

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

*An update from Casa Loreto*

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## EXTRA-ORDINARY NEWS!

2021 has been an extraordinary year of activity and busy-ness for us all in IBVM. From Convocations to Bicentenaries we have had many special events and reasons to celebrate. We are grateful that the *On Pilgrimage with Mary Ward App* has been updated and is now available in English, German and Spanish.

An important event in 2021 was the CJ General Congregation Part 1 which took place online from July 14<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>. This was a new experience for all involved and was carefully choreographed with precise management because of time-differences ranging from Korea to South America.

51 CJ delegates and 8 IBVM representatives participated in an open process that was new for all. 6 more IBVMs were present in supportive ways as secretary, translators, facilitators and liturgy group. A prayerful ritual for the beginning and end of each day and the three big celebrations, that all members of both congregations could attend, were carefully prepared by the liturgy group. Each person also belonged to a small group that met daily to share on the gospel of the day. Through the U-process the participants were led through a collective sensing of the body of the CJ in the world, and addressed many emerging themes. The whole event ran smoothly thanks to the valuable technical support of Esther Finis and her creative use of digital technology, allowing us to use new tools including padlets, website and breakout rooms.

The CJ General Congregation Part 2 will take place from August 21<sup>st</sup> to Septmebr 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 in person in Nemi, just outside Rome. Below is their newly adapted logo. We join our prayer with those of the CJ that we will both be able to have our General Congregations in 2022 in person.



## WHAT'S NEW IN CASA



Our new extended community with Pat Murray

Since we arrived in Dec 2014 the face of our community has been changing all the time. We started with seven members, then six, then five, then again six when Pauline started the JPIC ministry and now again seven with A. Nirmala as she begins her role as Coordinator of the newly established office for global mission.

Every time someone joins our community, we are new again. What is new now? Well, the newness obviously is that instead of becoming older we are becoming more diverse in every way.

Now that things are opening in Rome and the restrictions are fewer, the rhythm in our community is beginning to change. However everywhere we go we must bring our "green pass" as proof of vaccination.

The airports are beginning to get crowded again and we can see the tourist red buses with the tourists on the top and there are

long lines to get into tourist sites again.

Noelle had the chance to visit our sisters in South Africa as they report directly to Rome. As travel opens around the world, we can think positively about organising our in-person General Congregation in October.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we did not have any guests in Casa. Coming to the normality we are starting to have more coming and going. We had two guests recently: Imelda Poole who came for a US Embassy to the Holy See Anti-trafficking event and Susan Pascoe past pupil of Loreto Australia who came to the Opening of the Synod representing the Australian Church and she was stranded because there was no flight back to Australia.

It is good to be able to welcome our friends, Sisters, and families. During this time of pandemic, it has been a great learning to live in a simpler way.

# A R T I S T S

**“We might say that at this moment, as in the time of Galileo, what we most urgently need in order to appreciate the convergence of the universe is much less new facts...than a new way of looking at the facts and accepting them. A new way of seeing, combined with a new way of action — is what is needed.”** Teilhard De Chardin

Arlene Ashack asserts, “this quote is more applicable now than ever. Certainly, the arts and other forms of creative expression allow us to see differently.”

Calling on all ... professionals and artists at heart Call 2b: “challenge our artists, musicians, and writers to create materials and images that evoke our world’s reality and our response to it.”

Check out Anawim Arts –members, friends, companions, neighbors bringing meaning and mission to life: <https://anawimarts.com> we are connected <http://ibvm.org>

**We welcome any submission of art form or idea from IBVMs, CJs, friends, and acquaintances.**

Anawim Arts has three groups that give it Life:

**The Musicians Group:**

**(IBVM & CJ Sisters join forces:**

1. Madhabi Brahma
2. Deirdre Browne
3. Anne Byrne
4. Fiona Dyball friend of MW
5. Surabhi Fernandes
6. Carina Flaherty
7. Eva Jarouskova
8. Anna Jeong
9. Maristella Kang
10. Carolyn McSwiney
11. Christine Nnassali
12. Victorine Nyang’or
13. Initha P
14. Santrina Raymond Tumuslime

**The Steering Committee:**

- Arlene Ashack, IBVM
- Deirdre Bannon, IBVM
- Annie Brohmam, IBVM
- Jen Bromham, IBVM
- Deirdre Browne, IBVM
- Susan Daily, IBVM
- Clotilde de Maroussem, IBVM
- Santrina Raymond, IBVM

**The Board:** visit the website for photos and info:

- (Home and the Leadership)
- Arlene Ashack
- Gail Hoffman
- Pat Irr, OSF
- Karen Kuchar
- Cari Shields

Where artists and would-be artists of written, visual and media arts support and inspire each other to find joy in the creative process and deepen their spirituality.





