

# CONECTA 84

March 2019







**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 its spirituality and share it with the people with whom it lives and works.

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### Front Page:

Now, this is an everyday image: the students of El Soto passing under the sign of the Mary Ward roundabout.

# Meeting of the provincial teams of CJ and IBVM

The provincial teams of the Congregatio Jesu and the IBVM met in Zaragoza from February 8 to 10 of this year.

In recent years we have been intensifying the meetings between the CJ and the IBVM. The last two Extended Leadership Meetings of both groups have been in Rome, to coincide and to be able to spend a day together.

Along these lines, the provincial teams of the two groups in Spain met one weekend in February. We have chosen a middle point, Zaragoza, in a symbolic way we can say that the two parts

had to move. We had no other agenda than to meet and share what each group is experiencing, both internationally and in Spain. We were aware that it was a historic moment, with simplicity and naturalness.

Each group has a different history, but we are united by the present, and the seek of how to continue walking together as far as we can, so we agreed to see each other annually.

Neither Ana Garrigues nor M<sup>a</sup> Paz Herrera could be part of the IBVM team. The cold winter made a dent and they could not travel, but they were very present. It was very positive to meet, get to know each other better and share whom we are.

We all want to “Never do alone what we can do better together”.

ELENA CERDEIRAS, IBVM



From left to right: Esther Villahoz CJ, Blanca Bergereche Ibvm, Anselma de la Pisa CJ, Cecilia Lee CJ, Leticia Larrea CJ, Elena Cerdeiras Ibvm, Beatriz Martín Ibvm, Pilar Urrietavezcaya CJ



# Auxiliary Bishop Jesús Vidal visits the community of Cullera

The house of the IBVM in Cullera welcomed the visit of the auxiliary bishop and that of three Croatian women from the Taizé community, who came to the meeting of the ecumenical Christian community, held in Madrid.

In recent months, we have received several visits in the community of Cullera, Madrid. First, at Christmas we welcomed three Croatian women who came to the International Meeting of Taizé, which was held here in Madrid. We participated with them in some of the prayers and Eucharist.

We also shared with them a “cocido madrileño” and good humor.

Then, between the 18th and 24th February, we recei-

ved the pastoral visit of Auxiliary Bishop Jesús Vidal with the Vicar of our area, Jorge Ávila, together with the two priests of our parish, Hilario and Joaquín.

In addition to the fact that they had the opportunity to learn more about our Institute and our presence in the neighborhood, we were able to express the concerns of our social, parochial and ecclesial reality at this time.

“A moment of trust in the spirit in the midst of this

world. Moment to live the life of today”.

**B. BERGARECHE, IBVM**



# Ecological training in Marrakech

**Three women teachers from the Asilah Mission have received a training course on organic farming. On their return, they committed themselves to share their new knowledge with the other women of the Kanisa. In the name of the teachers, María tells us about the experience.**

Last December the Arabic teachers of the Catholic Mission in Asilah, Fatima Haddad, Malika Louatri and Fatima Bouhrass went to Marrakech to attend and participate in the training on ecological agriculture organized by the association “Earth and Humanism”. The trip was a consequence of the visit of Mrs. Aicha Krombi to our Centre in November. Aicha, President of the Association, had extended them a special invitation.

During the days of the course, the teachers stayed at the “Earth and Humanism” ecological agricultural promotion Centre on the outskirts of Marrakech and lived with other participants. It was a new and enriching experience.

The course consisted of theoretical lectures by the teachers and practical activities in the garden and in the Centre.

The lectures addressed the importance of principles and values in dealing with land and nature, natural balance and diseases affecting



plants, natural remedies for their treatment, agricultural production, the importance of living beings that “accompany” plants and some advice on diet and food.



The practical activities, which followed the theoretical classes, consisted of outings to the Centre’s garden to observe what had been planted in the previous training of October 2018, outings to

the garden and a workshop on natural remedies for the treatment of diseases.

