

# CONECTA 88

December 2019



**“We are living moments of change,  
transition, taking steps...”**



**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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# In this issue

## Page

### Circles of Life

Celebrated in the community of Mauritius

3



### Visits and meeting in Spain

An International Formators Meeting celebrated in Seville.

4



### EU Anti-Trafficking Day

We join in this day of reflection that takes place on October 18.

5



### Spanish Province meeting

The Spanish province held its annual meeting.

6



### COP 25, in Madrid

The Conference on Climate Change was held in the Spanish capital.

7

### María López de Haro, on TV

Spanish TV program about missionaries shows Asilah Mission.

Islam-Christian dialogue  
From Asilah.



### Life in our schools

The team of Formation in the Charism speaks.

8

### Front Page Picture.

A moment of the meeting of the Province which was held at the end of November in Castilleja, Seville.



# Circles of Life, Mauritius



Time for renovation.



Time for meeting with the International Institute.



Time to celebrate.  
Time to reflect.  
Time to admire.



Moments to get to know the IBVM ministries in Mauritius. The community of Shallong (elderly and sick) in Quatre Bornes.



Bois Marchand, place of insertion with women and children.



Time to walk together looking to the future.

Mauritius, cultural, historical and religious heritage.

**ISABEL GORTÁZAR, IBVM**



# International Formators Meeting



In the first fortnight of December, an international meeting of Formators took place in Seville, with the participation of IBVM and CJ from Australia and Southeast Asia, Canada, England, East Africa, Ireland, Mauritius, South America, South Asia, the United States and Spain. This image is from the day they visited the community of Castilleja, in Seville.

## A quick and endearing visit to Loyola



Five of the companions from the Province of South Asia, from India, taking the opportunity of their participation in the meeting of formators in Seville, wanted to visit the emblematic sanctuary of Loyola. M<sup>a</sup> José Muguerza, Stella Lecanda, M<sup>a</sup> Cruz Vela and Carmen Arteta, the IBVM of Leioa, accompanied them on this day which they all valued as endearing.



# European Day Against Trafficking 2019



tation, sexual exploitation or prostitution and organ trafficking.

The attendees lived the day with a special interest due to both the good papers and the practical communications about the victims from whom we learn the difficulty of their lives that impel us to work on their behalf from the small actions of each day.

The day encouraged us to do all we can because all actions are good to contribute to raising awareness of the invisibility of trafficking in persons.

PILAR G. CANO, IBVM

On the occasion of the European Anti-Trafficking Day 2019, on 19 October, the Inter-Church Group against Trafficking organized an awareness-raising day.

We began with a prayer mainly based on the different forms of Trafficking that affects many people in Euro-

pe. During the day, different people took part with presentations or with the communication of experiences on women victims of trafficking.

The first presentation dealt with the ethical implications of our growth model. This was followed by a discussion about labor exploi-

## Meeting of the Spanish Province

During the meeting of the province, held on 22, 23 and 24 November 2019 in Castilleja, we enjoyed very much the mere fact of gathering and being together to pray, reflect and share about ourselves, our life and the life of the province. We worked in circles about different topics: uncertain times, leadership, physical spaces and properties, as well as the current moment we are living: change, transition, taking steps...

We were very grateful to have had the material beforehand. A very good atmosphere was created for sharing, celebrating and working.

ISABEL GORTÁZAR, IBVM



# 25 Climate Change Conference

From 2 to 13 December, the Conference on Climate Change, better known as COP 25, took place in Madrid. The meeting did not achieve great results in the end but which has served to put the issue of the climate emergency on the front page. It dealt with various aspects related to energy and industrial transition, mobilisation, as well as climate finance and carbon pricing.

**O**n this occasion, the Church has organized various events and has invited Catholic organizations to take up again the ideas prepared for COP 21 (held in Paris), in which 10 concrete measures were proposed, following the lines already marked by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si*: “There are not two separate crises, one environmental and one social, but a single and complex socio-environmental crisis. The lines for the solution require an integral approach to combat poverty, to restore dignity to the excluded and simultaneously to take care of nature”. (LS 139).

Of the proposals that came out of COP 21, which can be [read in full here](#), the following stands out:

1. Take into account the ethical and moral aspects of climate change.

2. Accept that climate and atmosphere are global commons of all and for all people.

3. To adopt a fair and binding global agreement based on our worldview that recognizes the need to live in harmony with nature and to guarantee the human rights of all peoples on earth, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and working people.



4. Limit global temperature rise and set a target for complete decarbonization to protect the most affected communities.

5. To guarantee that countries participate in global agreements, according to their responsibilities and capacities according to the principle of equity, their historical responsibilities, and the right to sustainable development.

6. Ensure access of all people to water and land for the consolidation of resilient and sustainable food systems that prioritize people-driven rather than profit-driven solutions.

7. Ensure the inclusion

and participation in decision-making of the poorest and most vulnerable people on earth.

8. Ensure an adaptation process that responds to the needs of the most affected communities and reinforces local solutions.

9. Recognize that those responsible for climate change have an obligation to assist the most vulnerable in adapting to and managing loss and damage.

