



COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

STORIES OF OUR LIFE AND MISSION



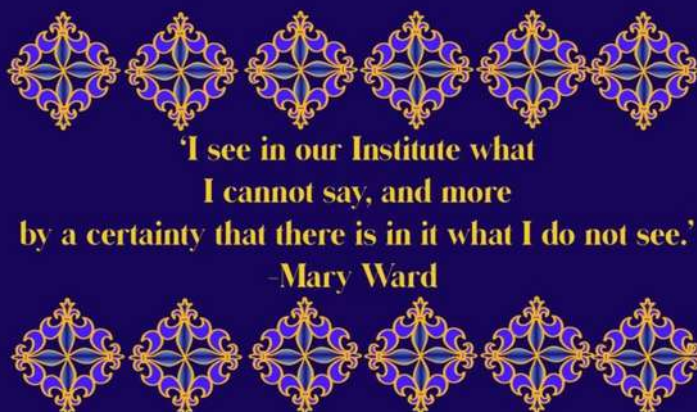
MARY WARD FAMILY AROUND THE WORLD



Do you know the countries where CJ/IBVM members and companions are?
Answers on the last page. Find us on the map!

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Bind Us Together: Joint Leadership Meetings Continue...

There are always serious conversations going on. Copious notes taken. Occasions documented in word and photography.

While there is seriousness there is much laughter, cups of tea and strong coffee. There is the occasional glass of wine, sometimes drumming and dancing with more than one or two long stories regaling the group with experiences of official visits, meetings or formal functions of importance.

You might imagine that we pray in earnest for matters that affect our life and mission together. You might imagine that these prayers call to mind the happenings in our Provinces, Regions and communities across the world where challenges, changes, decisions, disruptions, pandemic, hopes and dreams come to life.

You could be sure that we do not take lightly the responsibility we have to be good news, to be good stewards, to be good leaders and good decision-makers to stretch and grow the *kin-dom*. You could be sure that your stories are in our midst.

You could be sure that we are not wasting time on frivolous things, but we are making memories that will sustain us for the journey, the work and the mission that you have sent us here to do.

Together with all of you, we are the *women bearing witness* to this moment of our growth and development in the dream that a woman more than 400 hundred years ago envisioned but could not imagine what we would become today. We are diverse and wise woman being beacons of hope and doers of much for the greater glory of God.

continues....





....continues

Our journey towards union is concrete action toward that fact. Let us live and work, laugh and mourn, love and reconcile all that is gift for our life in the world today.

We have an opportunity to do more, be more, and live more fully into this dream that is our destiny, our legacy, and our charism.

The Spirit beckons us on. You are all here with us on this journey. And that is why with laughter and joy and with arms folded together in one moving action, we sing,

“Bind us Together Lord” because we are already one.



A Two Minute “private” Audience!

He approached us slowly, making his way around the entire small square behind the Bronze Door. There were about 500 hundred people there. There was a reverent hush in the crowd as he made his way to greet and bless the pilgrims who had come to keep his company. We were beneath the hot sun. After hours of waiting and then the audience service, he approached us. “Please, please Canonise her!” Igora Pinto, IBVM said as she held out a picture of Mary Ward. He stepped closer to us. His eyes fell on the picture and he motioned a blessing. He looked at us, “But we need a miracle,” the humble pontiff offered. “We are the miracle!” Igora insisted. “Look

at us and we are spread around the world in faith because of her. From Kenya, Ireland, USA, India – we’re everywhere!” His sad smile recognized our plea behind the masks. Almost in unison in word, gesture and adoring eyes we said, “We love you!” And he said, “Pray for me.”



The Process of Union will Beautify Us

Seraphina Kim CJ

Seraphina Kim is a young Korean CJ sister living in Seoul.

When and how did you get to know the congregation?

I was baptized at the age of twelve and since then, even though I did not know Jesus, I could feel God holding and protecting me. Before I met Jesus, I was a shy child but Jesus gave me confidence.

