

CONECTA

JUNE 2016



Don't forget refugees

In this number

In this number we share the IBVM news in the Spanish province:

- The work of the Lay Comission,
- Our participation in the last meeting of RENATE
- The day to day life in El Soto, where the older religious live.

Besides, we talk about the good work that is being done in the schools, always working on innovation, Gender Equality and Solidarity.

On the other hand, we share with you very good news: Fundación Mary Ward has been awarded with two prizes from different Spanish publications: one for the project Stop Female Genital Mutilation, carried out by Ephigenia Gachiri, ibvm, in Kenia; and the other for the project “Ethical trading enterprises for young women in Darjeeling, India”, carried out by IBVM sisters on the ground.

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REGUGEE CRISIS

Europe is living the biggest refugee crisis in our history after the Second World War, but we haven't been able to give an adequate answer to the people that are arriving here after leaving their countries. Near one million people has arrived to the UE borders coming from countries like Syria, Afghanistan or Eritrea and they are now living in tents, places with no water sanitations services, without health care, with children under 18 wandering alone across Europe, being badly treated by border polices.

We cannot bear this. That's why we support the campaign by Jesuits: "I am a welcoming Land", in order to encourage governments to offer asylum and refuge to migrants and refugees. In the same way, our schools with the participation of Fundación Mary Ward have put together a campaign to collect first need products for babies and children in the refugee camps: nappies, powdered milk, baby food...

We got thousands of kilos, thanks to the implication of the families and local companies, and they were sent to Katsikas, a refugee camp in Greece, where the NGO Olvidados (Forgotten) is currently working.



LAY COMMISSION

At the beginning of 2016, the IBVM created the 'Lay Commission' in order to work together with secular people. The idea is to reflect together on Mary Ward Charism, the shared mission and the role of lay people. It's an implementation of the fifth GC 2014 Calls: *"Create the oneness that moves us*



REPENSAR CÓMO COMPARTIR
Y CAMINAR JUNTOS/AS
DESDE LA VISION DE MARY WARD.

across boundaries", point 3: *"Develop guidelines and formation/training for members, associates and coworkers so that we minister in a co-equal way"*.

The base came from the Vita Consecrata text (54,1996) :

"One of the fruits of the teaching on the Church as communion has been the growing awareness that her members can and must unite their efforts, with a view to cooperation and exchange of gifts, in order to participate more effectively in the Church's mission. This

helps to give a clearer and more complete picture of the Church herself, while rendering more effective the response to the great challenges of our time, thanks to the combined contributions of the various gifts. (...) Today, many Institutes have come to the conclusion that their charism can be shared with the laity. The laity are therefore invited to share more intensely in the spirituality and mission of these Institutes. We may say that, in the light of certain historical experiences such as those of the Secular or Third Or-

ders, a new chapter, rich in hope, has begun in the history of relations between consecrated persons and the laity.

This commission is formed by six people that have started working and having meetings together with the idea of taking responsibilities, have formation, reflect together and share charism and mission. They are aware that these are "ambitious goals, but they are convinced to be dreamers without losing eye of the reality".

Together we are more

This year, Beatriz López Quesada and Lourdes Arenado, both members of the Lays Commission, took part on the gathering "Juntos somos más" (Together we are more"), celebrated in Madrid.

"It was a really nice experience. There were interesting talks and we shared and learn from others that have already taken relevant steps on that line". We are convinced that this path it's to be done together with IBVM and ourselves.



FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

Encarna Gutiérrez, principal of the BVM School in Leioa (Vizcaya), has been working with us for more than 35 years: first as a teacher, later as the principal and finally as part of our Schools Board.

