

# CONNECTA



# In this number

We open with a summary of the historic meeting between the IBVM and the CJ, which took place in Rome in April 27, 2017. Then a summary of the Extended Leadership Meeting 2017 held in Rome.

We talk about the election of the new provincial IBVM Spain, Elena Cerdeiras Checa, replacing Isabel Gortázar, from next July, the first.

In addition, we offer some news from South Sudan thanks to Orla Treacy, and from Perú, thanks to Miros Santillán.

Elena Cedeiras attended a meeting in Manila. Pilar Gonzalez Cano informs us about the Renate meeting she attended in the Netherlands.

Maria Llinás (Mary Ward Foundation) travelled to Kenya and Tanzania, where FMW supports projects. And as usual, the activities in the different schools are very much alive.

More information in: [www.ibvm.es](http://www.ibvm.es)

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## CONTENIDOS



**Front page picture:** Noelle Corscadden, general leader of IBVM, (left) and Jane Livesey, general leader of CJ, with a Mary Ward statue in general house of IBVM in Roma.

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# HISTORIC GATHERING.

## MARY WARD'S INSTITUTE

All Mary Ward Province leaders and both Generalate teams met together in Rome for a historic gathering on the 27th April, 2017.



All participants in the meeting of IBVM and CJ celebrated in Via Nomentana, Rome.

Last time any similar meeting took place was at the 'Union Chapter' of 1900 though even then not all provinces were represented. Besides, it was not possible to carry it out as they were ordered to dissolve, so the meeting of 2017 was a first.

The meeting that took place on April 27 at the house of the CJ in Rome, located in the Via Nomentana, was dedicated to getting to know each other a little better and above all to recall the solid rela-

tionships they have maintained throughout the years between the IBVM and CJ sisters in virtually every province in the world.

**They met and celebrated  
together the common  
heritage of its founder  
Mary Ward**

Both teams of the Generalate and the general leaders, Noelle Corscadden of the IBVMs, and

Jane Livesey of the CJs, had planned the day in great detail and directed it together.

At the end of the day, the IBVM sisters had prepared a very special dinner in their general house, located just 300 meters away, on Via Massaua, to which they all walked together. At the end of the meeting, all the attendees agreed to highlight the enormous joy they felt for this long awaited approach by all and wished that this first meeting was not the last.



Those present welcomed the opportunity to celebrate their common Mary Ward heritage and their desire for full union in time to come

The room was decorated for the occasion with significant sayings.

The IBVM and CJ sisters have shared experiences and work for many years in the countries where they both are present, which are:

Albania, Germany, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ghana, Philippines, (where the Manila house is novitiate and IBVM-CJ inter-congregational study house), Gibraltar, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Romania, Russia, Siberia, Slo-

vakia, Spain, the United States, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, East Timor, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.





# ELM 2017 IN ROME

From April 24 to May 2, the Institute's Extended Leadership Meeting 2017 was held at the Pellegrini Centre in Rome, a place that is very appropriate for its tranquillity, surrounded by nature. The new Provincial Leaders had arrived a few days before and had a Leadership session with Bobby Moore.



From April 24 to 2nd of May, ELM 2017 was held in Rome. The participants enjoyed talks of Sister Eugenia Bonetti CM, an Italian whose ministry in Rome for years has been working with women who are being trafficked. There were another interesting talk of Imelda Poole IBVM shared her knowledge and experience on trafficking in persons from her work with the Mary Ward Loreto Albania and Renate team; and reflection of Father Gearoid O'Conaire OFM on Laudato Si, appart from a visit to Pope Francisco and

the historic gathering with CJs. The website [www.ibvm.org](http://www.ibvm.org) can be

consulted for more information and photographs.



**Visit to the Vatican.** While leaving, Pope Francis, just passing by where the sisters had unfolded their banner, turned and raised the thumb up to the flag of Mary Ward, was a great joy.





## ELENA CERDEIRAS, NEW SPANISH LEADER

**From July 1, 2017 and for a three years term, Elena Cerdeiras, 56, will be the Spanish leader in replacement of Isabel Gortázar, who has held this position for 6 years.**

Elena Cerdeiras Checa has been appointed as the next Province Leader for a three year term, commencing in July 1, 2017.

Born on December 31, 1961, in Madrid, Elena Cerdeira began her studies in IBVM (Irlandesas) where she remained until she was 17. Elena substitutes Isabel Gortazar. Isabel -who has been province leader from 2011 until June, 2017- and the rest of the province welcome Elena in her new responsibility.



Isabel Gortázar



Elena Cerdeira Checa

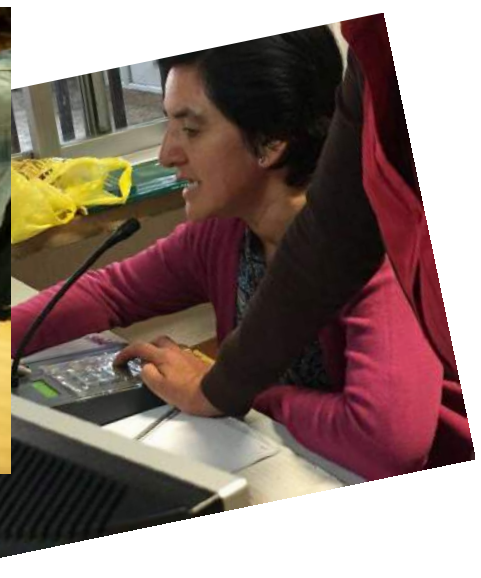
## ORLA TREACY VISITS US FROM SOUTH SUDAN

In May, Orla Tracy, ibvm, took the opportunity of travelling to Europe to tell us first hand about the difficult situation her community in Rumbek, South Sudan is facing. For many people in Madrid was a unique opportunity to know a little more about that unknown country in Africa.