After graduating from university, I started teaching Chemistry. At that time I began to feel that I had an appointment with God, and that after three years of working with students, I would discern my vocation. That appointment was always somewhere in the back of my mind. Suddenly my grandmother passed away and I started thinking it was time for me to go towards that appointment, so I took some time off to travel. My plan was to visit almost every enclosed congregation in Korea. While I was visiting a convent of enclosed Dominican sisters, I met a woman who talked to me about Mary Ward and gave me a piece of paper with the address of a CJ convent. This is how I first got to know the Congregation of Jesus. I was thinking about enclosed

life, but God led me to the opposite - the CJ, the congregation most engaged with the world.

After a long wandering, I met Jesus deeply through the 8- day Spiritual Exercises, and the root of my life changed. I felt so naturally that Jesus led me to the Congregation of Jesus, and I began religious life here as a Mary Ward companion.

What inspires you about the work of the congregation? How does the vision and mission of Mary Ward interconnect with your own values and life?

I feel very close to Mary Ward for the faith she had in God. Even when she was in prison, she never doubted. I always had this question before: who am I? Since joining the congregation in 2007 I have come to know who I am, I realize how God loves me, I am vibrant, I can feel my heart beating. Now I know that if I cannot be with God, I cannot be. Just as Mary has always stood before God as she is, I am being invited to God with her every day. And the qualities of freedom, justice and sincerity which are at the core of Mary Ward's spirit inspire my commitment day by day.

Can you share something of your life as a sister?

In our community in Seoul we are 11 sisters. In the first half of this year, I stayed in the Philippines. At the moment, I am a coordinator of Mary Ward JPIC for Korea, and since final vows I have been studying Theology (ecology). After my first vows I had been a chemistry teacher in Daejeon, Saint Mary's Girls' High School. This school's motto is "A woman who will devote herself to justice, truth and love" It still remains as a loud echo in my mind.

Education, Ecology, Women, Youth... I would like to serve in areas where these things related to God.

What are your feelings/thoughts about the union? How do you see the union of the IBVM/CJs benefitting the network moving forward? Which are the challenges?

We have been discussing the union in our community and at first, some of our sisters had a lot of concerns about it. For example, we are already very busy with the normal activities and we don't know how time-consuming the whole process will be. However, as time goes by, we are letting go of prejudices, worries or vague expectations and we try to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us all.

In the process towards unity, we think our own mission and identity, will become clearer. We will listen more sensitively to the sound of the Holy Spirit to discern how God leads us in this time. On a personal and communal level, I think this journey in itself will purify us. Two Mary Ward Congregations, which are similar, but have taken different journeys, will look at each other as if they were looking in a mirror. Even more, we will be revealed as we are, in both our strengths and our weaknesses. And I believe that through this, we shall experience more deeply the touch of God who is working in a new way.

I also think this journey will beautify us. I see us sitting in a wider open circle as companions, as in that iconic painting of Mary Ward. Although we are different God has given us this precious opportunity and we will not waste it.

At the external level, do you think there will be a difference in the perception of the congregation after the union? And after the canonization of Mary Ward?

It happens that since last year, I have been meeting with a group of women, who had some things in common. As women, we have experienced concerns and frustrations about how we should speak and act in the church. When I introduced Mary Ward to these women, they were deeply impressed and said that Mary Ward, who has shown an example in church history that women can do great things even in persecution, is a great hope for them. (Mary Ward is not very well known here in Korea)

This experience makes me think that if she is canonized, it will give inspiration and hope to more people, especially women, for their own mission. I think that when we are united and, even more, when she is canonized, more people will have the desire to know her and our congregation.



The first CJ house was opened in **Seoul in 1964** with a group of Korean sisters who had done their initial religious formation in the Munich Nymphenburg Province.

The development has been rapid. By 1973 the Korean mission and membership had grown sufficiently strong to become a province.

Now approximately **234 sisters** are engaged in a variety of missions and recently the Korean Province has opened missions centres in China, Mongolia and Myanmar.