On the last day of the training, Professor Aicha went on a practical outing to the Centre’s vegetable garden, where she spoke in a general way about agriculture and in a special way about organic farming.

As part of the training programme for women in the Kanisa, the three teachers have planned to share these notions of agriculture and caring for the land with the women assisting at the literacy courses, when back in Asilah.



MARÍA LÓPEZ DE H., IBVM



# In the land of Islam: to my mother and sister earth

From 17 to 27 February, Clotilde De Maroussem, Ibvm of the mission of Asilah, took part in the JPIC meeting in Rome, with the motto ‘Caring for the environment in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue’. Here she speaks about her enriching experience.



Clotilde, with the group at the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi

**T**wenty years ago, while praying during my Novitiate, MOROCCO appeared written in my “inner screen”. From that moment on, the Lord helped me to live a fascinating adventure together with a deeper thirst and desire in trying to understand better as well as searching the means to clarify what this call to the Islamic world meant.

When I arrived to Asilah in February 2017, I spent a lot of time working in the garden, and getting soaked

by the beauty of the nature around me, which I was able to immortalize with my camera. Salah, our gardener, and myself started very simply, creating a compost made out of the grass lawn and the kitchen waste.

Fr Melito Pinili, a Philippine Franciscan asked me to run a workshop on this topic for students in Larache, where he lives. After the first workshop, there was a second one where I used photography as a tool to continue developing

in them the awareness of the beauty of nature through ecology. At the same time, I attended a course on fostering awareness on Islamo-Christian dialogue History with the Al Mowafaqa University in Rabat, and another one on agroecology run by “Earth and Humanism Morocco”, near Marrakech. Through Aicha Krombi, the President of this Association I was able to meet a few months later Pierre Rabhi, an international French ecologist, at a confe-





Clotilde, with Larache Group

rence in Rabat.

Aicha came to direct a half day workshop with the women in our Center in Asilah and she stayed with us in the community. This was followed by an invitation for three of our teachers to attend a four-day Formation in her Center. They came back transformed.

It was with great surprise and excitement that I received a sponsorship from Fr Manuel Corullon Fernandez, the Provincial Superior of the Franciscans in Morocco for this International JPIC Course run from the 17th to 27 February in Rome. Fr Melito and myself were representing Morocco, and there were twenty other countries represented as well. Both, accommodation and the course were held at the Franciscan Pontifical University Antonianum. The title of the cour-

se was 'The care of the Environment in the Ecumenical and interreligious dialogue'.

I found some of the lectu-

res very appropriate and clarifying for our mission in Morocco. Ecology is really a very good space and worth being explored in the frame of Islamo-Christian dialogue.

After visiting Asissi with part of the group, I stay with some moving images of Brothers praying in front of the tomb of St. Francis.

I am very grateful to have had access to this sharing of knowledge and experience through after having been: the only woman in the group, belonging to another spirituality rather than the Franciscan and the only person coming from Africa, to which Mauritius belongs.

I was really happy to meet Judith Nekesa and Brenda Eagan from the Generalate.

**C. DE MAROUSSEM, IBVM**



Clotilde, With Aicha and Pierre



# The Mary Ward roundabout

**In the crowded opening ceremony of the roundabout that will bear the name of Mary Ward in Alcobendas there were many signs of affection.**

**O**n February 1, we attended in Alcobendas the tribute that the city organized to inaugurate the appointment of the roundabout Mary Ward.

The mayor of Alcobendas, Ignacio García de Vinuesa, accompanied by Elena Cerdeiras, provincial leader of the Institute, and Sacramento Hernández, director of the School of El Soto, unveiled a plaque attached to a large rock (you can see in the photograph) in homage to Mary Ward, which reads: “Love and tell the truth at all times”. The three said a few brief words highlighting the importance of Mary Ward as a woman ahead of her time whose teachings are still very relevant today. The audience constantly showed great affection for the school and for the founder of the IBVM.

