerged as the winning team in most of the events, showcasing their collective spirit and determination, which left other homes filled with admiration for their accomplishments.

The winning team was met with cheers and applause. The victorious football players proudly raised their trophy, while the winning models and choirs accepted their awards with radiant smiles. Notably, Mary Ward received the Bishop's trophy for their outstanding performance across all the games.

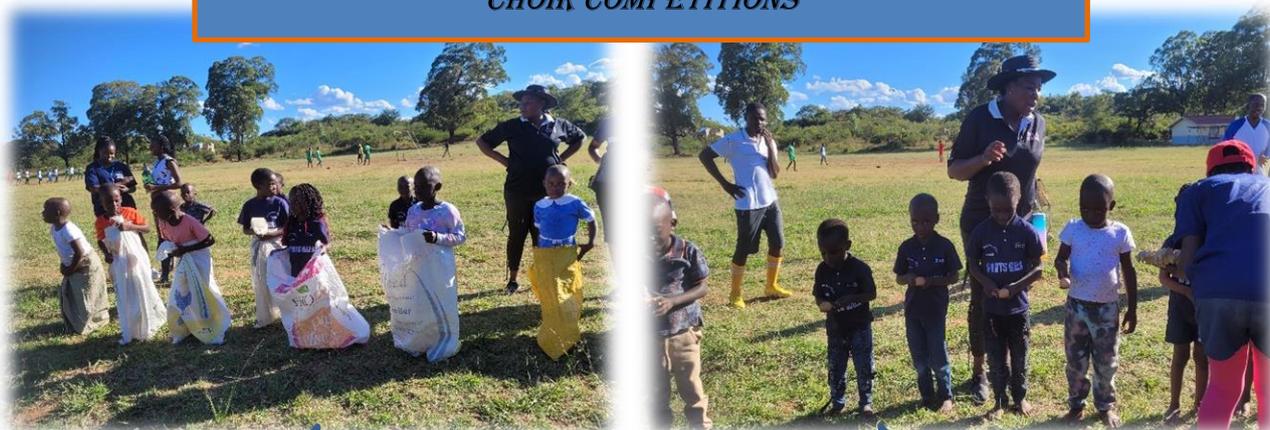
**EATING COMPETIONS & TAG OF WAR**



The sports gala not only fostered togetherness among the children but also provided an opportunity for everyone to showcase their talents and celebrate their hard work with dedication. The winners stood as a testament to the spirited atmosphere of the event.



**CHOIR COMPETITIONS**



**SACK & EGG RACE**

## ***ONGOING FORMATION WORKSHOP***

Through ongoing formation, we continue to deepen our relationship with God. Finally professed sisters partook ongoing workshop facilitated by Sr. Pratima at Milton Park on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. The sisters present were encouraged to live their experience of apostolic commitment evermore deeply rooted in God. Sr. Pratima also emphasized that the community is a place where we support one another and allow ourselves to



be shaped for better apostolic service. It was also a moment of exchanging knowledge, thus strengthening and empowering one another in our diverse missions.

## **MARY WARD HIGH COMMENCED ADVANCED LEVEL STUDIES.**

It has been said that a school is only as good as its learners, and the success of a student is a reflection of the quality of education they receive. In 2020, Mary Ward High School opened its doors to the community with the promise of quality education and a bright future for its learners. Four years later, that promise was fulfilled as the school's first Form 4 class successfully passed their exams. This remarkable accomplishment stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication of both learners and teachers, signaling that the school is on the right path to establishing a legacy of excellence within the community.



As a result, the ordinary level success is the catalyst for the establishment of the Advanced level. The new laboratory block is the edition to the school's facilities as it is providing learners enough space for advanced studies which are Sciences, Commercials and Arts. With the Advanced level classes, the

school is taking steps to ensure that its learners are prepared to meet the challenges of the modern world and make significant contributions to their communities and beyond. **We are immensely grateful to our generous donors who have contributed to the creation of this beautiful and essential Science Laboratory.** This facility will not only provide quality education but also equip our learners with valuable life skills.

### Inspiring Spiritual Input with Sr. Estela Clara Grignola CJ and Sr. Gemma Simmonds CJ



We were truly privileged to have an enriching experience with the Vicar General, Sr. Estela Clara Grignola CJ, and Sr. Gemma Simmonds CJ. Their inspiring and insightful spiritual input left a lasting impact on us as juniors of the Zimbabwe and Mozambique CJ Region. Their insights encouraged deeper reflection, strengthened our faith, and inspired us to live more authentically. We felt blessed to learn from their wisdom and guidance.

Sr Gemma also gave an 8 days which was inspiring and challenging.



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

- ❖ Sr. Gamuchirai for renewal of vows
- ❖ Sr. Angeline for renewal of vows
- ❖ Srs. Mary, Florence, Charity, Talent and Nokuthula for completing their online certificate in Theology at Hekima University, Kenya.
- ❖ Sr. Aleta Dube who completed her licentiate degree in safeguarding at Gregorian university, Rome. We thank the Generalate for their support.

## **Deep Gratitude to Our Esteemed and Valued Donors and Supporters!**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors for their unwavering support. Your contributions are invaluable and enable us to continue our vital mission. In these challenging times, when our region grapples with economic crisis and severe drought, your generosity makes a significant impact. Without your support, our mission would be impossible. We truly appreciate your kindness and compassion. May God bless you abundantly for blessing us.