10. Establish clear roadmaps on how countries should meet their additional financial commitments, so as to ensure balanced financing of mitigation actions and adaptation needs.



# María López de Haro, Ibvm, in Missionaries Around the World

**O**n Monday, November 25, the TV program *Missionaries around the World*, produced by Obras Misionales Pontificias and the television channel Trece TV, broadcast a report of the IBVM Mission in Asilah, presented by María López de Haro, Ibvm.

In just over 8 minutes, María presents several of the workers and various projects, such as women's literacy and women's silence and meditation groups led by Clotilde de Moroussen, Ibvm.

María explains that all they do is directed to promote women, through training and education courses and through literacy in their own language. María says that



the Mary Ward Foundation funds the projects of the Asilah Mission.

The Arabic teacher, Fatija, speaks to reporters about machismo in society and in the

school curriculum, which still, according to her, has a chauvinist mentality.

You can watch the program on our Youtube channel by clicking on the image above.

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## Islam-Christian dialogue

**Desiring  
to enlarge  
our space  
despite the  
obstacles**

Clotilde de Maroussem, Ibvm, shares these images that helped her reflect on the Islam-Christian dialogue, and to seek an understanding and rapprochement between the two religions.



# Formation in the Charism

The team of Formation in the Charism works to elaborate an itinerary that marks the identity of our Schools of [Madrid](#) and [El Soto](#); [Loreto](#), [Aljarafe](#) and [Bami](#), in [Seville](#) and [Leioa](#), in [Bilbao](#).



Members of the Formation in Charism Team, before the enlargement, from left to right: M<sup>a</sup> Teresa Vorcy, Ibvm, Amalia González, Blanca Bergareche, Ibvm, Javier Alonso, Carmen Hormaechea, Ibvm, and Macarena Castaño

I wanted to begin with the reflection that the two Generals IBVM and CJ, Noelle Corscadden and Jane Livesey, made at the 2017 York Friends of Mary Ward: “This is our charism. It has nothing to do with what we do, it is about who we are and how we are, it is about finding God in the ordinary, in people, in the family... Each of us carries a part of the responsibility. We sisters do not own the charism. Mary Ward delivered the charism for everyone and for the world”.

With this horizon, our group of Formation in the Charism was constituted with a clear objective: “To elaborate a formative and experiential itinerary in the charism of Mary Ward, starting from what has been accomplished so far and involving the greatest number of people, in order to maintain the identity of our schools in time”.

When one devotes oneself to a project, one can lose perspective and take for granted many things and that everyone knows our work well. The reality is that, despite the presentations to the cloisters, we have been rather discreet and revealed very little. Blanca Bergareche wrote in *Conecta 86* about our meeting in Leioa but they were a few brushstrokes from the weekend.

There will be people wondering what to expect from this article and whether our work will finally be known, with structured information on which to read and comment. Well, I’m sorry to disappoint you, but not this time either. The reason is that we are in a phase of “WorkInProgress”, too early to make a proposal, which has yet to be approved, and with a big change that forces us to be prudent.

Since November 2019, the team has expanded to nine people: Amalia González, Blanca Bergareche, Carmen Hormaechea, Elena Orduña, Esther Villahoz, Izaskun Arsuaga, Macarena Castaño, M<sup>a</sup> Teresa Vorcy and Javier Alonso, lay and religious, IBVM and CJ... Who is who? The truth is that it doesn’t matter too much, we all share the same charism and we will have to wait for the official photo of our next work meeting in February in Castilleja (Seville). We will give you account of this great moment, the result of the invitation of the two provincials, Elena Cerdeiras and Pilar Urretabizkaia, to get to know each other and share our resources.

I also want to talk to you about our work methodology since we first met in the provincial office in Madrid, in January 2019, and that we





have been developing through videoconferences and two meetings in Seville (July and November). We began by compiling the extensive work of formation of our cloisters in recent years and exploring the structured plans of other congregations: Especially important have been the meetings with the Jesuits Manu Arrúe, who facilitated to our retreat-meeting in Loiola, and Vicente Marcuello, who updated us on the current plans of the province of Spain.

We have a lot of work in progress but it is still provisional. There are certain ideas that are repeated and that are very assumed by the team. Among them, that the transmission of the charism is not limited to us; the person who receives you every day when you enter the school has equal responsibility and importance. We also believe that in the cloisters

the need has arisen to increase the experiential part of formation, both in structure and in specific offers. Finally, and after many years of formation and living the charism, our Mary Ward family is demanding that formation



be different for all those who have been in the school for many years in the face of the new incorporations that are still knowing us.

The majority of you will be aware of the concreteness of our proposal for the academic year 2019-20. Based on the document "The Person according to the Way of Ignatius and Mary Ward" we organized the presentation to the management teams in September and three sessions for the schools throughout the year. It will also be the starting point for formation in the coming years. Together with this, we have given a very much appreciated welcome to the newly incorporated teaching staff and the part related to the charism of the meeting in Seville for the academic year 2018-19.

Our commitment is to present to the provincial councils a concrete and structured project for their approval before Holy Week. So let's get to work and we will be delighted to receive all your suggestions.

**JAVIER ALONSO RDGZ.**



# 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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