The re-Union will give Us a Stronger Voice

Mary Kamotho IBVM

Mary Kamotho, who has always lived and worked in Kenya, dedicating herself to improving health and education in her country, decided to become a Loreto sister by family tradition, by formation and by inspiration. She is very grateful that the re-union of the congregations operating in the name of Mary Ward is happening in her time

When and how you did you get to know the congregation?

I got to know the congregation as a child since my aunt (Teresa Wanja) is a Loreto sister. I also attended a Loreto secondary school where we had Loreto sisters on staff. While in college, I was in a parish youth group that had a Loreto sister as an advisor. All these experiences impacted on my life and therefore on my decision to become a Loreto sister. Plus of course, the books I read on Mary Ward which inspired me greatly as a young girl. I joined the congregation in the year 2002.

What inspires you about the work of the congregation?

I am inspired by the diversity of our engagement with the world in different parts of the world. I am inspired by the fact that each member brings a different kind of giftedness which they then generously give to the world.

How does the vision and mission of Mary Ward inter-connect with your own values and life?

Mary Ward had a particular saying that has inspired me throughout my life as a Loreto sister. "Many think it nothing to do ordinary things, but to do ordinary things well by God's grace will maintain fervour." I believe this is the core of my calling. I may not necessarily be called to do great things, but to do ordinary things well, to find God wherever I am missioned and to meet God in the people I am missioned to. This is what gives meaning to my life daily.

Would you like to share something of your life as a sister?

I joined the congregation as a registered nurse and immediately after profession, I was missioned to work in an informal settlement (Mukuru) as a clinical nurse in a health facility owned by Christian brothers. I worked with patients with TB and HIV, nutrition programs for vulnerable children as well as running clinics for pregnant and lactating mothers. The health facility also offered primary health care to the community where we visited the clients in their homes. I found this to be a very enriching ministry where I experienced the community spirit of Mukuru people and the care the poor

people there had for each other.

Which is your mission at the moment?

I live in Loreto Convent Valley Road. It is a school community. Within the compound, we have a primary and secondary school. We are eight sisters in the community currently. Five work in the two schools and three of us work away from the compound. I am currently a community leader of the house. I am also a tutor in a nursing college, something that I also enjoy doing. In the course of my work, I take the opportunity to impart on the nursing students human and Christian values and hope that I will take part in forming a generation of holistic and caring nurses.



Is there any other ministry where you would like to serve?

I am open to serve in any other ministry and in any country. Other than working as a nurse, I enjoy teaching pastoral and Catechism. Plus, I love teaching on Mary Ward, something I have occasionally done with our Candidates.

What are your feelings/thoughts about the union?

I am full of hope as regards the re-union. I am also grateful that it may happen in our time after very many attempts in the history of our Institute. I see the strive towards re-union as a sign of the active presence of the Spirit of God among us.

How do you see the union of the IBVM/CJs benefitting

the network moving forward? Which are the challenges?

I see the re-union benefitting us by widening our scope of engaging with the world. It may also open up our worlds so that as we engage with parts of the world we have never been before, we may gain newer and broader perspectives. I believe the re-union will give us a stronger voice together for justice, for women and the vulnerable in our world. The challenge I see may be only one. Each of our two Institutes have their own culture acquired over the years. Although we share very much in common, yet we have lived independent of each other since inception. Therefore, adapting to each other Institute's culture may be an initial challenge.

What do you hope for the future of the congregation?

My hope is that as Institute, we continue to grow into the dream of God of us. And that we may have the spirit of Mary Ward who "listened to God's deep dream for her and felt a longing to respond". My prayer then is that as Institute we may listen deeply to God's dream for us today and desire to respond.



The Loreto Sisters arrived in Kenya in 1921.

They started the first school for African girls in East Africa in 1936: Loreto Limuru, about 25 miles from Nairobi. Before that education for African girls was unknown. They changed culture.

In 2013, on the 50th anniversary of Kenyan independence, the sisters received a special award from the President in recognition of their services to education.

You can watch the **Early Loreto video project** on Youtube [here](#).