# BICENTENARY PROJECTS

*The mercies of the lord  
I will sing forever.*

As we continue celebrating the Teresa Ball Bicentery across the Institute, provinces\regions have planned to carry out different activities as follows:

Australia & S E Asia: Province Circle of friends have been invited to plant trees across the year whether in balconies, backyards, school properties, or by linking with local organisations. They hope to honour their 'Green Irish' heritage by greening the world.

Eastern Africa: They are combining the centenary and bicentenary celebrations and integrating the two. They have organised talks for staff and students. Strategic plans in progress.

Mauritius: Activities are being planned for the schools and communities.

South Asia: They have kept the 8th of every month as a day dedicated to Teresa Ball in communities and schools. They have organized webinars and exhibitions involving staff,

students and parents to share on the 1<sup>st</sup> 20 years of the Institute in India.

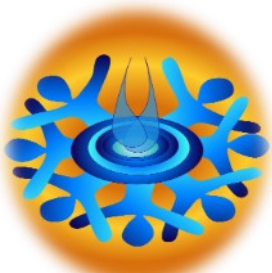
Canada: They have started a Memory healing garden in Maryholme.

Peru-Ireland: In partnership with Ireland, Peru has started a project called "Ireland Blossoms in Peru": together with the schools there will be planting of medicinal and decomposing gardens. The communities have been asked to do landscaping in front of houses and churches.

U. S. A: The region JPIC office and Companions have started recycling projects in all areas where they are.

England and Spain: Plans in process.

As we look ahead to GC'22 in Manresa next year we rejoice at the participation, enthusiasm and eagerness with which every member in the Institute, extended planning group and the planning group have been involved. The responses and feedback received have been heartening and deep. We seem to be asking ourselves similar questions as we search together. Let us continue along this journey as the count down to the GC'22 has started, and we have only 11 months to go. Stars aligned, Covid mitigation implemented around the world, we will have the Chapter in person. Thank you all for your generosity of spirit along this journey.



COUNT-DOWN  
TO GC '22

## CROSS MISSIONING



Irene Reynolds



Mary Kamotho



Anne Donnelly

### Put your hand into God's and trust.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021, **Mary Kamotho** IBVM left Kenya for a new mission in Zambia. Upon arrival, she reported to Monze Mission Hospital, in the Diocese of Monze, Zambia. She spent two and a half weeks in this hospital getting acquainted and experiencing the Zambian medical system.

Mary sat for the General Nursing Council Exam as part of a requirement to obtain a provisional Nursing Practice Certificate. She secured a provisional Practice Licence that gives her the credential to carry on with her assigned responsibilities as nurse and educator while awaiting Registration confirmation after six months.

For the past seven and a half years, Mary was an employee at Mater Misericordiae Hospital Nursing College Nairobi, Kenya, and worked as a full-time staff member. Mary was a valued educator, nurse practitioner, colleague, and team member in the hospital. Alongside her many responsibilities at the hospital, Mary was a part-time member of the IBVM Eastern Africa Province leadership team.

In moving across borders Mary was very positive and generous to leave ministries in Kenya that she loved. We are grateful as Mary takes on this new ministry to go to where the need is greatest in the new Nursing College in Lukulu, Zambia scheduled to open 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### Congratulations and Happy return to Anne and Irene.

It is time to kick back and enjoy. May this next chapter of your life bring you endless blessings to continue doing the things you love.

