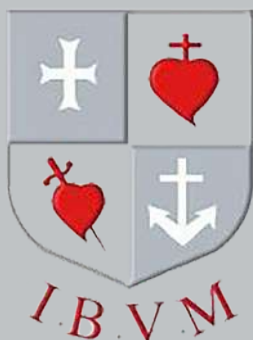


CONECTA 83

October 2018



IBVM sisters leave mark



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.

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Cover photo:

Some ex-students of the Cullera School are photographed with Flora Magro, Ibvm, and Piedad González Cano, Ibvm. You can see the affection they feel for the sisters.

Circles of life in Llandudno

In late August and early September, Juana and Fuencisla, both Ibvm, participated in a Life Circles meeting in Llandudno, England. They tell us about it.

The experience of Circles of Life, in Llandudno, has been positive and enriching at personal, community and Institute levels, lived from our personal experience.

The organization was extraordinary. The facilitators made a very good work. The objective of this meeting was to get to know each other. The group was wonderful. Women of different ages from 34 to 80 with different cultures, customs, worthy of admiration, participating in everything, full of life.

We lived the days we went to York in a special way. To feel the country where Mary Ward was born, lived and died was to relive her history, her difficulties, her per-



Fuencisla and Juana at the Shrine of Margaret Clitherow, saint and martyr of the time of Mary Ward

secution. The Bar Convent Museum is a great help in making this more palpable. Mount Grace was quite an experience as we felt like pilgrims as Mary Ward's companions once were.

After this experience, we perceive that: We live in a

moment of profound changes in our global society, fractured and broken; we have to be aware of this to respond as consecrated women in the style of Mary Ward.

**JUANA
PECHARROMÁN and
FUENCISLA ALCÓNEZ**



From left to right: Pushpa Ekka (India); Jacqueline Wong (Mauritius); Denise Sullivan (Mauritius); Terri Stafford (USA); Juana Pecharromán (Spain); Constance Steffen (USA); Teresa Wanja (Eastern Africa); Soria Nongtdu (India); Fuencisla Alcónez (Spain); Justina Nthambi (Eastern Africa)

Vocations, Love stories

This course the IBVM plans to launch a series of videos that have been recorded for months to make the Institute better known.

More than a dozen of IBVM women have offered to tell the experience of how they felt God's call to religious life, why they chose the IBVM to live their vocation, and the discernment that makes them remain in the Institute today. They are true stories of love and that is how their interviews are called.

Starting this October, we will begin to publish these videos on the YouTube channel of the IBVM, so that they

may be available to people with similar concerns, who are looking for life stories to draw inspiration from.

The videos are short, personal interviews that will be screened in schools throughout the course.

This is only the beginning, Mary Ward's women are many and the project is open to include in the future many more interviews, many more confidences and many more love stories that serve as an example and inspiration to



young women today, who are considering their lives in the future.

The IBVM wants to make known in this way its international dimension, the charisma of Mary Ward and the spirituality that guides us.

Mary Ward ladies on Tour



IBVM and CJ general leaders Noelle Corscadden and Jane Livesey travelled to Ireland together for a week, from 30 June to 8 July, and wanted to share their experience through a friendly and close blog entitled '[Mary Ward Ladies in Tour](#)'. They wrote every day and published photos and anecdotes. On the last day, Jane planted a rose bush in the tomb of three of her aunts who belonged to the sisters of Loreto and are buried in Abbey House.

Louise Latin, 50 years at IBVM



1. Family photo of all attendees 2. Louise and her nephew during mass 3. A moment of celebration

When I hear that one of my friends is going to celebrate his Golden Jubilee, I ask myself: does it really have meaning?

Incredulous of celebrations, I have lived with joy One, which convinced me of its value. Louise Latin, our former student, first in Gibraltar, then a resident in

Castilleja de la Cuesta, celebrated these 50 years of fidelity to Jesus of Nazareth with a heartfelt Eucharist.

It was beautiful to see again in the courtyard, in the garden, in the Chapel, his family from Gibraltar and England who had received this valuable Charism from Mary Ward. Her mother, sis-

ters, nephews and nieces and nephews-grandchildren.

A good number of our communities in Spain also joined in the celebration. We continued the party with dances and sings.

It was worth remembering fifty years of fidelity.

VICTORIA L. PEMARTÍN

Mary Ward in our parish

In the Parish close to our community and school on Cullera Street, in Madrid, the priest has installed a picture of Mary Ward, a detail that we have thanked enormously and that gives us immense joy, as you can see in this picture.

