

FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CANADA

RESOURCES FOR

THE GLOBAL COORDINATING GROUP CALENDAR

During the **SECOND** week of **MAY**, we *listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayer the Sisters of St. Joseph and the people of **EGYPT**.



Map taken from:

www.stjosephlyon.org/index.php/en/where-are-we/egypt

Egypt is a transcontinental country spanning the northeast corner of Africa and southwest corner of Asia by a land bridge formed by the Sinai Peninsula. It is a Mediterranean country bordered by the Gaza Strip and Israel to the northeast, the Gulf of Aqaba to the east, the Red Sea to east and south, Sudan to the south and Libya to the west. Across the Gulf of Aqaba lies Jordan, and across from the Sinai Peninsula is Saudi

Arabia.

Egypt emerged as one of the world's first nation states in the tenth millennium BC. Considered a cradle of civilization, ancient Egypt provided some of the earliest developments of writing, agriculture, urbanization, organized religion, and central government. In the seventh century Egypt became a predominantly Muslim country. There still remains a significant Christian minority.

In 1922 Egypt gained nominal independence from the British Empire while the British military occupation continued until the 1952 revolution, when Egypt declared itself a republic. In 1958 it merged with Syria to form the United Arab Republic, which dissolved in 1961.

Throughout the second half of the 20th century, Egypt endured social and religious strife and political instability, fighting several armed conflicts with Israel in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. In 1980, Egypt signed the Camp David Accords, withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and recognizing Israel. The country continues to face challenges from terrorism, political unrest, and economic underdevelopment.

Islam is the official religion of Egypt and Arabic is its official language. With over 95 million people, the great majority live near the banks of the Nile River, an area of about 40,000 square kilometres (15,000 sq. miles). This is the only area where arable land is found. The large regions of the Sahara desert which constitute most of Egypt's territory, are sparsely inhabited. About half of Egypt's residents live in urban areas, with most spread across the centre of greater Cairo, Alexandria and other major cities in the Nile Delta.

Egypt's economy is one of the largest and most diversified in the Middle East. Egypt is a founding member of the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, Arab League, African Union and Organization of Islamic Cooperation.



Sisters of St. Joseph

Sixteen Sisters of St. Joseph of the Lyon Congregation minister in Egypt. Their ministries include: education, catechesis and pastoral work. Some work in the Caritas Clinic, and others participate in various Associations.

This content below is taken from: www.stjosephlyon.org/index.php/en/where-are-we/egypt

Sisters of St Joseph of Lyon in Egypt

At the request of the Jesuits, for the education of young girls in Upper Egypt, the Sisters of St. Joseph respond favorably.

In 1907 - The Sisters make successive attempts in Guiga, Abou-Tig, Mallawi. The climate and living conditions cause the death of a 26 yr. old Sister.

“The grain of wheat had fallen to the ground and had borne fruit.”



In 1911 - The Sisters settle in Minya, 248 km to the south of Cairo, where they teach in schools and operate an adjoining dispensary. The Sisters also serve in the villages of the region, caring for the sick and giving special attention to women.

1913 – 1923 A second community assumes the responsibility of the Jesuit College in Cairo.

1978 - The opening of a novitiate.

2010 - 16 Egyptian Sisters work in various ministries encompassing education, social welfare, health, etc.

Communities

Minya - The school is still flourishing and continues the education of countless generations. In 2011, it will celebrate its centenary

EL-Wasta (Assiout) - The Sisters are involved in rural development and also engaged in parish activities.

Mataria - The novitiate is located in this section where the Sisters are engaged in parish and in other professional ministries.

Heliopolis - A hospitality Community in Cairo.



United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 11,000 sisters in 52 countries, listening to the heart of the world.