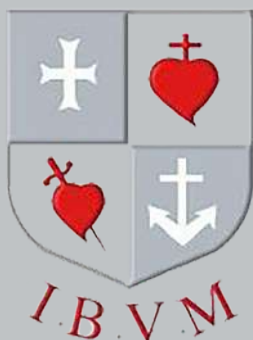


# CONECTA 81

June 2018



## II Meeting IBVM - CJ in Rome



**Conecta** is the internal newsletter of the Blessed Virgin Mary Institute, IBVM, Spanish Province.

A religious community inspired by Mary Ward, who wants to live her spirituality and share it with the people with whom it lives and works.

More information at:  
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# In this issue

Page

## Brief News

IBVM women on the move.

3



## II Meeting IBVM - CJ.

Walking together towards becoming one family

4



## Training on SDO

A training day on Sustainable Development Goals.

6



## Activity in schools

Creativity, imagination, development of multiple intelligences, prediction with skill... our students enjoy learning in cooperation and developing their abilities to the fullest.

7



## Cover photo:

All provincials and members of the leadership teams of Mary Ward's family two branches, IBVM and CJ, at their meeting in Rome.



# Imelda Poole, MBE

On 9 June 2018, Imelda Poole, Ibvm, was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in The Queen's Birthday Honours 2018, for her achievements and services to end modern slavery.

Imelda, a native of Birmingham, United Kingdom, joined the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1963.

She has been living in Tirana, Albania for 12 years, leading a mission to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. She is also president of RENATE (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation).



Announcing the prestigious award, the British Ambassador to the Holy See, Sally Axworthy, said she was delighted with the IBVM's

recognition because: "Sister Imelda is a key ally in Her Majesty's government's campaign to eradicate modern slavery".

# Pilar González Cano, against Human Trafficking



On June 6, Pilar González Cano, Ibvm, gave a talk on human trafficking in

a cultural centre in Madrid, organized by two parishes.

Pilar stressed the situa-

tion in Spain, a country of both transit and destination, where between 40,000 and 50,000 people arrive each year for sexual and labour exploitation and begging, among other purposes.

González Cano never forgets to stress that "In economic terms, this dirty human tragedy is a business of five million euros a day".

Although progress has been made, the involvement of the authorities (judges, prosecutors and police) is still very weak.

Moreover, immigration laws make the work of the mafias easier.

# II IBVM- CJ Meeting: together towards a single family

On April 27th, the great Mary Ward Family experienced a historic moment: the second meeting of all the provincials, regional leaders and the two generalates to advance together on the road to becoming one family.



IBVM and CJ stage the bonds that they have been weaving and strengthening between all of them.

The meeting was a very significant moment for all of us, as we had the opportunity to meet again and spend an unforgettable day together. This began last year, when the first official meeting between the CJ and the IBVM took place.

“If you want to go faster, go alone; if you want to go farther, go together”, this was the motto that accompanied us throughout the day and will guide our steps until we become one family.

In addition to the desi-

re to walk together, it became clear at the meeting that Mary Ward’s idea was always to create a single Institute and that it was the difficulties of the time that led to the formation of various branches of the Mary Ward family. This was explained by Mary Wright, Ibvm, in a presentation in which she told the story of the various branches of the Mary Ward family. In some cases, it was the political divisions (in a Europe divided into small states in the XIX century); in