# TERTIANSHIP



**Top L to R:** Eileen Linehan, Tertian Director Ireland, Clotilde De Maroussem, Mauritius, Jane Francis Mulongo, Kenya

**Middle row:** Madhabi Brahma, Nirmala Minj, Josephine Burh, India

**Bottom row:** Christine Nnassali, Kenya, Monica Suchiang, India

Eileen Linehan is accompanying the Tertians and has developed a robust online program for the sisters participating in the Tertianship this year. Together with all the online guest contributors, retreat directors and province support people we know the experience will bring for much life and light to all the participants. While the pandemic continues to have its way with the world, we know the Spirit continues to move through us and in us and we congratulate the following Sisters for their willingness to accept the challenge and opportunity to experience the school of the heart online this year.

## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

With gratitude we remember, celebrate and believe in the life and mission of our Institute around the world.

**Frances Teresa Ball Bicentenary 1821**, Mary Ward's Institute landed in Ireland—visit Launch video if you missed it on August 12, 2021 See IBVM Rome YouTube: [https://youtu.be/RoIU8z\\_Ymow](https://youtu.be/RoIU8z_Ymow)

Around the world members are planting trees, upgrading recycling projects, implementing Laudato Si initiatives, building more energy-efficient infrastructure.

For more: follow celebrations and news: [www.ibvm.org](http://www.ibvm.org)

**Darjeeling founded in 1846** Mother Teresa M. Mons along with Mary Joseph Hogan, three sisters and an orphan girl in the entourage, started their journey on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1846. A perilous expedition with rain as their constant companion, they journeyed up the river Ganges for seven weeks. They reached Darjeeling 10<sup>th</sup> October 1846. The inaugural Mass was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 followed by cultural programming online. Follow the **Loreto Convent Darjeeling YouTube** channel for more information and upcoming events.

Teresa Dease and four companions land in **Toronto Canada September 16, 1847**.

In collaboration with St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto and the Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters a *five online lecture series* has begun. The first lecture on October 18 honoured the contributions of the CSJ (170 yrs) and the Loretto IBVM (175 yrs) to higher education at SMC for over 100 years. The third lecture on Social Justice and the fifth one on the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission will be hosted and led by IBVM. We will hold the BIG celebration when we can gather students, alumnae, friends, etc. together post Covid and also when the renovation of Loretto Abbey High School is completed so the chapel can be used. This may mean it will be in 2023: celebrations and news: [www.ibvm.ca](http://www.ibvm.ca)

**Eastern Africa 1921** six sisters arrived in Mombasa on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1921, Dolores Stafford, Raphael Gordon, Borgin O'Shaughnessy, Catherine Beauvais, Francis Teresa Murphy and Sixtus Naughton. On that same day they embarked on a journey to Msongari in Nairobi, where they laid the first Foundation. From this one mission, 24 other missions have since been established. On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021, being the province actual founding day, the sisters held celebrations in their communities in thanksgiving for the founding sisters. The communities had mass/prayers, special meals, charitable outreaches and care of the earth-oriented activities.

Srs: Evangeline Latorre, Cuqui Hormaechea, Irene Reynolds, Begoña Goyoaga, Itziar Arteagoitia, Angeles Pereda, Josefa Rodrigues. New foundation in **Peru, South America October 12, 1981**, foundation started from Spain. Muted celebrations because of Covid opening liturgy being held on Facebook 26<sup>th</sup> October commemorating the first Sisters arrival in Lamud. Good friend Fr. Magno Villacres will help to lead the celebrations. Fr. Magno was in secondary school in Lamud when the Sisters arrived. 21<sup>st</sup> November the Sisters from Spain will join in another liturgical celebration in Baca Flor and there will be a celebrative walk down memory lane!



# FORMATION AROUND THE INSTITUTE



Leonela Tilman (left) Rosalina Belo (right) in Timor-Leste

We rejoice as God continues to bless us with Novices around the world. Currently we have Leonela Tilman and Rosalina Belo in **Timor-Leste**. Both are first year novices and due to the pandemic, they are doing their first year Novitiate in Timor-Leste as it's a challenge to move to the Philippines and have Formators to journey with them.