Elena Cerdeiras recalled that the Institute she founded was suppressed and that, at the time of her death, everything seemed to have been a great failure. However, “here we are now, with her followers spread all over the world and opening a roundabout in her honor”. A lesson for the new generations, where instant success seems to be the only important thing.

The event ended with a group of schoolchildren singing the school anthem.





# Victoria, honored in Seville

An award shared with an Association of Equestrian Therapies, which recognizes Victoria's dedication to others for so many years.



On February 26, the 2019 Solidarity Prizes, awarded every year by the Obra Social 'Nuestra Señora de la Soledad', were awarded in the church of Santiago Apostle, in Castilleja de la Cuesta, Seville.

This year the award went to Victoria Lassaletta, Ibvm, and to the Sevillian Association of Equestrian Therapies. These awards recognize actions and works aimed at solidarity and love of others, Christian commitment and normalization of life of the elderly, dependent and / or disadvantaged.

In the case of Victoria Lassaletta, the Association explains that it is "a prize to highlight the great dedication of the winner, for so many years, to others, as well as her missionary work, humility, simplicity and tireless help to all people of Castilleja de la Cuesta, as well as her collaboration with the Social Work."

## The imprint of the IBVM / Loreto

Last February 27th, Mary Catherine Spatz, Ibvm, died in the USA at the age of 89 and 71 years of religious life.

On the day of her funeral, Fr. Tom McCarthy published a beautiful message about her on his social networks: "Rest in Peace Sr. Mary Catherine Spatz, IBVM. Sr. was my 8th grade teacher and I am honored to be celebrating her funeral Mass. Thank you Sr. for your dedication and example of faithfulness to so many at St. Adrian School for 30+years! She truly loved life!" attaching a photograph of both, and another one of her with Martin Luther King, remarking how involved she was in living life with and for those on the margins.

Fr. Tom McCarthy OSA  
@FrTomosa

Rest In Peace Sr. Mary Catherine Spatz, IBVM. Sr. was my 8th grade teacher and I am honored to be celebrating her funeral Mass on Tuesday. Thank you Sr. for your dedication and example of faithfulness to so many at St. Adrian School for 30+years! She truly loved life! @ibvm\_us

Traducir Tweet





# Mary Ward and Great Women

This academic year 2018/2019, to promote the spirituality of our foundress, we are taking thoughts from great women of history who have made humanity advance and grow and we reflect on these ideas in the light of Mary Ward's spirituality. [See it here.](#)



Mary Ward legated us the spirituality of a woman deeply and intimately linked to God. Those of us who follow her want to imitate her steps and “find God in all things” every day. Today, we continue to reflect in the light of that spirituality on the world in which

we live and how we live in it.

Mary Ward's large family today is not only made up of members of the institute or congregation she founded, the IBVM and the CJ, but also it is much larger. It conjointly consists of men and women who seek to illuminate their daily

journey with the light of Mary Ward's spirituality and example.

Thanks to volunteers and collaborators of this great family, we are able to offer a wide range of diverse, plural and versatile reflections, like the group of people who do it.

## To think about the Islamo-Christian dialogue



Clotilde de Maroussem, Ibvm, sends images and phrases that helped her to grow in the Islamo-Christian dialogue, which is why she wishes to share them with other people, to help us to think about this interreligious dialogue, for a mutual understanding and rapprochement.



# Mary Ward Institute, the Journey



Tapestry: M. Ward looking at Europe from England

This is not the story of the provinces. This is the story of all the different independent parts of Mary Ward's Institute and their journey.

When Mary Ward died, there were four communities of the Institute that we know of. The main one was in Munich, there was another community in Yorkshire, where Mary Ward lived when she died, and two other small communities in London and in Rome.