WE ARE FROM THE SAME FAMILY

Mariana Ojeda CJ

Mariana Ojeda is a member of the CJ, born in Paraná, Entre Ríos, Argentina. She is currently in Colombia where she attended a course for Formators during 5 months. She was supposed to travel to Peru after the course, but the pandemic arrived and she still remains in the country.

When and how did you get to know the congregation?

It was 2002 and I was participating in some Spiritual Exercises that a group of Sisters was giving to young people. I was at that time in the final stage of my discernment. I entered the Institute in February 2003, the year in which the Church approved the adoption of the Constitutions "ad maximum" and the name "of Jesus" for the Congregation

What inspires you about the work of the congregation?

Universal mission, that is to say, all evangelizing action is within our charism. Therefore, there is not something specific or limited to which we dedicate ourselves. That gives a lot of richness and diversity, a lot of freedom to discern the mission. My vocation is oriented to accompaniment in all areas, whether social or educational, especially with women and young people.

How does the vision and mission of Mary Ward interconnect with your own value and life?

Coming out of adolescence, I was called by Jesus to "visit him in prison" (Mt 25,36). That marked a before and after in my life. For five years I was part of the Prison Ministry of my hometown and in that time I discovered that all people were created out of love and to love, just and free, and that truth is the basis of that freedom. Also that we are beloved children of God, and that there is room for everyone

in his Merciful Father-Mother heart. During that time I was listening and discerning the call to follow Jesus more closely, in religious life. The essential values of our charism, received through Mary Ward, of Truth, Justice and Freedom, are fundamental in my life and vocation. I also consider essential, as she well tells us, that as human beings we can become fully what we are, and reach the scope for which we were created, being unique and unrepeatable for God and humanity, and thus give glory to God with all our lives.

Would you like to share something of your life as a sister?

I would like to share the gift that it meant for me to participate in 2012 in a Meeting of the Mary Ward Family in Latin America (Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Chile and Argentina). It was the first time that I had participated in a meeting of this kind, and I had the gift of God to feel in the depths of my being, together with a sister with whom we shared this grace, that we were all sisters of the same Congregation. The language, the experiences, the love for Mary, the spirituality, the mission; we resembled each other in everything and we empathized without forcing anything, like a flow of the Spirit between us. Since then, in Latin America we have gone on sharing many occasions and meetings which have bound us together and made union a familiar experience. With the sister I mentioned, who lived in Ecuador at that time and is in Spain today, to this day and beyond geographical distances, we celebrate and share the joy of each step that is taken, as a realization of the grace received at that time.

Is there any other country/ministry where you would like to serve?

Not long ago I began to give and accompany Spiritual Exercises in different areas, to different people and groups, at their request. I consider this as a call from God, to which I would like to continue responding with all availability and preparation. I would also like to be closer to all the “peripheral” realities, sharing the mission with other congregations/organizations that work in networks in the most vulnerable social realities, to which I have always felt called. At this moment in my life, I feel available to go wherever God wants. From the beginning of my training, from my first experience outside my own country, I felt called to live what Mary Ward recommends: “Wherever you find yourself, remember that it is not the place but the practices which sanctify.” Since then, I ask God to grant me this grace to live his call to the full.

Which are your feelings about the union?

My feelings are of total adhesion and deep joy, because I consider that it is the missing step for us to be a single Family of Mary Ward as it was in the origin, since it was never her desire or intention that we should be two or more religious families. It came about as an accident of history. The complex historical realities caused this reality that we have called “branches of the same tree”, but to be a single family again, to return to the origin, is the characteristic of God manifested by Jesus: “that they all be One”, and I do not doubt that what is wanted or requested by Jesus is also wanted by Mary Ward. I consider that being on this path is the source of our/my Joy.

How do you see the union of the IBVM/CJs benefitting the network moving forward? Which are the challenges?

I believe that unification will help us to complement and enrich ourselves from similarities and also from differences. I have the feeling that both congregations are accompanying different realities, perhaps in different places and ways, which I believe will teach us and help us broaden our horizons, love and service. The challenge is that we continue to grow on the path of knowing each other, creating links from what unites us and makes us family, from the Spirit, and thus walk the history that unfolds in the future, in truth, justice and freedom.

