



Himalayan Echo

Vol: 123

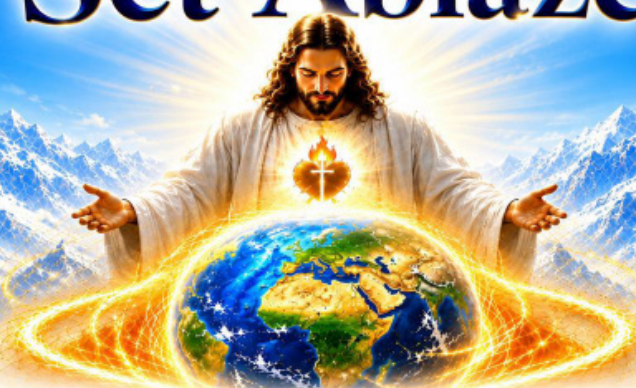
NEPAL REGION NEWSLETTER

25th to 28th July 2026

REGION DAYS 2026



Set Ablaze



IGNITING THE WORLD

WITH THE **FIRE** OF CHRIST'S LOVE.

REGION DAYS

26TH TO 28TH JULY, 2026



**Set Ablaze :
Ignite the World
with Christ's Love**

**Walking Together into
the Future with
Courage and Dis-
cernment**

The Inaugural session

The sisters of Nepal Region gathered from 25th evening to 28th July, 2026 for its annual Region Days, bringing together thirty sisters for three days of prayer, reflection, discernment, dialogue, and planning. Inspired by the General Congregation's Apostolic Intentions, the theme 'Set Ablaze – Ignite the World with Christ's Love' invited every sister to rekindle the fire of God's love and renew her missionary commitment. The facilitator was Fr. Dionysius SJ, the Provincial of Karnataka Province. Throughout the gathering, participants reflected not only on the present reality of the Region but also on God's dream for its future.



The Region Days opened with a meaningful prayer led by the Region Council symbolizing our missionary call to the Universal Church. Each participant received a tea light candle and placed it around a world-shaped symbol, expressing our desire to bring the light of Christ to the world.



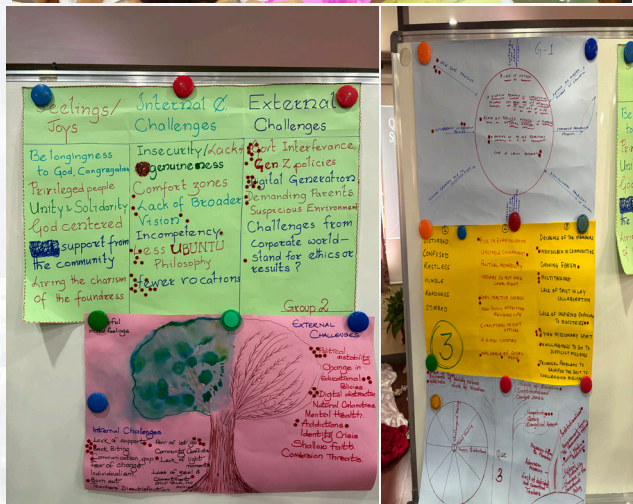
that this gathering marked the final Region Days of the present Regional Leadership Team. Reflecting on the transition, she compared it to a sunset giving way to a new dawn, inviting everyone to embrace the future with gratitude, hope, and confidence. Drawing inspiration from Mary Ward and St. Ignatius, she requested each sister to ask herself, **‘What is the fire that burns within me?’**

The opening evening also featured creative presentations from all the communities, offering a rich overview of the Region’s ministries in education, social outreach, formation, pastoral work, and healthcare. The presentations highlighted the dedication of the sisters and the significant contribution of each community in responding to the needs of the people of Nepal.

Sr. Vinita also shared the highlights of the historic Extended Leadership Meeting held in May, 2026 in Rome, after the merger of the Congregation, emphasizing the invitation of our General Superior, Sr. Veronica Fuhrmann, to walk together into the future with confidence, openness, and hope.



