

FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CANADA
RESOURCES FOR
THE GLOBAL COORDINATING GROUP CALENDAR

This week we *listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayer the Sisters of St. Joseph and the people of **ROMANIA**.



Romania is a sovereign state located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. It borders the Black Sea to south-east, Bulgaria to the south, Ukraine to the north, Hungary to the west, Serbia to south-west, and Moldova to the east. It has a predominantly temperate-continental climate. With a total area of 238,397 square kilometres (92,046 sq mi), Romania is the 12th largest country and also the 7th most populous member state of the European Union having almost 20 million inhabitants. Its capital and largest city is Bucharest.



The River Danube, Europe's second-longest river, rises in Germany's Black Forest and flows in a general southeast direction for 2,857 km (1,775 mi), coursing through ten countries before emptying into Romania's Danube Delta. The Carpathian Mountains, which cross Romania from the north to the southwest, include Moldoveanu Peak, at an altitude of 2,544 m (8,346 ft).

Modern Romania was formed in 1859 through a personal union of the Danubian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. The new state, officially named Romania since 1866, gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1877. At the end of World War

I, Transylvania, Banat, Bukovina, and Bessarabia united with the sovereign Kingdom of Romania. During World War II, Romania was an Axis power and, consequently, an ally of Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union, fighting side by side with the Wehrmacht until 1944, when it joined the Allies and faced occupation by the Red Army's forces. Throughout wartime Romania had lost several territories, of which only Northern Transylvania was regained after the war. Following the war, Romania became a socialist republic and member of the Warsaw Pact. After the 1989 Revolution, Romania began a transition towards democracy and a capitalist market economy.

Romania is a developing country. Following rapid economic growth in the early 2000's, Romania has an economy predominantly based on services, and is a producer and net exporter of machines and electric energy. It has been a member of the United Nations since 1955, part of NATO since 2004, and part of the European Union since 2007. An overwhelming majority of the population identifies as Eastern Orthodox Christians and are native speakers of Romanian, a Romance language.

Sisters of St. Joseph in Romania

There are 8 sisters serving in Romania, from the Aosta and Cuneo Italian communities. Their ministry includes: a nursing school, parish and pastoral work, youth ministry, homecare for the ill, orphanage and house for single mothers.

From the **Cuneo** website:

Why in Romania?

To help the Romanian church to raise her head and resume the path of the gospel, after the persecutions and injustices suffered under communism.

Warmly invited by the bishop, Mons. Joan Robu, to be present in the Catholic parish of Constance, with children, with young people, with families, with the elderly.

The charism of communion touches the heart everywhere...

Some young people felt attracted to lead a life according to the charism of Father Médaille.

One, responded with the gift of herself to the spread of the gospel. Cristina Ilieș on September 9, 2007, was consecrated definitively to the Lord with the perpetual profession of vows.

Today we are present in Constanta.

From the **Aosta** website:

Suore di San Giuseppe della congregazione di Aosta (Mission to Romania in 1993)

Take a look at the many photos on their website:

<https://www.suoresangiuseppeaosta.it/sezione.php?s=195&l=it>



**♪ bimbi aumentano !
La casa è diventata troppo piccola...**

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