At the external level, do you think there will be a difference in the perception of the congregation after the union?

On the one hand, I consider that there will be no differ-

ences in perception, since both congregations share and live the same charism, we are encouraged by the same Spirit, and through shared experiences, when we are together we feel that grace between us, that familiarity that makes us say to each other: “we are from the same family.” It is something that cannot be explained much in words, it is only felt and experienced from the reality itself. At the same time, if I had to say that there could be a difference, I think it would be positive, something like a family strengthened and happy to be able to meet again after many years of being away through circumstances beyond their control.

And after the canonization of Mary Ward?

I believe that the canonization of Mary Ward will be the result of the unification, and at the same time, I believe that the Final Unification is the miracle that Canonizes her. From my belief and feeling, the unification itself confirms and canonizes her as the founder of this family in 1609, and confirms what she told us: “Everything that is not in Him and for Him, will disappear with time.” After so much misunderstanding, persecution, judgment and condemnation, God confirms that “some other thing” and “Take the same of the Society” came from Him. Living this historic moment is a gift from God for which I am constantly grateful.





We are Praying daily for Mary Ward's Canonisation

Mary de Souza IBVM

Mary De Souza is a Community Leader in Loreto Shillong, in Meghalaya, a State in North East India. She is a Goan but was born and brought up in Kolkata. After joining IBVM she moved from West Bengal to Lucknow, Delhi and Mumbai and, for the last year and a half, she has been serving in Shillong. She has written a book on Mary Ward for the younger sisters which became very popular among the Loreto schools in India and has been translated into the local languages. She has written two other books too, on Teresa Ball and on her personal Reflections on topics she feels passionate about.

When and how did you get to know the congregation?

I have been a Loreto student from childhood. The school was a ten-minute walk from home so we spent a lot of time there. I had a lovely relationship with the sisters. Even during holiday time programmes and outings would be organized for us. The dedication and commitment of the sisters struck me.

How do the vision and mission of Mary Ward interconnect with your own values and life?

Being open and ready to be of service when the need arises is what strikes me about Mary Ward and our work. Referring all to God and being in tune with the Spirit and ready and willing to go wherever the Spirit leads is something I have tried to live by.

Would you like to share something of your life as a sister?

Looking back over these 50 years of my life as a sister I have deep gratitude to the Lord and all the numerous people who have entered my life. I have enjoyed life and taken risks and have learnt from experiences. Being a Primary School teacher, the little ones have brought out the best in me. The various ministries I have been involved in and my prayer life have been very much connected. My commitment to the Lord and my communion with Him has kept me going through life with a certain amount of positivity. The days of retreat and reflection have kept me focused as to why I have come and why I do what I do. God calls daily to a deeper companionship with Him/Her and to a more generous giving of myself in service. I can never be sure of what God is going to ask of me each day and that makes life very interesting.

In which Ministry were you involved for more than 5 years?

I have always served our people here in India, though I have been on the International Formation Team for three years. I had done my Teachers' Training before I entered religious life and so I was able to take on the responsibility of working with little ones and guiding teachers in Primary schools. I have done this for 25 years. I was in the role of Formator for 15 years and Community Leader for 7

years. I have received so much more than I have given of love and kindness.

Where are you based now and what is your role/activity?

We have a community of eight members – the Principal of the school is Sr. Mercia, Sr. Euphemia is connected with Pastoral work, there are five student sisters and myself. We have a girls' school from Nursery to Class XII with 1,246 children, 49 teachers, 5 office staff and 20 support staff. We have a hostel on the campus for 30 young women who come from distant villages and want to continue their education in Shillong. They attend the neighbouring schools and colleges. They are Class XI, Class XII and B.A students. My role is to keep in touch with what is going on and to be available and sensitive.

Is there any other country/ministry where you would like to serve?

The ministry I would love to get involved in is Spiritual Counselling. I haven't had much training in it but I have attended a short course in St. Anselm's, England. Besides, I am a good listener and the many years of being in the formation ministry have given me the experience I would need, to go into this ministry on a full-time basis.