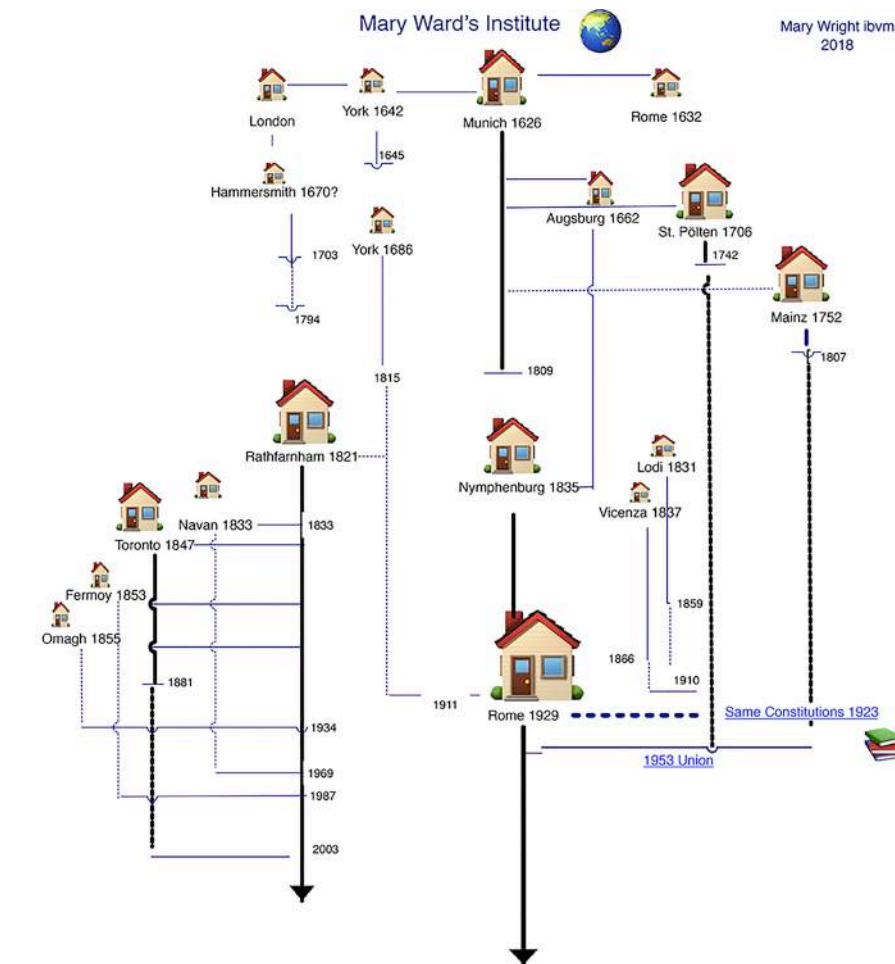
other cases, it was the wars and the communication difficulties of the time.

Her presentation was a source of inspiration for all and a confirmation that Mary Ward and her first followers always had in mind to form a single Institute. This was evident in Mary Wright’s talk, **in which** she researched in depth in the archives and provided insights into the history of the Institute that enabled all of us to better understand today’s reality. Among the materials shown



by Mary Wright, a very illustrative image stands out in which she shows how the multiple branches of the Institute since the 17th century have been united until there are only two left: the IBVM and the CJ. Two lines now approaching with the aim of becoming one.

The day also allowed the provincials of each region or country to come closer to their counterparts, to share time together and to continue to deepen their common journey. Thus, the Provincials of Latin America ([Miroslava Santillán](#) and [Silvia Ruiz](#)) told us how they have been working and meeting together for years, as they have done in India (Prátima Pinto and Anita Braganza) and from the Generalate of both Congregations. We also learned how the senior leaders of the IBVM and the CJ enjoy working and resting time together in Rome, as [Judy Nekesa, Ibvm](#), and [Cecilia Yeom, CJ](#), told us, even sharing trips, like that of Jane Livesey and Noelle Corscadden through Ireland following in Mary Ward's footsteps. A journey in which



they discovered that there are many more similarities than differences.

For their part, other sisters, like [Mercy Shumbamhini](#) (from Zimbabwe), [Patricia Rediu](#) (from Romania), [Judy Illig](#) (from USA) and [Wendy Hildebrand](#) (from Australia) explained their experiences in international meetings or working together in their

areas of influence.

All this was collected in a series of videos that were made during the day and that we invite you to see.

In [this video](#) you will find a 7-minute summary of the experience of last April 27, and in the rest of the videos, you can see the personal reflections of the religious of the two congregations.