Her presence accompanied us, as always, during the Mass in memory of our beloved Evangeline Latorre, Ibvm, who died last July.

PILAR G. CANO



Gathering of administrators



In June all the administrators of the schools in Spain met in Madrid with the finance team of the Provincial office. They were two days of meetings and updates, but above all of intense days of work. This photo shows all the participants together with Carmen Hormaechea, Ibvm, the current provincial treasurer of the IBVM. They took the occasion to celebrate with a dinner the retirement farewell of José Antonio, former administrator of El Soto school.

Management teams meeting

Last September we, the management teams of the six BVM schools in Spain, met in Castilleja de la Cuesta, Seville, together with the Schools Board and the Provincial leader of IBVM.

A time to get to know each other, to create networks, forming part of something bigger and more global, the IBVM. As the goal of our schools for this course says, being part of something, we are called to share it. Also, it is time to recognize and thank each person who assumes responsibilities and grows in identity with the charism of Mary Ward.

TERESA CLEMENTE



Former students of Cullera

In June the former student body of the school in Madrid met. The experience was full of emotion.

What a beautiful moment we lived in our old school in Madrid. In order to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020 took place an event full of emotion, memories, laughter (and some tears) that congregated the oldest promotions in the place. More than 250 former students met again at the school, THEIR school. The school of Cullera.

I have lived through many events related to the former students, but I must say that this one has been special. What hugs, what smiles, what a desire to see and tell each other, and how nice to be able to share it. In spite of not being alumni myself, I felt in communion with everything that was lived there.

This shows me once again the potential of a school like ours. For me, the concept of Irlandesas (Loreto) School goes beyond the surname of a school. It is a way of being



and living life according to the Gospel and the charism of Mary Ward.

And I can only be eternally grateful to have lived such an experience. Because everything has been taken care of, down to the smallest detail. With taste, style and know-how. Demonstrating and dignifying all that we are and do. THANK YOU for all the people who have been

behind all this time and have worked hard to make this happen.

I ended up, above all, really excited. I believe that in the world there is no engine more powerful than illusion. For all the good things we can do. For demonstrating that we can reinvent ourselves and be very good at what we do. Because we must love each other a little more and get rid of all those headaches that we have every day. There are rewards like this that show that we have to keep working and we will not stop. At least, my illusion doesn't allow it.

Thank you, Flora, because the first steps (along with many more collaborators) were yours. You dreamt of Cullera and today life has recognized you so much, delivered in the dozens of samples of affection. Impressive.

BEATRIZ L. QUESADA



A month of July “inter”

The month of July was written with the title “Intercultural experience in Asilah”. I travelled to Morocco with a group of students from our schools.

On this occasion painting the school; mixing with the students of the school; getting to know them better: Nabila, Ihbsen, Maca, Rafika and Fatima who in their daily life relate to us, Ibvm; a mixture of English, French, Arabic and Spanish. Seasoned with a little cinnamon, or with ginger, or with turmeric...

This “inter” gives a lot of itself. “Into”. And into it to find what unites us more than what differentiates us; which is neither yours, nor mine, which belongs to both. It is to make way to one. Letting go, picking up...and building or at least trying to build together. A whole task, a challenge, a bet...this “inter”.

BLANCA BERGARECHE



LIFE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Our schools in [Madrid](#) and [El Soto](#), in [Loreto](#), [Aljarafe](#) and [Bami](#), in [Seville](#) and [Leioa](#), in [Bilbao](#), welcome their more than 5,000 students with open arms ready to foster open minds, criticism and reflection, among other capacities.

A new course has begun and the six BVM schools in Spain are launching the slogan: “Eres parte, comparte” (You are part, share).

This phrase reminds us of the need to share in order to create a more just and supportive world. With this slogan, they are part of the solidarity project that will be worked on in this course, which tackles food security from a broad perspective, taking into account the structural causes and possible solutions like the proposals of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Objectives.

Thus, throughout this course, we will often see the hashtag **#EresParteComparte** on social networks whenever they talk about actions and activities of cabbages that do something for life together, a better world for all people.



From the first days of this term all our Schools in Spain work on companionship, cohesion and the importance of teamwork.

BVM schools unite whenever there is an opportunity to live and share experiences, learning, friendship, fun... they are part of the same vision of education and the world, and they share it with joy and affection.



As the past years, the course has begun with the Solidarity Race against Trafficking in Women and Girls organized by the Mary Ward Foundation



The students from our schools in Seville enjoyed an exchange program with a center in Columbus, in the United States. A very enriching experience of linguistic and cultural immersion for them

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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