What are your feelings/thoughts about the union? How do you see the union of the IBVM/CJs benefitting the network moving forward? What are the challenges?

When I was in Formation I felt that union had to come about and so I took the novices to the CJ Novitiate in Patna to join them for classes in 2000. This was a good open-

ing for both sides to envision the possibility of becoming one. I am looking forward to the day when that will happen. It seems the most obvious thing that we should be working towards since Mary Ward is our foundress and we have the same spirituality. It will also give us a wider variety of ministries and areas to reach out in service. We need to have a team visioning the future of religious life and encourage sisters to think 'out of the box'. I feel religious life will have to change radically.

At the external level, do you think there will be a difference in the perception of the congregation after the union?

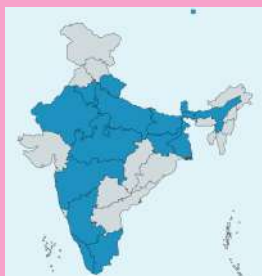
We will lose the 'aura' the name 'Loreto' has here in India, at least. We will become one of a larger group. Now we are known quite well individually by our Generalate team because we are a smaller number but that may not be the case when we come together. The CJs to a certain extent are quite traditional, or so they seem to be. This could take us back a few steps.

And after the canonization of Mary Ward?

We are praying daily for Mary Ward's canonization and so there will be great rejoicing when that happens. All those who are in any way connected with us have come to know about Mary Ward, and have come to appreciate the wonderful woman she is and the impact she has had on the role of women in the world. When Mary Ward is canonized it will make us all believe in a Church that is open to a woman's perspective. Her canonization will give us greater credibility too.



IBVM in India owes its origin to a visit by Dr Bakhaus to Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham, Ireland, in 1840 to request Mother Teresa Ball to send sisters to set up a school for Catholic children in Kolkata. Mother Teresa Ball sent 7 Loreto Sisters and 5 Postulants. They sailed on a ship named The Scotia. This intrepid band left Dublin on September 1, 1841 from Ireland and landed at Babughat, Kolkata on December 29, 1841. **Today IBVM is present in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.**



Patna (Bihar) was the first mission of the **CJ in India** in 1853. Sisters from Munich came to Patna in response to the invitation by the then Bishop Anastasius Haartman. Allahabad was the second in 1866. From there the sisters have spread out across India founding new communities and new schools for girls. **Today CJ is present in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, South Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**



Campaigning against Human Trafficking

IMELDA POOLE IBVM



Albania and the whole of the South Balkans is in a troubled state, not only because of Covid 19 deaths and cases, but also the political disturbance on many of our borders is gathering momentum.

Mary Ward Loreto continues with the feeding and health care programmes, serving nearly 500 families and steadily opening the lines for online counselling and care. In small groups, training programmes have continued for human and economic development related to the MWL education project and service learning and ethics in schools.

These continue on and offline. Much of this training work has been creatively accomplished online where the facilities of internet are available, otherwise the MWL staff, with good PPE equipment, are training in the villages and small towns, mainly in the mountain regions. MWL is now functioning in 8 self-managing teams which includes an executive team and a development team.

I have stood back this year from the ongoing work of the Foundation and it is great to see how very well MWL is proceeding in such creative ways during this pandemic. Thanks to the MWI Spain the main social businesses continue to thrive. The youth empowerment projects continue

to function and aim for economic empowerment mainly in these times towards social businesses in their communities. Thanks to MW International Spain, Misesan Cara, MWIF and other donors many projects at grass roots are functioning in exciting ways despite Covid 19 and despite the financial crisis which MWL faced in a big way last June in 2019. I want to thank from my heart, the IBVM and CJ Generalate for supporting us at this time of crisis.

Consequent to this finance crisis and at a timely moment, I was introduced to a fund raiser in the UK who has worked with me since last July, 2019, in developing a fund raising strategy. At the same time MWL has set up a development team in Albania.

