



On the way to the

**56° GENERAL CHAPTER
2024**

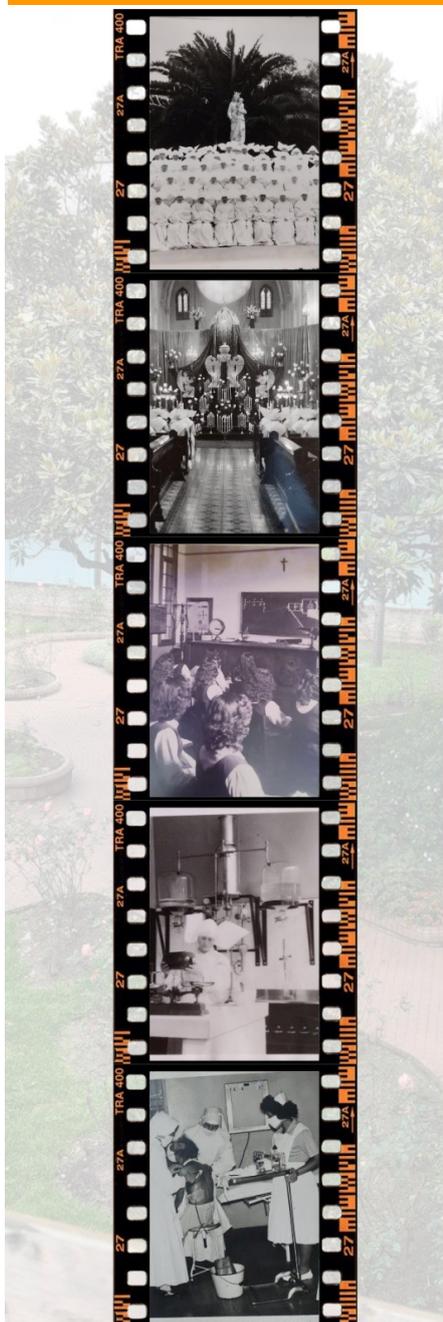
PROVINCE OF BOGOTA

A missionary dream, a journey to unknown lands, an adventure moved by the power of the Holy Spirit

Intuition and missionary zeal of Mère du Calvaire guided the growth and development of the charism of charity of Marie Poussepin to the distant lands.

The invitation for the Congregation to go out of France touched the missionary heart of Mère du Calvaire. She knew how to select, encourage, accompany and support the pulse, missionary zeal and professional quality of the first Sisters who were sent to Colombia in 1873.

The missionary presence was first established in St. John of God Hospital in the capital city of Bogotá, for the service of the sick, and the accompaniment of orphan girls. This was the first charitable initiative. Soon a new group of sisters arrived to work in a nursing home; then the sisters began the service of education, which gave birth to a new institution: Our Lady of the Presentation, school. The focus on missionary outreach spread admirably throughout the country, giving the Congregation numerous new and courageous vocations.



The difficulties of communication and the development of the mission led Mère du Calvaire to establish the first Province of the Congregation on May 30, 1874: the Province of Bogota, whose first Provincial Superior was Sr. Pauline, one of the first six Sisters who arrived in the country.

Historically, many missionaries were sent within and outside the Colombian territory: Chile, Venezuela, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic... Other sisters went to strengthen the missions in Iraq, Jordan and Africa, among others.

The Province of Santa Fe was established on May 24, 1980, on the eve of Pentecost, under the leadership of Sister Inés Mercedes Mejía Toro, "with the strength of faith, certainty of hope and the dynamism of charity". This was to respond to the need to offer the Sisters a more personalized and integral care, strengthen the pastoral animation in the mission, promote a process of personal and community renewal, and to make the work of the leadership of the structure more agile and effective with suitable number of Sisters and communities that would truly make accompaniment possible.

The Province began to write its history with a total of 47 communities and 445 Sisters, who carried out their missionary service in different regions of Colombia. Sr. Mary Plata Cordero was appointed Provincial Superior of Santa Fe by the General Government. In the same way, the Province of Bogotá continued to make progress in the foundation of new missionary presences.



In response to the call of the 55th General Chapter, the process of restructuration began as an urgency by Sisters Pastora Marín Vásquez and Nidia Beatriz Mesa Navarrete, Provincial Superiors of the two structures, in a common search with their respective Councils together, offered a road map to the two Provinces to follow.

