

**Please note that this prayer for Argentina heralds the start of our 2024 Global Coordinating Group country prayer calendar. Attached is the 2024 prayer schedule in English and French (with Italian, Portuguese and Spanish available upon request).**

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sisters and Associates -- Today, on this first week (January 15) of our 2024 Global Coordinating Group calendar, we are invited to *listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayers the many Sisters and Associates serving in **Argentina** as well as all of the people in that nation.



In addition to the **Sisters of St. Joseph of the Argentine Federation**, **Sisters from the Chambery Province** and the **Cuneo Congregation** also minister in Argentina: in education; with youth and communities; in lay formation; health care; and, support for the elderly and those living in poverty. For example, [this article](#) (and image) describes a December 2023 event that celebrated 44 years of ministry by Cuneo Sisters in Quilmes (17 km south east of the center of Buenos Aires). Today, we gratefully share the special prayer message below from Sr. Elsa María Nóbile (Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Argentina):

*“Dear Sisters - We begin this New Year 2024 with new expectations and hope, in the living presence of our Lord Jesus in whom we place our trust, grateful for so many possibilities and so much beauty as is life itself, and also, in spite of so much uncertainty, injustice and pain?”*



*- From the Global Coordination Group, it is our turn to begin with the country of Argentina, we feel that you embrace us in the Spirit and in St. Joseph, and know that we also embrace each country that we continue to be present with its reality.*

*- We continue to unite ourselves in communion, with all the Sisters and Family of St. Joseph where our presence and mission is, with the brothers, sisters, the poor, the whole creation; being mediators before God the Father-Mother for the humanity in need of care, understanding, mercy, tenderness?*

*- Give us, Lord, to be contemplative and creative in order to revive us in our dedication with generosity and fortitude, with serenity and daring. Come Holy Spirit and show us the way. Amen.”*



**Country Background:** Argentina is located in the southern half of South America and is the second-largest country in South America (after Brazil), and the fourth-largest in the Americas. The region has been inhabited since the Paleolithic period, and was colonized by Spain in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Today, Argentina is a federal constitutional republic and representative democracy, comprised of twenty-three provinces and one autonomous city, Buenos Aires. With 45.7million (2023) inhabitants, Argentina is in the midst of a demographic transition to an older and slower-growing population. While considered a major G-15 and G-20

economy and a developed nation in terms of education and health care, Argentina’s economic performance has been uneven with periods of high economic growth alternating with severe recessions, income maldistribution and, in recent decades, increasing poverty. In fact, in 2023, the [Buenos Aires Herald newspaper reported](#) that Amnesty International described Argentina as “mired in an economic and social crisis” which aggravates challenges including gender-based violence, healthcare access, land rights, and police brutality”; while a [BBC news report](#) about the inauguration

of the new Argentine President, Javier Milei, characterized him as the “new far-right president [who] has vowed to deliver economic ‘shock treatment’ in his first speech after formally taking office.” (Sources: Argentine CSJ Federation, BBC news, Buenos Aires Herald, Cuneo Congregation website, International Centre website, Wikipedia, Worldometer)



United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 7850 Sisters, 5700 Associates, 34 Agrégées in 45 countries, listening to the heart of the world.