***Living the synodal message of communion, participation and mission we pray and remember in a special way:***

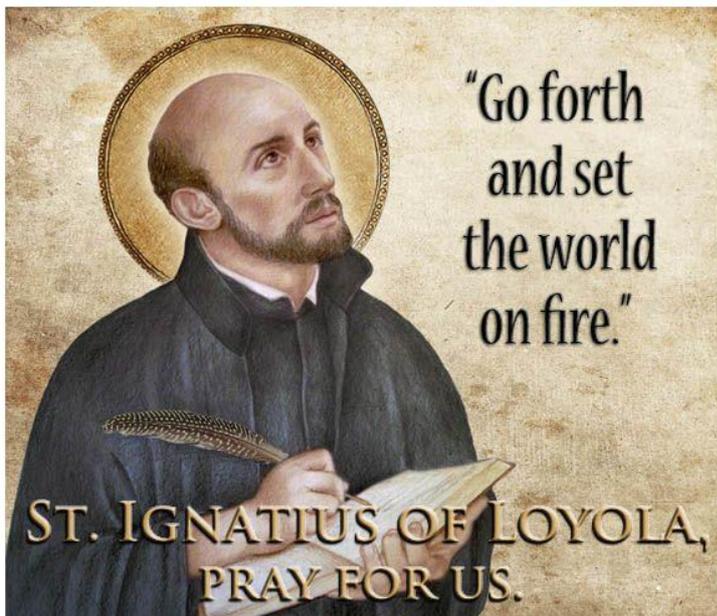
- ❖ The victims of conflicts and wars
- ❖ Mary Ward's Beatification
- ❖ CJ and IBVM on Becoming One
- ❖ Deceased members of the Mary Ward Family and our families
- ❖ Our benefactors
- ❖ The sick and suffering

**Venerable Mary Ward Pray for us and give us your spirit.**

**Feast Days for the Sisters in  
the CJ Zimbabwe Region**

|     |                                 |                                     |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Sr. Priscilla Chinyere CJ       | 16 January                          |
| 2.  | Sr. Charlene Makuzha CJ         | 25 January                          |
| 3.  | Sr. Eliana Dias Correia Lima CJ | 02 February                         |
| 4.  | Sr. Agatha Magaya CJ            | 05 February                         |
| 5.  | Sr. Josephine Nyikadzino CJ     | 08 February                         |
| 6.  | Sr. Bernadette Takaendesa CJ    | 11 February                         |
| 7.  | Sr. Beauty. B Machona CJ        | 11 February                         |
| 8.  | Sr. Talent Magwendere CJ        | 26 February                         |
| 9.  | Sr. Tendai. E Chirhomoh CJ      | 13 March                            |
| 10. | Sr. Ester Gamundani CJ          | 25 March                            |
| 11. | Sr. Aleta Dube CJ               | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter |
| 12. | Sr. Charity Munjanja CJ         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter |
| 13. | Sr. Tendai ChirumeCJ            | 26 April                            |
| 14. | Sr. Valeria Chirhomoh CJ        | 28 April                            |
| 15. | Sr. Evelyne CJ                  | 29 April                            |
| 16. | Sr. Nokuthula Dube CJ           | 13 May                              |
| 17. | Sr. Ester Jaravaza CJ           | 24 May                              |
| 18. | Sr. Patience Rwodzi CJ          | 24 May                              |
| 19. | Sr. Grace CJ                    | 31 May                              |
| 20. | Sr. Irene Gunda CJ              | 28 June                             |
| 21. | Sr. Lethel Tavengwa CJ          | 28 June                             |
| 22. | Sr. M. Goretti Mudhovizi CJ     | 06 July                             |
| 23. | Sr. Veronica Rufurwokuda CJ     | 12 July                             |
| 24. | Sr. Caroline Shonhiwa CJ        | 17 July                             |
| 25. | Sr. Anna Jinga CJ               | 26 July                             |
| 26. | Sr. Brenda Mapambe CJ           | 06 August                           |
| 27. | Sr. Magna Maminimini CJ         | 15 August                           |
| 28. | Sr. Greater Gladys CJ           | 22 August                           |
| 29. | Sr. Rosemary Matsvimbo CJ       | 23 August                           |
| 30. | Sr. Monika Mujera               | 27 August                           |
| 31. | Sr. Talent Gamuchirai Waduka CJ | 05 September                        |
| 32. | Sr. Nomatter Maposa CJ          | 05 September                        |
| 33. | Sr. Regina Makwiramiti CJ       | 07 September                        |
| 34. | Sr. Maria Kalonga CJ            | 08 September                        |
| 35. | Sr. Kudzanai Chiteka CJ         | 14 September                        |
| 36. | Sr. Hildegardis Chimhanda CJ    | 17 September                        |
| 37. | Sr. M. Mercy Shumbamhini CJ     | 24 September                        |
| 38. | Sr. Tariro Ncube CJ             | 01 October                          |
| 39. | Sr. Florence Gandashanga CJ     | 05 October                          |
| 40. | Sr. Faith Dhlamini CJ           | 06 October                          |
| 41. | Sr. Salome Mateko CJ            | 22 October                          |

|     |                          |             |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------|
| 42. | Sr. Tabeth Marezva CJ    | 25 October  |
| 43. | Sr. Irene Matindike CJ   | 01 November |
| 44. | Sr. Elizabeth Gotore CJ  | 19 November |
| 45. | Sr. Mary Chironga CJ     | 08 December |
| 46. | Sr. Angeline Mudondo CJ  | 08 December |
| 47. | Sr. Leocadia Mutizira CJ | 09 December |



**Happy Feast  
of St Ignatius  
of Loyola**