## MIROS SANTILLAN VISITS US FROM PERÚ

Miroslava Santillán, ibvm, took the opportunity of a trip to Spain to explain us first hand the dramatic situation of the communities affected by the floods in Peru. A strong storm, due to the phenomenon called El Niño Costero, shook Peru for weeks, killing more than 100 people and affecting over 150.000 people.



# INITIAL FORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING

IBVM's International Initial Formation Committee met in Manila from 18 to 21 of February, 2017. Elena Cerdeiras assisted from Spain.

On Thursday, 16th February, 2017, six IBVM members from all over the world arrived in Manila to celebrate the first meeting of the International Initial Formation Committee of the Institute: Sabrina (India), Christa (USA), Lenah (Zambia), Elena (Spain) and Judy and Macarena, from the generalate in Rome. The leadership of the Institute had



Elena with Teresa & Angela, CJs, who live in the community with Chris Burke, IBVM.

agreement of the Provincials at the 2016 Extended Leadership (ELM) meeting. It seeks to explore issues related to the fact that the Institute may have three interprovincial novitiates, instead of the current provincial ones. We already have international novitiates: the novitiate of Australia and East Asia in Manila, where a Canadian novice has joined the Australian and Vietnamese novices; The province of East

entrusted us with this task in response to the mandate of the last General Congregation and the

nila, where a Canadian novice has joined the Australian and Vietnamese novices; The province of East



Standing up: CJ from India, Lenah, IBVM, CJ from India, Bosco, CJ from the Community, CJ from India, Elena, IBVM, Angela, CJ from the Community.

Sitting down: Macarena, IBVM, Christa, IBVM, CJ from India. Chris Burke, IBVM from the Community, CJ from India.

Down: Judy, IBVM.





Sabrina Ibvm, CJ India, Judy Ibvm, CJ India, Lenah Ibvm.

Africa, where there are young people from Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda; As well as the province of South Asia, with young people from Nepal, India and Bangladesh, all of whom are being trained for their provinces.

The Mary Ward Institute is still alive and we are adapting to the new times: a global world that calls us to live as citizens of the world. We are members of an international Institute, rather than our individual province, with the training and mission being the most important issue.

Our first task was to get to know each other. Lenah Mambo from Kenya, now working in Zambia, Sabrina Ed-

wards from India, Christa Parra from USA, Elena Cerdeiras from Spain, Chris Burke from Australia, who lives in Manila in the Mary Ward Community with six Korean sisters and a Chinese sister, all of

them of the CJ and students, mainly of theology. They were with us this time, Judy and Macarena of the Generalate. All together we continued our work exploring the implications of this change for the Institute and what information we need to present our proposal in 2018.

The meeting took place in the Mary Ward Community (CJ and IBVN). On Sunday the novitiate community and six CJs who are taking a course

on leadership in Manila joined us. A sensational gathering that united 22 Mary Ward women! The experience was great and filled us all with hope! / **ELENA CERDEIRAS.**



Chris Ibvm, Lenah Ibvm, Nirmala Ibvm, Elena Ibvm, Christa Ibvm, Sabrina, Ibvm, Judy Ibvm, Bosco CJ



## RENATE TRAINING COURSE ON HUMAN MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING

On the 21st March, with the beginning of spring, we remembered in Soeterbeek (Holland), the day on which, a year ago, Europe signed a refugee agreement with Turkey. Refugees, Migrants and Human Trafficking was the theme that occupied us from 19 to 25 March 2017 at a place near Ravenstein, The Netherlands.

From Spain Pilar González Cano attended at this interesting meeting.

They shared experiences and knowledge to combat human trafficking in Europe, where migrants and Human Trafficking seem to be invisible.



Pilar González Cano, Justa del Sol and Begoña Iñarra

## FUNDACIÓN MARY WARD IN KENIA AND TANZANIA

Between 10th and 21st March this year, Maria Llinás, coordinator of the Mary Ward Foundation, visited the FMW projects in Kenya and Tanzania. These projects are dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls: scholarships for girls; fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); shelter for girls; health and education.

In this picture: Angie, María Llinás and Ephigenia, ibvm, at a seminar on female genital mutilation prevention in Nakuru, Kenya.



## A BRILLIANT LOOK TOWARDS THE REALITY

Last March Mary Ward Foundation organized a very especial event. Under the title "A brilliant look towards the darkened reality of the World" Ana Garrigues-Walker and her brother Antonio Garrigues-Walker, honor-



Ana Garrigues Walker y Antonio Garrigues Walker.

ary president of UNHCR, talked and shared their views on life and society today. With their reflections and stories made us reflect about what we could each of us do in particular to get closer, and empathize with the reality that people less fortunate than us have to live with.

The conference room was crowded: former students, sisters, school families, as well as people connected throughout these 25 years to the Mary Ward Foundation gathered that afternoon to listen to the brothers and enjoy after an aperitif. / **CAROLINA AGUERO.**



## OUR SCHOOLS:

### Exposition "Historias que cambian la historia" (Stories that change History) in El Soto School

The exhibition, which is part of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Mary Ward Foundation, visited El Soto school. 'Stories that change history' is a big comic that tells the stories of women who have managed to change their own destiny. In the picture, a group of children from El Soto, look at one of the panels of the exposition.



### Sweets and tattoos Moroccan style at Cullera School, in Madrid



### Africa Day in Loreto School, in Seville





Sports day full of solidarity in Castilleja School, Seville



Mary Ward Day in Bami School, Seville



A School garden in Leioa, Bilbao