On June 21, 2023 with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the presence of the Congregation in Colombia, touched the deepest core by processes of restructuration and restoration, not just the beautiful Chapel of the Presentation, but the heart of each Sister, thus advancing with firm steps toward the reunification of Bogotá and Santa Fe, on December 12, 2023, during the Chapter Assembly, Sr. María Escayola Coris, Superior General, with the consultative vote of her Council, establishes the new Province of Bogotá and appoints the new Government: Luz Marina Socha Gómez, Provincial Superior, and her Councilors: Sisters. Luz Nelly Quintana Pérez, Flor Mariela Jiménez Beltrán, Nidia Yanneth Gaona Bejarano and Eva Cristina Trinidad Méndez.

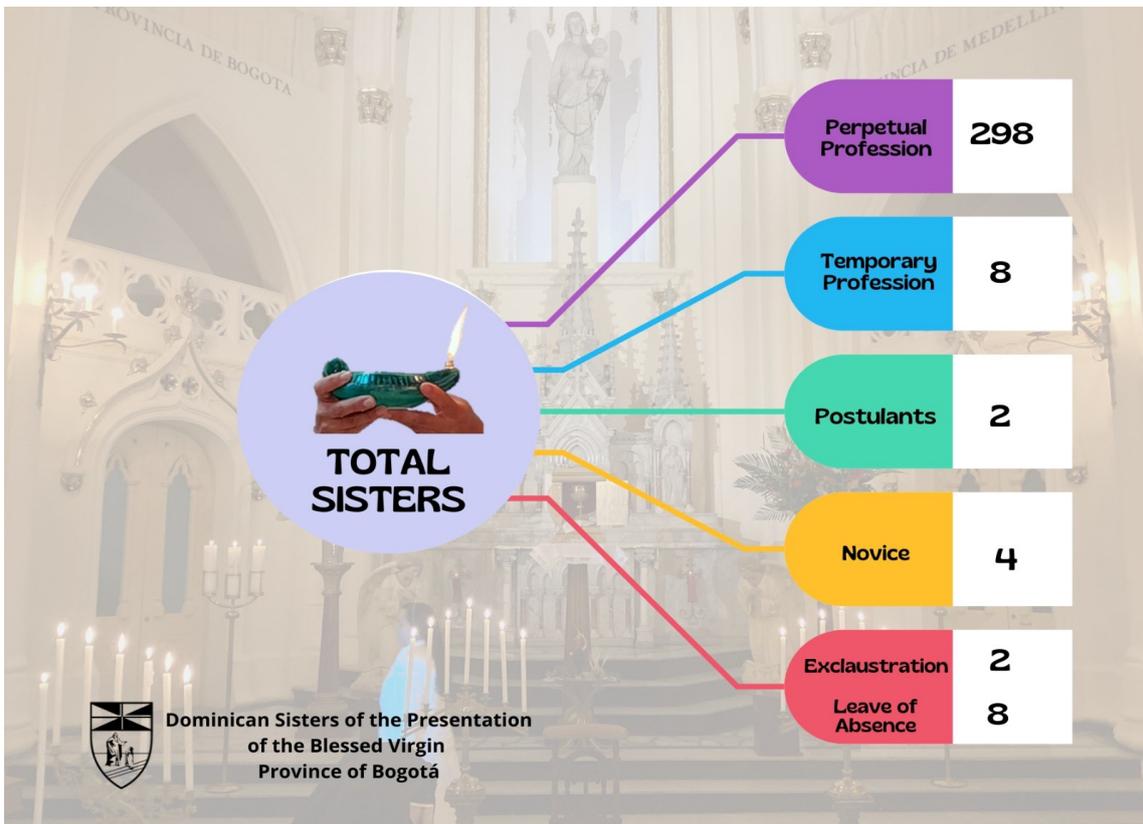
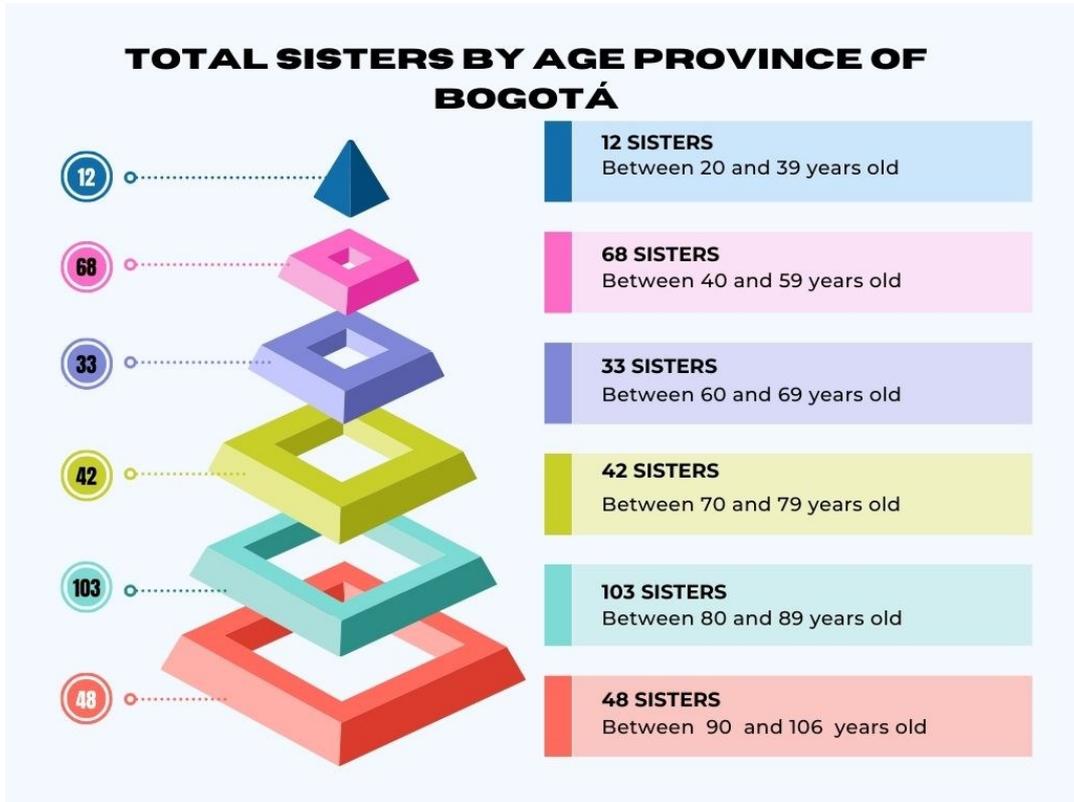