A moment of Mary Wright's intervention, Ibvm, who explained the history of the Institute's branches

# The challenge of “Raising awareness about SDG”

Can we consider ourselves a prosperous society if a large part of the population lives in poverty? With this question Marcos Gordillo, coordinator of Manos Unidas, began his intervention on the Training Day on the Sustainable Development Goals we joined last April. He explained the complexity of the ODS which served to contextualize and understand some of the challenges that lie ahead.

While the 8 Millennium Development Goals were concrete and focused on the part of the population that suffers most, the ODS are intended to be something more complex, a global, cross-cutting and comprehensive response to the challenges we face as a society.

Indeed, the world's poorest people do not live only in poor countries: many of the most impoverished people are in middle-income countries (China, South Africa, and Mexico), where overall income grows as inequalities grow and some become richer and others poorer. This is a failure as a society and precisely because of this, we have to change the way we fight poverty. Focu-



sing mainly on inequalities.

## Sustainability donut

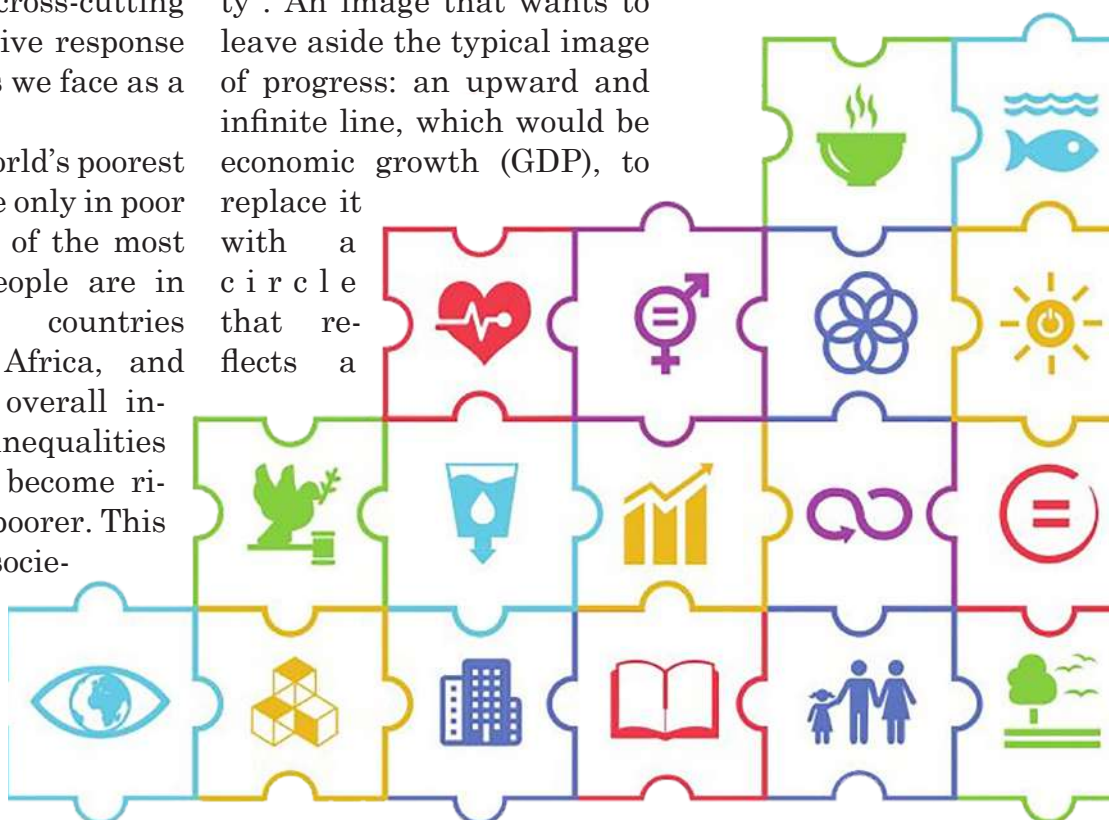
In this sense, Agenda 2030 tells us that development can only be real if it is inclusive and sustainable (for all people, everywhere in the world). That is why the motto “leave no one behind” is key, and why we talk about the “donut of sustainability”. An image that wants to leave aside the typical image of progress: an upward and infinite line, which would be economic growth (GDP), to replace it with a circle that reflects a

system that is fair to people and the planet. This alternative donut would take into account the basic needs of people - water, employment, education and equality - and the limitations of the planet - atmospheric pollution, climate change, loss of biodiversity...

