

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

During the **FOURTH** week of June we *listen to the heart of the world* and hold the Sisters of St. Joseph and the people of **HONDURAS** in our prayer.



Honduras is bordered to the west by Guatemala, to the southwest by El Salvador, to the southeast by Nicaragua, to the south by the Pacific Ocean at the Gulf of Fonesca and to the north by the Gulf of Honduras, a large inlet of the Caribbean Sea.

Honduras was home to several important Mesoamerican cultures, most notably the Maya, before the Spanish invaded in the sixteenth century. The Spanish introduced Roman Catholicism and the Spanish language, along with numerous customs that have blended with the indigenous culture. Honduras became independent in 1821 and has since been a republic, although it has consistently endured much social strife and political instability, and remains one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere. In 1960 the northern part of what was the Mosquito Coast was transferred from Nicaragua to Honduras by the International Court of Justice.

The nation's economy is primarily agricultural, making it especially vulnerable to natural disasters such as Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The lower class is primarily agriculturally based while wealth is concentrated in the country's urban centers.

Honduran society is predominately Mestizo; however, American Indian, Black and White individuals also live in Honduras (2017). The nation had a relatively high political stability until its 2009 coup and again with the 2017 presidential election.

Honduras spans about 112,492 km and has a population exceeding 9 million. It is known for its rich natural resources, including minerals, coffee, tropical fruit and sugar cane. It also has a growing textile industry, which serves the international market.

Lake Yojoa which is Honduras' largest source of fresh water, as well as some other rivers and streams are polluted by heavy metals produced from mining activities. (Information from Wikipedia)

## *Sisters of St. Joseph*

As of 2018 the Congregation of Lyon has 6 Sisters ministering in the Honduras doing pastoral work and ministry with youth. In 1996 a community was established in Manto, Honduras, and in 2001 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In 1998, in response to the challenges of CLAR (Conference of Latin American Religious) and the Refoundation in the Province, the community expanded its horizons to minister to migrants and street children. In 2010 with renewed hope and desire to follow Jesus, they reached out to become a presence among the poor and young students with low income in El Progreso, Honduras.

In 2012, the community was present in two colleges; ministering to the natives in the country and urban areas; they were also involved in healthcare and alternative medicine in the mission Ad Gentes and the daily lives of their Senior Sisters.



Élèves de l'école



El Progreso



Yoro HONDURAS

For more information and photos go to: <http://www.stjosephlyon.org/index.php/en/where-are-we/mexico>

The following is an excerpt from:

<http://www.jesuitswest.org/story?TN=PROJECT-20170307030853123345>

March 8, 2017 — Religious sisters touch the lives of so many — and Jesuits are no exception. In honor of National Catholic Sisters Week (March 8 – 14), we asked Jesuits to share their thoughts about the sisters who have made a difference in their lives.



*Matt Ippel, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic studying in Lima, Peru. Hermana Pita, a Mexican religious sister of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon, lives in an urban periphery of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where she and three other sisters of her congregation accompany several marginal communities.*

*“Hermana Pita inspires me and my vocation as a Jesuit. She refuses to let violence and injustice that characterize the Honduran reality have the final say; rather, she lives and breathes a*

*mysticism that is rooted in a God of hope and of life before all the struggles, challenges and oppressive realities facing those she accompanies and walks with.*

*She lives the Gospel, through an explicit and concrete choice to live with the poor, working with them to imagine and build a more just and loving society. Her smile is contagious, as well as the joy and hope that emanate from her deep trust in a God of life and the goodness she is able to see and bring forth in others.”*



### *FROM CANADA*

Photo: Sr. Mildred Ratchford  
of the Sault Ste Marie Congregation  
who served in Honduras from 1983 – 1985.

Sr. Patricia Dowling from the Toronto Congregation  
served from 1983 – 2015 in a L’Arche Community,  
Honduras. Click on this link to read about Sr. Pat:

<http://www.csj-to.ca/story/2010/06/sister-pat-dowling-using-her-gifts-teach-others-larche>

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

