

Dear Sisters and Associates -- Today, on this fifteenth week (April 24) of our 2023 Global Coordinating Group calendar, we are invited *to listen to the heart of the world* and hold in our prayers the 12 Sisters and 25 Associates serving in **England** as well as the people of that nation.

The Sisters belong to two Congregations -- Annecy and Lyon -- and work in various ministries including anti-trafficking, teaching, a seafarers'



chaplaincy and with asylum seekers and those experiencing homelessness as well as in prisons, the university, parish and pastoral missions. The Annecy Congregation began their mission in England in 1864 with three

Sisters (including two Sisters from India). Today, its English Province works in various parts of England, Ireland and Wales. This [recent article](#) (and photo left) recounts the English Province's Day of Religious



celebration on February 2 (2023) with many Sisters in attendance. The Lyon Congregation established its England mission in 1905 in Haunton (where they continue to be present). In 1996, the Sisters of the Anglo-Irish Region and those of Bordeaux joined efforts with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon to better serve groups in retreat, youth, the elderly and homebound as well as those living

in retirement homes. As noted on their website: "All these forms of apostolates allow us to make acts of inclusive love among ourselves, with others and with God."

Country Background: The area now called England was first inhabited during the Upper Paleolithic period, and takes its name from the Angles - a Germanic tribe who settled on the island during the 5th and 6th centuries. England became a unified state in the 10th century, and has had a significant global cultural and legal impact with many nations adopting the English language, Common Law, the Magna Carta, and its parliamentary system of government. Today, England has a population of 56million (2023) with more than 80percent living in urban areas. Economically, it is a highly industrialized country and a major manufacturer of textiles, chemical products, and transportation vehicles as well as a leader in global financial services. Despite its economic and political stability, England faces several challenges as noted in this [2022 Human Rights Watch report](#) which raises concerns about the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers, racial and ethnic discrimination, the effects of climate policy and impacts, and economic inequality. As highlighted in the report, the “UK government pursues laws and policies with little regard for their impact on human rights. The government cut social security affecting millions despite clear warnings it would increase food insecurity, debt, and homelessness. The response to increased migrant boat crossings across the English Channel was draft legislation and proposed pushbacks at odds with refugee and human rights law.” (Sources: Annecy Congregation website, Big Issue Group, International Centre website, Lyon Congregation website, Human Rights Watch, Wikipedia, Worldometer)



United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 7850 Sisters, 5700 Associates, 34 Agrégées in 43 countries, listening to the heart of the world.