In **Eastern Africa** our Novices are busy attending an inter religious online course. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year Novices Shova Christine Costa, Julia Wanjiku Munene, Delphinah Morakera Marube, Belinda Shilwatso Isoyi and Jeniffer Malia Musembi are in the process of preparation for their First Profession which is on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021. While the 1<sup>st</sup> year Novices Irine Cherono Ngenoh, Catherine Kasyoka Mutua, Natalia Bochere Omambia and Susan Tonui Chepngetich are in the process of preparation for their 30 days retreat. They will be glad for your prayer support during this important time.



**Front row:** 1<sup>st</sup> year novices from left to right: Irine, Catherine, Natalia and Susan.

**Standing:** 2<sup>nd</sup> year novices from left to right: Shova, Julia, Delphinah, Belinda and Jeniffer.



**L to R:** Rohita Tirkey, Janifa Kerketta, Teresa Rai, Puspa Rai, Genevieve Nongtdu and Sheetal Julitha Tirkey

In **South Asia** the two 2<sup>nd</sup> year novices Rohita Tirkey and Sheetal Julitha Tirkey are immersed in their Apostolic Experiences in the centers run by the Missionary sisters of Charity for those mentally and physically challenged and weak with other ailments. The 1st Year novices Genevieve Nongtdu, Janifa Kerketta, Puspa Rai and Teresa Rai are busy focusing on Institute study along with Scripture and English. They enjoy their Sunday ministry to the sub-stations for communion services and visit houses and take the communion to the sick people.

**New arrivals:** The three new candidates in Eastern Africa Julia Ruguru Njuki, Winfred Wangui Kiarie and Calsine Moraa Momanyi are enjoying their time as they get to know us in different communities in Kenya.



**L to R:** Julia Ruguru Njuki, Winfred Wangui Kiarie and Calsine Moraa Momanyi



Justa Mutarubukwa Fidel

## **Final Profession:**

**Justa Mutarubukwa Fidel** in Kenya who is originally from Tanzania was excited to make her Final profession on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021. When asked how she feels as she prepared for her Final Commitment Justa spontaneously responded, "I am grateful to God for the gift of my Vocation and for his faithfulness in my life. I feel happy as I commit myself totally to do his will and continue experiencing his LOVE. I move into the future with confidence in 'God who is my light and salvation' (her motto). All for the greater glory of God." Our good wishes and blessings accompany Justa as we celebrate.

# INTRODUCING: A. NIRMALA



Nirmala Arul joins our community here at Casa Loreto in Rome. Her bright energy and desire to serve comes through in her imitable spirit to listen, grow and contribute to the mission of the Institute into the future. Originally from Tamil Nadu a southern state of India, Nirmala has been a member of the Institute for 24 years. Nirmala comes to us from Kolkata where she was one of the full-time members of the South Asia Leadership Team. Prior to that she was immersed in Secondary School Education administration, JPIC, UN Ngo, Friends of Mary Ward in schools along with Child Protection initiatives and service learning. A humble and eager self-starter, avid reader, student of innovation and trailblazer, Nirmala comes to us with great enthusiasm to take up this new mission bringing all her passion and energy into finding and creating links and networks across our Institute for future sustainability, communication and oneness. We welcome A. Nirmala. You can welcome her too: [mission@ibvmgen.org](mailto:mission@ibvmgen.org)



In June we had an evaluation with the Ambassadors of each Province or area to take the pulse of how the process was going. It seems that most of the people were happy to keep going in this phase of getting to know each other, doing things together and establishing bonds.



We are happy to continue the process where we left off in June and continue to make our way as we come together.

During this time, we have realized that we need to share not only who we are in both parts of the Mary Ward family but also to name our fears, our resistances, our hopes, our energies in this process. We heard the need for information, and we hope in this second phase we can go forward in this sense.

More good news to communicate; there is a new initiative taking place in the grassroot that some of you already know; the mission in Morocco is being supported now by Maria López IBVM Spain and Victoria Ripa Suberviola, CJ Spain Province. This is another small sign of our mission together as One Body. We wish them all the best in this step taken with so much enthusiasm.

Once more it is bringing to LIFE what we say so many times "Never do alone what we can do better together". Liliana Castro, CJ has joined the Peruvian Region to support the mission and to share her life with our sisters there. We also welcome Liliana, wishing her the best. Let us support these two Missions and sisters with our prayers and blessings. Thank you!



## UNION