Members of the provincial government, from left to right Srs. Nidia Yaneth Gaona Bejarano, Flor Mariela Jiménez Beltrán, Luz Marina Socha Gómez, Superiora provincial, Luz Nelly Quintero Pérez and Eva Cristina Trinidad.

Statistics

The new Province of Bogota was conformed with 315 sisters and we were reduced to 306 sisters at the end of March 2024, among them 298 are of perpetual vows and 8 of temporary profession.

There are 7 sisters from the Dominican Republic, 6 from Nicaragua, 1 from Guatemala and 292 from Colombia. Of the total, 2 sisters offer missionary service in other structures and 1 is studying at the Catholic University of Manizales.



In the Novitiate of Villa Clara, Manizales, there are 4 novices in formation, 2 from Nicaragua and 2 from Colombia; there are 2 postulants in the community of postulancy in the Province of Medellin.

Since 1873, the expression of the charism of Marie Poussepin has been developed widely in the fields of education, health care, social ministry and pastoral ministry.



Colombia

In 5 departments: Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Casanare, Caquetá and Putumayo, and in the capital of Bogotá, with various expressions of missionary service: 13 secondary schools, 2 schools for nursing assistants (FORMASALUD Tunja and Fusagasugá), the Palermo Clinic, alternative medicine and offer services in some health Care centers, a strong presence of insertion in the peripheries of the city, pastoral presences in the parishes and the experience of the itinerant community in San Vicente del Caguán.

The option for the poor is reflected in all our ministries, but it is strongly manifested in some areas in the peripheries, such as the presence in Cazucá, Altamira and Usminia in Bogotá. There are also two social foundations: Marie Poussepin Center Foundation, which promotes solidarity and sustainable socio-economic development of vulnerable people through search for allies for the creation, monitoring and evaluation of social projects and/or social entrepreneurship that contribute to the achievement and enjoyment

of a dignified life for families and communities, and the Marie Poussepin Entrepreneur Foundation, which seeks to encourage the development of the skills and potentials of women and families as entrepreneurs in urban agriculture and ecological art.

Dominican Republic

Founded in 1986. Currently has 3 communities: St. Vincent de Paul Hospice for the Elderly in Santiago de los Caballeros, Polytechnic Marie Poussepin Fe y Alegría and in parish and catechetical ministry in Villa Jaragua -Clavellinas and in Santo Domingo, a home for Sisters of the Congregation and missionaries, parish ministry, Polytechnic Center of Excellence Professor Cristina Billini Morales of Fe y Alegría and the Professional Technical School Movearte in the area of integral human and religious formation and in pastoral ministry.

Cuba

Present since 1997. The sisters form a community with two missionary presences: one in Perico, Diocese of Matanzas, where they accompany the pastoral work in the parish of St. Michael the Archangel, with three small towns with chapels where the Sunday Eucharist is celebrated weekly, visiting sugar mills, among other activities; and another in the Diocese of Cienfuegos, in Puerto Grifo, where there is a sewing and handicrafts project as well as accompaniment in pastoral and parish ministry.

