

FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CANADA

RESOURCES FOR

THE GLOBAL COORDINATING GROUP CALENDAR

During the **FIFTH** week of **SEPTEMBER**, we *listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayer the Sisters of St. Joseph and the people of **PAKISTAN**.



Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country with a population exceeding 212,742,631 people. In area, it is the 33rd-largest country, spanning 881,913 square kilometres (340,509 square miles). Pakistan has a 1,046-kilometre (650-mile) coastline along the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman in the south and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest, and China in the far northeast. It is separated narrowly from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's

Wakhan Corridor in the northwest, and also shares a maritime border with Oman.



The territory that now constitutes Pakistan was the site of several ancient cultures, including the Mehrgarh of the Neolithic and the Bronze Age Indus Valley Civilization, and was later home to kingdoms ruled by people of different faiths and cultures, including Hindus, Indo-Greeks, Muslims, Turco-Mongols, Afghans, and Sikhs. Pakistan is the only country to have been created in

the name of Islam. As a result of the Pakistan Movement led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Indian subcontinent's struggle for independence, Pakistan was created in 1947 as an independent homeland for Indian Muslims. It is an ethnically and linguistically diverse country, with a similarly diverse geography and wildlife. Initially a dominion, Pakistan adopted a constitution in 1956, becoming an Islamic republic. An ethnic civil war in 1971 resulted in the secession of East Pakistan as the new country

of Bangladesh. In 1973 Pakistan adopted a new constitution establishing, alongside its pre-existing parliamentary republic status, a federal government based in Islamabad consisting of four provinces and three federal territories. The new constitution also stipulated that all laws are to conform to the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Quran and Sunnah.

Pakistan has a semi-industrialized economy with a well-integrated agriculture sector and a growing services sector. Pakistan is ranked among the emerging and growth-leading economies of the world, and is backed by one of the world's largest and fastest-growing middle class.

Pakistan's political history since independence has been characterized by periods of military rule, political instability and conflicts with India. The country continues to face challenging problems, including overpopulation, terrorism, poverty, illiteracy, and corruption. Pakistan is a member of the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organisation, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Developing Eight, and the G20 developing nations, Group of 24, Group of 77, and ECOSOC. It is also an associate member of CERN. Pakistan is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. (Information and graphics from Wikipedia)

Sisters of St. Joseph in Pakistan

The **Chambéry** congregation has 13 sisters ministering in Pakistan. Their works include: education, family visits, pastoral care, and promotion of women.



On July 20, 2016, the region of Pakistan welcomed four postulants: Sadaf, Kainat, Maria and Zaiba (L to R). Sisters Ieda and Philo, two of the General Councilors, were with the community as these four young women began their formation program.

From CSJournal, September/October 2017 - Our Mission in Multan - S. Naina Javed Pakistan

Since we, Sisters of St. Joseph moved to Multan in 1980 we have been working with and empowering people in different ways. In our sewing center, which has been serving the local women since 2004, women get training and skills not far from their homes. Each one who completes the two-year program receives both a certificate of completion and a sewing machine which she can use to help support her family. The sewing machine makes it possible for the women to make clothing at home, which they can sell and thus earn money. Often part of the money is used for their children's education. At the present time we have about 25 women who come to learn stitching and other handcrafts. While the majority are Christians, Muslim women are welcome and a few are part of the group. We also offer the women different programmes and seminars to help them grow in confidence and in spiritual and ethical decision-making. Twice a month a group of about 25 young women come for prayer and spiritual activities as well as handcrafts. Through our life style, spirituality, and loving presence we offer them the possibility of inner transformation and joyful living. We try to live our call to be a prophetic presence, bringing Christ to those suffering from poverty and need. We support the women in their joys and sorrows. These women and their parents are highly appreciative of all the sisters who are helping them learn new skills and giving them a model for virtuous living. Through our reaching out to the poor and needy we are living our charism of loving God and neighbor while strengthening our society.

United in prayer the Global Joseph Family, 11,000 sisters in 54 countries, listening to the heart of the world.

