

CONECTA

MARCH 2016



In this number

In this number we talk about the Mary Ward Week Celebrations, specially the Pilgrimage to Loreto by our schools in Seville.

We also remember the Province Meeting, with the special visit of Gemma Simmonds, CJ.

On February we also had the visit of Imelda Poole, ibvm, and Ana Stakaj, from Albania. They went to all of our schools and communities in order to raise awareness against trafficking.

Finally, we want to give an special attention to different JPIC questions, such as right to water, education and adequate sanitation.

We hope you will find it interesting.

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PILGRIMAGE TO LORETO



On January, 30th, teachers, students and families from our IBVM schools in Seville went to the Pilgrimage to Loreto Monastery. It was the perfect ending for a whole week dedicated to Mary Ward, who was dead than same day on 1645.

More than 350 persons (children, grandparent, mothers, students...) walked the 10 kilometres from Castilleja to the Monastery.

They started with a short prayer and finished in the monastery with a liturgy. Then, they had time to share their foods and enjoy the

afternoon.

We take this opportunity to thank the Franciscan community by their reception and welcome to the Monastery.

Marcos Aguilar Liso

Pastoral Provincial IBVM

PROVINCE GATHERING

On the 20-21 February, the IBVM Spanish Province had a gathering with the presence of CJ members, and the special participation of Gemma Simmonds, who made a presentation about Mary Ward 'Just Soul'. It was a time to learn, share and enjoy together.



MARY WARD WEEK



During Mary Ward Week we had lots of celebrations: in the schools, the Communities and the different lay groups.



IBVM SCHOOLS AGAINST TRAFFICKING

Along the school year 2015-2016, IBVM schools in Spain are working against human trafficking through the solidarity project presented by Mary Ward Foundation for this year. The project addresses the reality of human trafficking in a comprehensive manner (sexual exploitation, labour, organ trafficking ...) and through material adapted to each school stages.

As a key part of this initiative, this February we had the visit of Imelda Poole, IBVM, and of Ana Stakaj, who are responsible for Mary Ward Loreto in Albania, where they work directly in preventive activities against trafficking and supporting the victims. During their visit, Imelda and Ana have gone to the IBVM schools explaining this reality in Albania to students. At the same time, we took advantage of their presence to organize talks with parents, former students and the general public, to raise awareness of this reality not only in Albania but also here in Spain.



To do this, in Madrid we had the presence of Marta González, Coordinator of Project Hope against trafficking of women in Spain, one of the first initiatives that emerged in our country to fight this scourge. Gonzalez helped us put on board what is happening in our cities and towns, especially in the southern border with the sub-Saharan people coming through it.



Spanish Network against Trafficking

Finally, Mary Ward Foundation managed to convene a large number of the organizations that take part in the Spanish Network against Trafficking to meet with Imelda Poole. The meeting served to meet one another and to share difficulties and examples of good practice. It was also a space for dialogue where future interesting collaboration was opened.



EXPERIENCE IN ASILAH

Stella and Concha share their experience during three months in Asilah in the IBVM mission.



They have visited the families we work with, as well as the teachers in charge of our training programmes. Besides, there was a time to share with the Christian community in Asilah as well as to enjoy the beautiful landscape.



WATER, A RIGHT OR A COMMODITY?

Blanca Bergareche has attended a few workshop related to different JPIC questions: access to water, sanitation and education.



Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in. There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. But due to bad economics or poor infrastructure, every year millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts

some of the world's poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition.

By 2050, at least one in four peo-

ple is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water. [We need to stop this.](#)

WATER SANITATION

On November, 19th, we celebrate the World Toilet Day because still today 2.4 billion People do not have adequate sanitation and 1 billion people still defecate in the open.

Cecilia O'Dywer, our representative in United Nations, took part in this campaign.