The Sessions 26. 07.2026



The animation programme for the Region Days was led by Fr. Dionysius Vaz, SJ, Provincial of the Karnataka Jesuit Province. Through a series of inspiring sessions, he invited the sisters to courageously reimagine the future of Nepal Region. He reminded the participants that religious life today is called to move beyond maintenance and become deeply mission-oriented by rediscovering its first love for Christ and its founding charism. Renewal, he stressed, begins not with structures but with hearts set on fire by the Gospel.



Reflecting on the realities facing consecrated life today, Fr. Dionysius identified several significant challenges, including ageing communities, institutional heaviness, excessive activism, declining vocations, and the danger of what he described as 'evangelical anemia' - the gradual loss of our first love for Christ. He challenged the Region to become relevant once again by recovering its missionary identity and embracing a new paradigm of shared mission with the laity. Rather than viewing lay people merely as employees, he encouraged the sisters to form genuine apostolic partnerships rooted in the Congregation's spirituality and charism.

One of the most engaging sessions focused on identifying the internal and external challenges facing Nepal Region today. Through prayerful group discussions and plenary sharing, participants identified recurring concerns such as declining vocations, burnout, negativity, weakened community life, lack of trust, and the loss of missionary zeal. External challenges included political instability, government interference, digital distractions, social media addiction, an increasingly inactive Church, demanding parents, and the growing risks involved in evangelization.

Fr. Dionysius observed that while these challenges are real, the deeper obstacles often lie within ourselves. Drawing on the insights of Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, he explained that every religious congregation must address not only its external and internal challenges but also its transcendental challenges - those relating to vision, conviction, spiritual depth, attitudes, and relationships. Only

by renewing these deeper dimensions can a Region become truly mission-oriented.

Throughout the sessions, participants were repeatedly invited to return to Christ as the source of all renewal. Father emphasized that consecrated life today must be rooted in a deep spiritual experience while responding creatively to the realities of a rapidly changing world. The sisters reflected on revitalizing ministries, listening more attentively to the cries of the vulnerable, embracing collaboration with the laity, engaging confidently with the digital world, and fostering communities that radiate hope, hospitality, justice, and compassion.

The Sessions 27. 07.2026

THE REGION AT A GLANCE

Four numbers that frame the whole story

38

Total sisters
Entire Nepal Region

56.6

Estimated avg. age (yrs)
Weighted midpoint

1 : 0.92

Dependency ratio
Elders 70+ : Young CSP

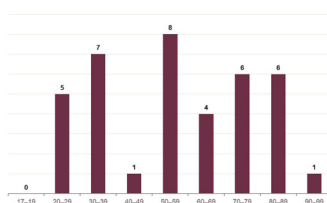
24%

Mission health score
Critical threshold

The headline is not the size of the congregation. It is the shape of its age, the thinness of its pipeline, and the narrowness of its mission — three pressures compounding at once.

DEMOGRAPHICS

An age curve that is already past renewal



● Young 17-29 31.6%
● Mid 40-69 34.2%
● Elder 70+ 34.2%

Average age 56.6 means the community as a whole sits past the inflection point of generational renewal — the point where most congregations trigger a formal sustainability review.

THE SUCCESSION GAP

The most alarming number is 1

7

Rising leaders

1

Prime leadership decade

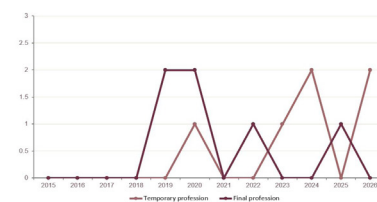
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Senior wisdom, nearing elder status

Only one sister occupies the decade that produces regional superiors, formation directors and institutional heads. As the eight sisters in their 50s move toward elder status, the one sister in her 40s and seven in their 30s will be asked to carry a structurally impossible weight. The succession gap is not approaching — it is already here.

VOCATION PIPELINE 2015-2026

Five of twelve years had zero activity



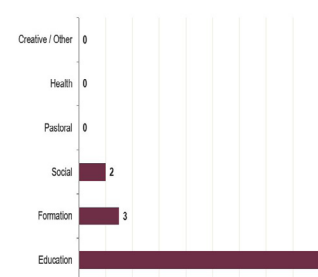
5 of 12 years with zero activity

4 years longest blank streak (2015-18)

0.50 final professions / year

APOSTOLIC RANGE

78% of deployed sisters in a single ministry



Institutional monoculture

- Only 3 of 6 ministry categories are active.
- Pastoral, Health and Creative apostolates are entirely absent — half the congregation's apostolic range is unused.
- 15 of 38 sisters are not deployed in any institution (8 elder, 6 in higher studies, 1 unaccounted).
- When education is the only lens, the congregation becomes structurally blind to health, pastoral and social justice needs.



