

Dear Sisters and Associates/Companions -- Today, on this tenth week (March 18) of our 2024 Global Coordinating Group calendar, we are invited *to listen to the heart of the world* and hold in prayer our Associates serving in **Chile** as well as all of the people in that South American nation.

The Sisters of the Carondelet Congregation (USA) ministered in two communities in Chile (Talca and Curepto) between 1987 and 2013; and while they are no longer present in that Andean nation, the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph continues today through the lives and works of a committed group of Associates. The Familia de San José (Family of St. Joseph) was initially formed after a congregational celebration in Curepto in 2000. Over the next months, some of those who had attended continued to meet and, finding much in common with the CSJ charism, formalized as the Familia de San José. When the Sisters left in 2013, members of the group formally



requested that they continue and be accompanied by Sisters from the Peru Vice-Province. This wonderful description (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. The region was colonized by Spain during the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century - replacing Inca rule in the north and centre but failing to conquer the independent Mapuche in the south/central. After declaring independence in 1818, Chile emerged in the 1930s as a relatively stable authoritarian republic; however, throughout the 1960s and 1970s the country experienced political polarization and turmoil resulting in the 1973 Chilean coup d’état that overthrew

Salvador Allende’s democratically elected government and instituted a 16-year long military dictatorship. The regime, headed by Augusto Pinochet, ended in 1990 and was succeeded by a centre-left coalition which ruled through four presidencies until 2010. In 2022, the country elected Gabriel Boric- a former student activist with an ambitious social agenda. With a population of 19.6million (2024), Chile leads Latin America in rankings of human development, income per capita, globalization, state of peace, economic freedom and low perception of corruption. Despite this, in its [2023 Report](#), Human Rights Watch noted several areas of concern, including ‘confronting past abuses, police reform and a variety of human rights (e.g.: migrant and asylum seekers, Indigenous, women’, disability, etc.). Chile is also facing unprecedented environmental changes such as drought which has contributed to the recent (February 2024)

[forest fires in central Chile](#). (Sources: Aljazeera News, Carondelet Congregation website, Human Rights Watch, 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.