- It is not enough just to increase the GDP, true development will only happen if all the donations grow at the same time.

A very full day from which the attendees were able to get ideas and proposals to carry out in their schools or fields of action.

AURORA MORENO





# Activity in our schools

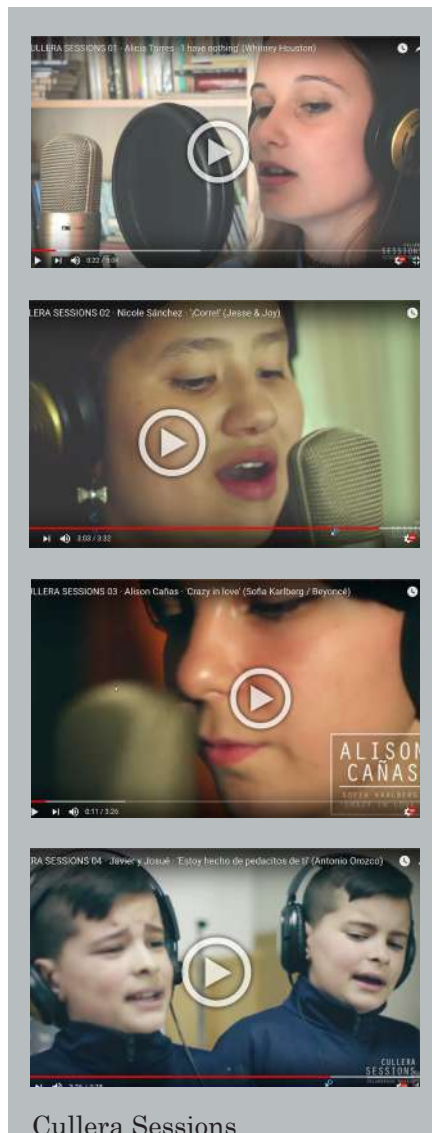
In our schools, education and the development of artistic skills are very important issues, always promoting the integral development of the person from their multiple abilities. The students learn using the mind, body and all senses, developing the theory of Multiple Intelligences. The results are simply spectacular.

Clicking on these images, on the right, you can listen to the musical talent of the students of the Cullera School, in Madrid. This musical project is called 'Cullera Sessions', and is on the school's YouTube channel.

On the 400th anniversary of the birth of the painter Bartolomé E. Murillo (1618-1682) in Seville, the students of Bami School of this city have learned a lot about this artist, thanks to the 'Murillo Project'. They have developed their skills of painting, reflection and adaptation of Murillo's work to the school and to the present day.

The students of Leioa School are committed to raising awareness against the neglect and mistreatment of animals. During the course, they have raised funds through various actions, and have already given the money to animal recovery NGOs.

The news get in the Secondary Scientific Culture classes of the school of Aljarafe. The student body uses "dexterity prediction" to answer the following question: "Will



Cullera Sessions

we stop using plastic bags within five years?" Following the maxim of joining forces working together to achieve a common goal; students cooperate and develop their interpersonal intelligence.

In the school of Loreto, students improve their knowledge of everything that surrounds them with the Thought Skills. Reflecting in cooperative groups prepares them for life.

Students from El Soto have prepared a fun project about magic. Using school subjects such as Language,



Thinkers of Loreto School, Seville



Artist of our time, in Bami School



Our great scientists of Aljarafe



Team of animal lovers from Leioa



Magic Fair in El Soto, Madrid

English or Music, they have organized 1st Magic Fair of the school.

# Get connected to **Conecta**

If you would like to collaborate with the **Conecta** newsletter by writing, sending some photographs, suggesting a topic, or telling us something interesting to share so that we can write it, please contact us.

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