The plaque you can see in the picture is in the English College, it mentions Barbara Ward, Elizabeth Cotton, Barbara Babthorpe and Catherine Dawson, who are buried in this English College in Rome. You can also see the image of Mary Ward's tombstone, buried in Yorkshire.

## What did Mary Ward want for her Institute...

was that it was one and not separate parts, independent of each other; with one Superior General; free from the jurisdiction of the Diocesan Bishop; free from the obligation of cloister; focused

The IBVM and the CJ have decided to dedicate the 30th of each month to the cause of their union, becoming the only Institute Mary Ward wanted. For this reason, we plan to broadcast small pills of the the history and process, based on the research and compilation work of Mary Wright, Ibvm from Australia.

on mission; and flexible to respond to the needs.

This was a very radical request at the time and it led of course, as we know, to the suppression of the Institute.

Nevertheless, these communities survived.

The community of Munich continued and the Superior General, Barbara Bapthorpe, lived there. In 1653, Mary Poyntz became Superior General after Barbara's death. Mary received an invitation from the people of Augsburg, a nearby city, to found a house of the Institute and a school there for the people of the town. This is important because, in spite of the fact that

the Institute was suppressed, the bishop with this request made it public that he considered them religious.

In 1630, Frances Bedingfield entered the Institute, just before the suppression. Shortly after Mary Ward's death, the Yorkshire community moved to Paris. In 1669, she returned from Paris to England. The community she brought with her moved several times between Yorkshire and London, until she finally established the Bar Convent in 1686.

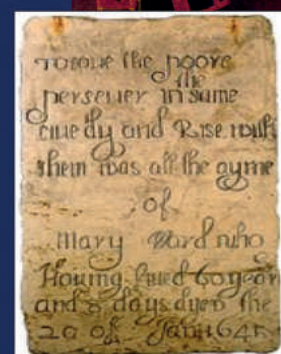
The Bar Convent in York is a very important point in this history.

To be continued...

## Mary Ward: 1645

When Mary died, her sisters were living in:

- Munich
- Yorkshire
- London
- Rome





# Institutional marketing and communication plan for our schools

Since June 2018, the IBVM Schools Team in Spain is developing a project to renew the institutional image. To this end, some initial steps were developed:

- The figure of Head of Marketing and Communication was created in each of the schools.

- A teacher from one of the schools, who had successfully developed a similar project in his center, was put in charge as Marketing and Communication coordinator of the six schools.

After that, a plan was drawn up which is taking

place in the academic year 2018/19 and which will end in September of this year with the launch of a new corporate image. However, it has become clear that such a change of image would be worthless, unless the characteristics of each school were taken into account, what is lived in them and the needs that exist. Therefore, and taking into account the magnitude of a change of these characteristics, care has been taken in the process to deepen as much as possible and take advantage of the moment to review the opera-

tion of schools and maximize the value of each center, all so that the change makes as much sense as possible.

Therefore, the following plan was developed:

1. Information and awareness-raising for Management Teams and Marketing and Communication Managers (meetings in September and October 2018).

2. Research workshops in each of the schools with representatives from the entire Educational Community: families, students, teachers, administrative and service





Throughout this academic year the schools of Madrid, El Soto, Loreto, Aljarafe, Bami and Leioa, in Madrid, Seville and Bilbao, are in the midst of a creative storm to adopt a common image more attractive and modern.

staff, former students, etc. (meetings in November).

3. Analysis of research in schools (December and January).

4. Work with design and communication companies to generate the new image (February, March and April).

5. Analysis of each center with a specialist in educational spaces, to optimize the conditions of the schools favoring educational spaces, healthy and faithful to the values of the Gospel (months of May and June).

6. Generation of new materials (April, May, June and July):

- posters
- production of logos for facades
- common document templates for all sites
- video presentation of image and values
- pastoral motto
- new web pages common to the centres

7. Launch of the new image and start-up of the project (September 2019).

ALEJANDRO DELGADO





# 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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