The important features of the second day of the Region Days was the presentation of the **demographic profile** and **SWOC** analysis of Nepal Region. The data invited participants to reflect honestly on the Region's strengths, challenges, leadership continuity, and future sustainability. Rather than creating anxiety, the analysis became an opportunity to ask how the Region could move from simply maintaining existing ministries to embracing new and prophetic missionary initiatives. Participants were encouraged to see the present moment not as a crisis but as an invitation to renewal. Using the wisdom of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, Fr. Dionysius guided the sisters through

a process of communal discernment and SWOC analysis. He emphasized that meaningful discernment requires inner freedom, openness to the Holy Spirit, and the willingness to choose the Magis - that which leads to the greater glory of God. Inspired by Sr. Veronica Fuhrmann's challenge to embrace uncertainty and transformation with confidence and trust, he encouraged the assembly to think beyond the boundaries of the Region and to rediscover the universal dimension of the CJ vocation, remembering that 'the world is our home'.



The SWOC analysis generated rich discussions and practical recommendations for the future. Among the Region's strengths were its rich Ignatian spirituality, committed members, strong educational ministries, financial stability, and the acceptance and goodwill enjoyed among the people of Nepal. Participants also recognized important opportunities for lay collaboration, vocation fostering, digital evangelization, youth ministry, new pastoral initiatives, and expanding the mission into emerging areas.

Following several rounds of discernment, the group identified a number of immediate priorities for the Region. Particular emphasis was placed

on vocation fostering, strengthening lay collaboration, resolving outstanding land concerns, revitalizing the mission in Sirsia, and exploring new mission possibilities in Tipling and Nagaland. Participants also recognized the need to strengthen social, pastoral, and faith formation ministries while continuing to evaluate existing ministries in the light of the Region's mission and available personnel.

The Sessions 28. 07.2026



The final day focused on translating these priorities into practical action. Working in groups, the sisters developed concrete action plans, identifying expected outcomes, methods, responsible persons, resources required, and timelines for implementation. These discussions reflected the strong desire of the Region not merely to discuss future possibilities but to take realistic and prayerful steps towards renewal.

Special attention was given to vocation promotion. Sr. Vinita reminded

the members that fostering vocations is not merely the responsibility of the Vocation Promotion Team alone but of every sister and every community. Among the suggestions that emerged were strengthening the Region's digital presence, conducting regular visits to Catholic families, promoting campus ministry, composing a regional vocation prayer, and encouraging exposure programmes in mission areas. Participants also proposed that new missions begin as pilot projects through pastoral ministry, faith formation, and family visits before making major infrastructural commitments.

The Region Days concluded with rekindled hope and a deep sense of gratitude. More than a meeting, the gathering became a grace-filled experience of listening together to the voice of the Spirit. It reaffirmed that the future of Nepal Region does not depend primarily on numbers or structures but on women whose hearts are set ablaze by the love of Christ and whose lives remain available for God's mission wherever the need is greatest.

The grace-filled Region Days concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Silas



As discussions continued, the need to strengthen the existing mission in Sirsia and to explore new mission opportunities in Tipling and Nagaland became increasingly evident. Sr. Vinita then challenged the sisters with a simple but profound question: 'Who will take up these missions?' Inviting a generous missionary response, she requested volunteers to prayerfully discern their willingness to serve in these areas, after which the Regional Team would undertake the process of discernment and planning.

Bogati, the Apostolic Administrator of Nepal Vicariate.

In his homily, he called the sisters to continue walking together in the synodal spirit, listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another as they faithfully fulfil Christ's mission. Set ablaze by the fire of God's love and strengthened through communal discernment, the Nepal Region moves forward with renewed hope, courage, and commitment to proclaim the Gospel through joyful service.

THANK YOU