

## THE CONGREGATION OF JESUS CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF MISSION AND SERVICE IN ZIMBABWE



*CJ Sisters in Zimbabwe*



Founded by an English nun, Mary Ward(L), in 1609 the Congregation of Jesus Zimbabwe Region commemorated 70 years of mission and service to the local Church under the theme *“honouring the past, embracing the present, co-creating the future in freedom, justice and sincerity”* in Kwekwe recently.

History relates that the foundations of Zambezi Mission as it was known then, were set ablaze on the 4th March 1951, by 5 dedicated pioneer sisters; Sr Engelberta Wolf, Sr Theresa Fischer, Sr Albertine Netzer, Sr Bonifatia Vogel, and Stephana Vogel, who arrived in Fort Victoria from Mainz Germany a few years after World War II.



*Early foundations of the CJ Sisters with the first African Sisters in the year 1975*



In a Eucharistic celebration led by His Excellency, The Apostolic Nuncio, Paolo Rudelli *Insert(Middle)*, concelebrated by His Lordship, Bishop Bhasera(*Right*) the Vicar General of Gweru Diocese, Rev Fr Mavhiya(*Left*) and other priests from Gweru, we honoured the life and witness of our missionary cadres both living and the dead whose commitment and zeal gave a lease of life first to the people of Serima(1951) where Bishop Bhasera of Masvingo diocese and

the late Bishop Munyongani of Gweru Diocese were both taught by the Sisters. In the same year, the Sisters established a community in Zaka and later Chishawasha from 1968 to date, in the education and health ministries, respectively.



In a congratulatory message, our General Leader Sr Jane Livesy, likened the 70 years Jubilee celebrations to platinum a metal considered to be more precious than gold and resistant to corrosion by adding that “The Zimbabwe Region has been pliable and flexible during these 70 years by developing and adapting its ministries to the needs of time..” Indeed, the presence of the Sisters in the country is testament to this nature as seen by their dexterous presence in Kwekwe, Harare and Gokwe where we serve in other ministries including social work, counselling and pastoral work, among others.

The Congregatio Jesu Sisters in Zimbabwe Region is part of a global Institute found in twenty-four countries across the four continents and have the Ignatian Spiritual traditions. We partake in the mission of the church by being apostolic religious women. In Zimbabwe we serve the people of God in nine communities throughout the country.

*Below, highlights of the day*









*Tree Planting at Mary Ward Primary School by Bishop Bhasera  
Below Mary Ward Friends*





*Above, cake cutting by Bishop Bhasera*