

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 **SENEGAL**.



Senegal is a country in West Africa, bordered by Mauritania in the north, Mali to the east, Guinea to the southeast, and Guinea-Bissau to the southwest. Senegal also borders The Gambia, a country occupying a narrow sliver of land along the banks of the Gambia River, which separates Senegal's southern region of Casamance from the rest of the country. Senegal also shares a maritime border with Cape Verde. It is the westernmost country in the mainland of the Old World, or Afro-Eurasia, and owes its name to the Senegal River, which borders it to the east and north. The name "Senegal" comes from the Wolof "Sunuu Gaal", which means "Our Boat". Senegal covers a land area of almost 197,000 square kilometres (76,000 sq mi) and has an estimated population of about 15 million. The climate is typically Sahelian, though there is a rainy season. Its economic and political capital is Dakar.



The present state of Senegal has its roots in European colonialism, which began during the mid-15th century, when various European powers began competing for trade in the area. The establishment of coastal trading posts gradually led to control of the mainland, culminating in French rule of the area by the 19th century, albeit amid much local resistance. Senegal peacefully attained independence from France in 1960, and has since been among the more politically stable countries in Africa.

Senegal's economy is centered mostly on commodities and natural resources. Major industries are fish processing, phosphate mining, fertilizer production, petroleum refining, construction materials, and ship construction and repair. As in most African nations, agriculture is a major sector, with Senegal producing several important cash crops, including peanuts, sugar cane, cotton, green beans, tomatoes, melons and mangoes. Owing to its relative stability, tourism and hospitality are also burgeoning sectors. With it being a multiethnic and secular nation, Senegal is predominantly Sunni Muslim with Sufi and animist influences. French is the official language, although many native languages are spoken and recognized. Since April 2012, Senegal's president has been Macky Sali. Senegal has been a member of the Organisation internationale de la francophonie since 1970. (Information from Wikipedia; graphics from Google)

Sisters of St. Joseph in Senegal

Thirty-one Sisters minister in Senegal. They are from the Institut des Souers de Saint Joseph, Annecy and Lyon congregations, working in nursery schools parish work, pastoral work with youth, homecare for the ill, an orphanage, and a house for single mothers. Sisters from the **Lyon** congregation have been in Youtou in Casamance, Senegal from 1989 – 1999.



From the web site of the Sisters of St. Joseph of **Annecy** we read about the 2015 Inter community novitiate in the Senegal/Gambia region: During their recent visit Sisters Pauline and Maria Goretti (Annecy) spent a day at the Inter Novitiate at Nianing, Senegal which is a joint venture with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons and the Institute. The present community includes the Novice Mistress, Sr. Anastasie (SSJ Lyons), Sr. Benedicte (Institute), Sr. Helene, (SSJ Annecy) and five second year Novices, one of whom, Consolatrice, is from the Annecy Congregation. The Novices are

pictured her with Sr. Jacqueline, Regional Superior, Sr. Anastasie, Novice Mistress and Sr. Helene.



A meeting of Superiors and Formators took place in Dakar on 15th March.

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

