

Today, during this eleventh week (March 21) of our 2022 Global Coordinating Group calendar, we are invited *to listen to the heart of the world* and pray for the 17 Associates who are active in **Chile**, and for the people of that nation.

The two missions in Chile (in Talca and Curepto) were first established in 1987 by the [Sisters of St. Joseph of the Carondelet](#) Congregation. Between 1987 and their departure from Chile in 2013, twelve sisters served in various ministries. As shared on the Congregation's website "while sisters may no longer minister there, the charism endures through the lives and works of a group of associates, the familia de San José (Spanish for the family of St. Joseph)".



The familia de San José began after attending a birthday party in 2000 for one of the sisters ministering in Curepto. Some of the attendees "found so much in common with the charism [that] they discussed becoming a formal group of associates for the congregation". Thus, in 2013 when the sisters left the Chile mission, the members of the "familia de San José asked the congregation if the sisters of the Peru Vice Province could accompany them to live the charism". This wonderful description of the familia (see photo of members) comes from the Carondelet Congregation website: *"The familia de San José lives the charism in their everyday activities. They do not think of the group as something separate in their lives, but as something that reinforces all aspects of their lives, their work in the church and social commitments. It is also in the intention of the familia to help each person to deepen their spirituality of loving God and the dear neighbor, to promote right relationships and to live their commitments to the Church and to social justice with greater zeal."*



**Country Background:** The Republic of Chile occupies a long, narrow strip of land between the Andes mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. It borders Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast, Argentina to the east, and the Drake Passage in the far south. The arid Atacama Desert in northern Chile contains great mineral wealth, principally copper. Southern Chile is rich in forests and grazing lands and features a string of volcanoes and lakes. The southern coast is a labyrinth of fjords, inlets, canals, twisting

peninsulas and islands. Spain conquered and colonized the region in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, replacing Inca rule in the north and centre, but failing to conquer the independent Mapuche - who inhabited what is now south-central Chile. After declaring its independence from Spain in 1818, Chile emerged in the 1930's as a relatively stable authoritarian republic. Throughout the 1960's and 1970's the country experienced political polarization and turmoil resulting in the 1973 Chilean coup d'état that overthrew Salvador Allende's democratically elected left-wing government and instituted a 16 year long right-wing military dictatorship that left more than

3,000 people dead or missing. The regime, headed by Augusto Pinochet ended in 1990 after it lost a referendum in 1988 and was succeeded by a centre-left coalition which ruled through four presidencies until 2010. With a population of 19million (2020), Chile is one of South America's most stable and prosperous nations, with a high-income economy and high living standards. It leads Latin American nations in rankings of human development, competitiveness, income per capita, globalization, state of peace, economic freedom and low perception of corruption. It also ranks high regionally in sustainability of the state, and democratic development. Chile is the only South American member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), joining in 2010. Chile is a founding member of the United Nations, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. (source: Wikipedia)

In March (2022), Chile's new president Gabriel Boric (a 36-year-old former student protest leader) took office and announced his goal to balance plans to expand the Andean country's social programs while being fiscally responsible.



United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 7850 Sisters, 5700 Associates, 34 Agrégées in 44 countries, listening to the heart of the world.