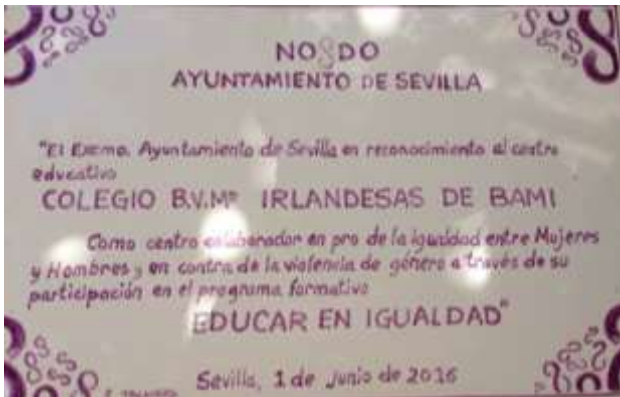
She is much more than a worker for us. And for her, the IBVM is much more than a place to work. We are a family for her, as she is for us.

That's why we will miss her so much. We asked her to keep on helping the Schools Board for one more year, and she has happily agree.

In the pictures on the right, a moment of the farewell party that pupils and teachers organised for her.



EDUCATING IN GENDER EQUALITY



Coeducation is one of the principles of every IBVM school in the world. That's why we are so proud of our school in Bami, Seville, that has been awarded by the City Council as an Educative Centre working on Gender Equality. Congratulations!

INNOVATION IN BVM / LORETO SCHOOLS



We keep on, introducing innovation in our schools. This year, we have had the visit of Robert Swartz, Director of The National Centre for Teaching Thinking, USA. Our schools are being formed on Thinking based Learning. (TBL)

We are using these tools in our daily teaching and the presence of Robert Swartz was very good in order to show us how to improve the use of it.

ACTIVITIES IN EL SOTO

Our community in El Soto (Madrid), is the biggest one in Spain. For them it's very important to feel themselves active, so they are doing lots of activities.

In February they went to the city centre to visit an exposition about Women; in March they had a visit from a psychologist that talked about "life over 65 years old".

But all over the things, what they really like most is the Handcraft workshop: a volunteer teacher leads them in creating products that will later be sold on Fundación Mary Ward. So, they create things and at the same time, they spend their time together working for others.



We will miss them

In the last two months, we have lost two very loved sisters: Mary Dunn, who passed away on 26th April, and María Ybáñez, on 14th May.

Mary Dunn, Irish by birth, had two passions: music –she was an expert in Piano-, and animals. She lived in Spain since she was young, she did her Initial Formation in Castilleja. Later, as a teacher, she worked in Zalla and Las Arenas.

María Ybáñez was born in Madrid. She was passionate about Arts and Reading, she tried to study Journalism, but she wasn't allowed in that moment. She was very innovative in her classes.

May their souls rest in peace.



RENATE

The organization of religious in Europa working against trafficking continues its activities of capacity building. This time, we have worked on lobby and advocacy campaigns.

On march, Pilar Gonzalez Cano, ibvm, and Aurora Moreno, Communications Officer, assisted to RENATE formation (Religious in Europe working against human trafficking and exploitation, leaded by Imelda Poole, ibvm) on lobby and advocacy. Thirty seven people from a total of seventeen countries across Europe, gathered together at the Mater Salvatoris Retreat and Conference Centre, to train on Advocacy and Campaigning, with a view to giving 'a voice to the voiceless.

It was a week of prayer, activities and capacity building, comprising presentations, discussions and active engagement. The week provided participants with an oppor-

tunity to share best practise, familiarise ourselves with the local context and get to know one another as a Network.

Ivonne van de Kar, consultant from the Netherlands, delivered

the two-day training programme on Advocacy and Campaigning.

Full information is available on the RENATE website www.renate-europe.net



Fundación Mary Ward, awarded by its solidarity work

This year, Fundación Mary Ward has been awarded with two prizes for its work. The awarded project have been the one called "Stop Female Genital Mutilation" (FGM), carried on by Ephigenia Gachiri, ibvm, in Kenia, and the one called "Ethical trading enterprises for young women in Darjeeling, India", carried out by IBVM sisters on the ground. We share some of the pictures of the Award Ceremony of Telva, and one of the project awarded by the newspaper ABC. In the links, you can find the videos.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62StBQXlq1s>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8EE_VEeKX8