

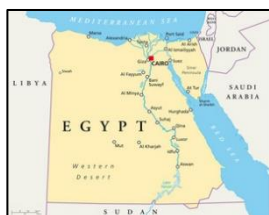
Dear Sisters and Associates/Companions -- Today, on this fourteenth week (April 15) of our 2024 Global Coordinating Group calendar, we are invited *to listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayers the Sisters ministering in **Egypt** as well as all the people in that nation.

The Sisters of the Lyon Congregation originally came to Egypt in the early 1900s at the invitation of local Jesuits. The Sisters first serviced in the education of local girls. Today, the Lyon Sisters are present in four communities -- El Minya, Asyut, and two locations in/near Cairo called Heliopolis and Mataria. As noted on the [Lyon Congregation website](#),



“currently, a group of 16 Egyptian Sisters (see image) are working in the immense field of the Lord with multiple activities: education, catechesis, theological formation, accompaniment of the sick and the elderly, formation of young people, parish pastoral care, interreligious dialogue, accompaniment of retreats... in collaboration with the various parishes and other institutions such

as Caritas, the Institute of Theology, the Upper Egypt Association for Education and Development, the Secretariat of the Christian Schools.”



Country Background: Considered a cradle of human civilization, Egypt can trace its history along the Nile Delta back to the 6th–4th millennia, BC. In 1922, it gained nominal independence from the British Empire however military occupation continued until the 1952 revolution when Egypt declared itself a republic. Throughout the second half of the 20th century, the new nation endured social and religious strife as well as political

instability - fighting several armed conflicts with Israel in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. With a growing population of 114million (2024) – the majority of whom live along the arable banks of the Nile River -- Egypt today faces several challenges including political unrest, terrorism, climate/environment change, and economic underdevelopment (the latter despite the fact that Egypt’s economy is one of the largest and most diversified in the region). This 2023 [Human Rights Watch report](#) cited several concerns including police and security forces abuses, denial of fair trails and processes, lack of freedom of expression and assembly, ill treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, and women’s rights, among other concerns. (Sources: CSJ International Centre website, Human Rights Watch, Lyon Congregation 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.