The expertise of this team in Albania has been really consoling to watch, grow and develop. They are now gradually raising funds necessary for the mission, step by step. It is hard work but they are excited in the realisation that this is giving them so many opportunities to implement the essential grass roots work and to raise awareness about the brutal exploitation and trading of human beings today.

After a fund-raising lunch and 20+121 conversations since last November 2019, a new UK Foundation has been estab-

lished which has come forth from the MWL Foundation and their needs in Albania and the needs emerging in the UK. It is a necessary Foundation for developing mission cross border, looking into the UK from an outside perspective.

The name of the new Foundation is Anti Modern Slavery Alliance (AMSA). The Trustees have signed up to the Foundation as have 12 members of the newly established working board. These people include all the disciplines relevant to the mission from law enforcement, legal aid, health, social work, psychology, research and the Corporates.

The three pronged objectives are: to bring the corporates to the front of the funding needs and to engage them at grass roots in combating the crime especially down the supply chains, secondly, to open Kite marked, much needed, legal aid centres which will be with trauma informed care, human rights law, and victim protected practice, thirdly to form an action based alliance, not reinventing any wheels, but creating a strong advocacy voice to bring about justice in this whole complex work to combat human trafficking. MWL will receive a proportion of all funding as part of the partnership between the two Foundations in Albania and the UK. We plan in the next year to develop a Centre of Hope in Tirana, Albania, a dream that has stayed on the back burner for ten years. Meantime we pray for the continued care and development of MWL in the hands of the amazing Albanian staff. God directs our path and we feel grateful.

You may be wondering about the ongoing development of our mission within the NGO, 'Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation' (RENATE). This goes from strength to strength, due to the innumerable task groups, country groups, core group, Trustees and Board.



We hope you managed to link into a recent event, the Film Festival on line, which was to raise awareness against Human Trafficking. If you were not able to do this on October 18th then you can see the film of the event on RENATE youtube site.

The website of RENATE and the RENATE events website give you regular updates of upcoming events and news so please have a look and enjoy the read.

www.renate-europe.net

Thank you to everybody for your support and prayers throughout these years of IBVM in Albania. They are the power house behind the action and we are all grateful.



Mary Ward Loreto continues with the feeding and health care programmes, serving nearly 500 families and has steadily opened the lines for online counselling





2020 CELEBRATION

The Season of Creation runs through from **1st September to 4th October** each year. This year, the theme of the celebration was: **The Jubilee of the Earth!** It has roots in the Old Testament, Leviticus 25 which calls us to renew, repair and restore the earth, Our Common Home.

The Season of Creation is an opportunity to remember and renew our commitment to the care of the earth and all that is in it. The call of Pope Francis in Laudato Si resonated within the Mary Ward JPIC network and we are grateful for all the activities being carried out around the world.

The season kicked off with the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1st September, with a beautiful prayer shared with us by Kathryn Keigher IBVM. We, from the MW JPIC office prepared a short booklet as a resource for prayer and reflection, inviting our members to reflect on the four basic elements – Fire, Water, Air, and Earth as well as the 2 prayer services in English and Spanish mainly for the JPIC coordinators at the province level who were also encouraged to organize events for their provinces and networks.

Both prayer services were very well attended by JPIC coordinators their colleagues, friends and both Leadership teams. We are grateful that many provinces have had their own celebrations as well as activities throughout the season. Through the activity of each member, in whatever way they can the network achieves more for our Mother Earth. May the season of creation that ended on 4th October become the beginning of our greater commitment for the Earth. Through this effort we all shall be responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Adina Balan and Pauline Macharia JPIC





MARY WARD FAMILY ON THE
CONTINENTS AROUND THE WORLD



North America: Canada, USA

Central and South America: Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Peru

Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Europe: Albania, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Slovakia, Spain, Romania, Russia, UK, Ukraine

Asia: Bangladesh, China, East Timor, India, South Korea, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam

Oceania and Australia: Australia

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IBVMNGO

ibvmunngo.org

A Prayer to the Creator



Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and
war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.

(Fratelli Tutti Encyclical)

Franciscus