Nicaragua

The Church lives in hope, in silence, in a reality of conflict and instability. We are present in two parishes: El Almendro, Rio San Juan, with educational pastoral work with the direction of the school, religious formation and pastoral ministry in the parish, and St. Thomas, Chontales, with the mission of education and religious formation in the Christ the King School. Both presences are located in the Diocese of Juigalpa. The current reality of the country limits our pastoral work.

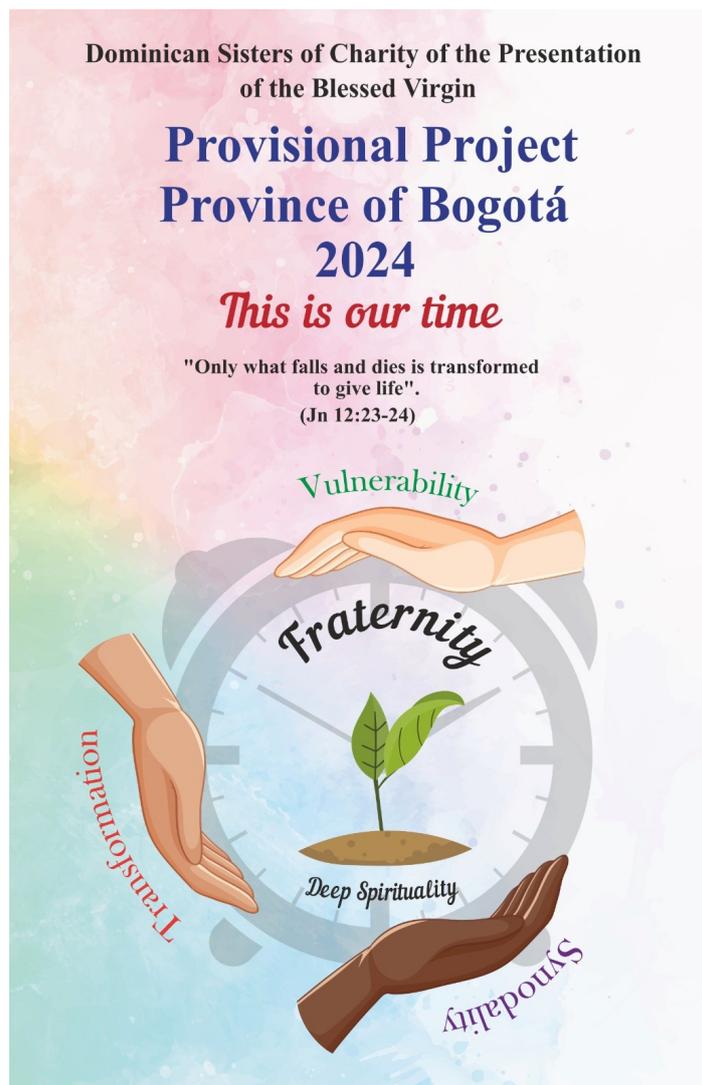
CHALLENGES

In accordance with the original vision of Marie Poussepin, the calls of the Church is to walk in synodality and the reality of our Province, we must move forward in

- Living a deep spirituality.
- Fostering a culture of listening and care among us.
- Weaving fraternal relationships that recognize and accept our vulnerability.
- Practice forgiveness and reconciliation.

- Letting God transform our lives and the nature of our community.
- Encourage participation of sisters in vocation ministries that can awaken flame of vocations in the new generations, since the continuity of the charism depends on new vocations.
- Make sure our support of the sisters and mission, especially those that focus on the most vulnerable.
- Continue the revision of the missionary presence.

All the Sisters of the Province, called to seek God with perseverance, are moving forward in the process of restructuration in all aspects.



***Option to work in the year 2024, planned by
the Chapter Assembly 2023***

The new, renewed Province wants to create a culture of fraternity, a central axis that is fundamentally rooted in a deep spirituality where we walk together from a culture of listening and caring. **It is time, it is God's time in us, it is time to recognize our vulnerability and allow ourselves to be transformed by the Lord.**

We are heirs of the charism of charity of Marie Poussepin in the TODAY of our history; we are challenged to give evangelical responses to the challenges and questions of the present. The Kingdom of God comes as a proclamation of blessing for the poor and the most vulnerable of our time.

Courageously embracing the present will make us appreciate and be grateful for the past and humbly project ourselves into the future through the action of the Spirit.



Sisters participating in the Chapter Assembly of December 2023