

CONECTA 92



The Mary Ward family, seeking
Union four centuries later



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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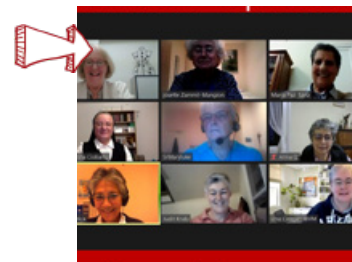
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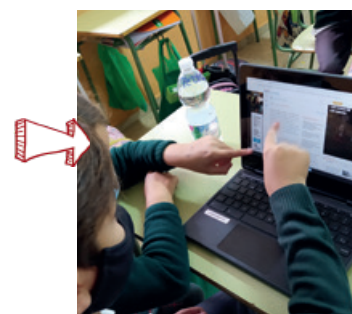
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Front Page Picture:

The Spanish Province of the IBVM is renewed and moves towards a more participative leadership. Every step we take forward is driven by God, Mary Ward and all our ancestors, as well as ourselves. We are reaping what was sown.



Susannah Rookwood

Europa

**Proceso Union
Instituto Mary Ward**

The process of union of the Mary Ward Family continues

We, the IBVMs and the CJs, have divided ourselves by continent to intensify the contact between all of us and to get to know each other better. Ambassadors from both congregations have been appointed in each country to facilitate communication at continental level.

The Mary Ward Family Union process (IBVM and CJ) is ongoing. We have taken some steps recently to get to know each other. For some of us it is a matter of getting to know each other better, for others it is a matter of getting to know each other. We are doing this by continent. North America and Latin America form a group and on the other hand Europe, Africa and all of Asia, including Australia, have their own structure.

Each continent has been assigned a name, that of one of Mary Ward's first companions, to distinguish itself. In the case of Europe we are called the "Susannah Rookwood" Region.

In addition, each country has a person from each congregation appointed as an ambassador. Cecilia O'Dwyer, Ibvm, and Maria Paz Sanz, CJ, are the representatives for Spain. Isabel Gortazar, Ibvm, joins Cecilia for internal coordination. Isa-

bel has also been appointed as translator for the Europe group.

Who was Susannah Rookwood?

We have looked so closely at Mary Ward that this first group of women has gone almost unnoticed apart from the familiar image of them sitting in a semi-circle, the "open circle" group, with Susannah right in the middle. Susannah's story is that of a courageous woman

who played a significant role in the development of the Institute in its early days. She was one of the young women who accompanied Mary Ward to St. Omer in 1609. During her fifteen years at the Institute, she lived between London and the Flanders region, crossed the Alps on foot, settled in Rome and was headmistress of the school in Naples where she died suddenly in 1624 at the age of 41. An admirable and almost invisible life, like that of so many women throughout history.

Four centuries later, another group of women who bear her name, “Ambassadors Susannah Rookwood”



The famous painting of a group of Mary Ward women sitting in a semi-circle, with Susannah Rookwood in the centre, is held up by another group of Mary Ward women, four centuries after that first image

has a specific task in the history of the last phase of the reunification of the many disconnected pieces of the work that emerged from those early times.

As we enter the third decade of the 21st century, we

have within our grasp resources that were unthinkable at the time. Although we might have the possibility of flying in to meet and work together, another historic event, the COVID 19 pandemic, does not allow this. But the great innovation of the last centuries, and above all of this century, digital technology, allows us to carry out some very interesting projects.

One of our challenges today is training in today's means of contact and communication, to achieve in half an hour what took years to achieve four centuries ago.

CECILIA O'DWYER, IBVM

You have seen lots of photos like this!



This one is special

First steps in the process

According to our records, at the beginning of the 20th century, representatives from Ireland and Spain went to Rome to meet with members of the Institute from other countries. During their stay in Rome they were guests of the German and Italian nuns who lived there and who did a great deal of work, mainly with the Protestants who had many schools in the eternal city.

The main item on the meeting agenda was to discuss the possibility of uniting the whole Institute under one Superior General. And everything went on with great harmony until the order of Propaganda Fide came to end the sessions and procedures.

In the meantime, our nuns had many consolations during their visit to Rome: they



Mother Gonzaga Barry



Mother Stanislaus Murphy

had an audience with Pope Leo XIII and were delighted with him. "He is extremely kind and most gracious".

Mother Stanislaus Murphy, founder of the province of Spain, wrote very interesting letters to our province during her absence: "our German and Italian sisters have left and we are very sad for them. We became friends immediately as if we had known each other all our lives. I

think we are a MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY. We were invited to Germany and also to Vicenza, which is on our way and we will rest there. As Lodi is not on our route, we refused the invitation we were given.

Mother Stanislaus stood out for her friendliness and humanity, as well as for her strategic and practical vision, sympathy and humanity.

PILAR GLEZ. CANO, IBVM

Fuencisla Alcónez's golden anniversary

On November 10th, Fuencisla celebrated its golden anniversary, 50 years at the Institute. We prepared a very special congratulation for her, since it was online, due to the times, so she could count on the presence of many people who otherwise would not have been there to surprise her.



IBVM Ministry of the Arts

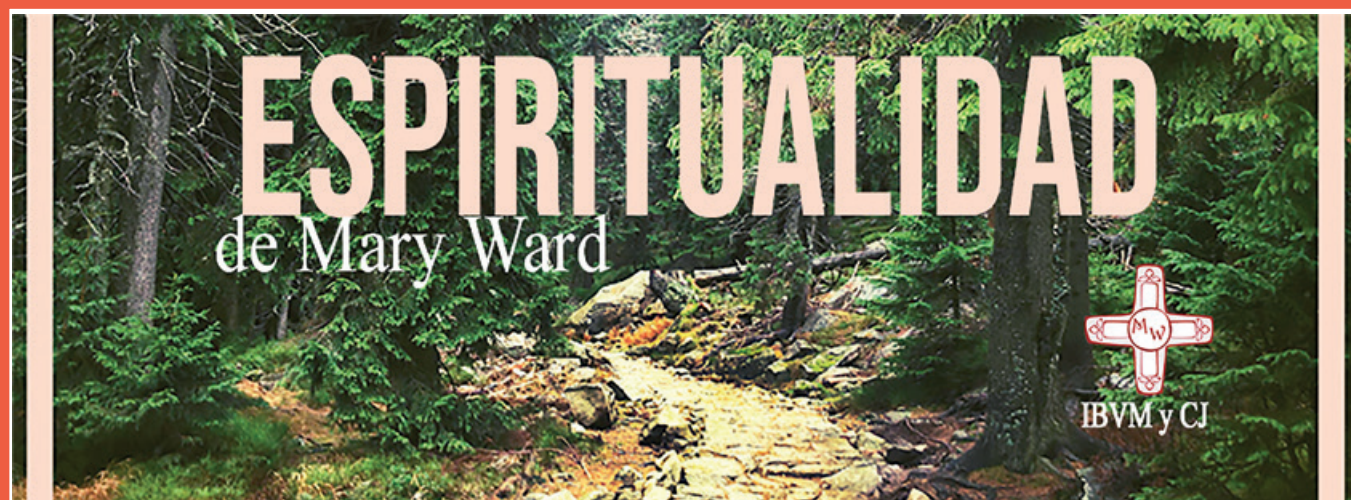


materials and images that evoke the reality of the world and our response to it”.

Since then, the IBVM Artists’ Network has held its first joint exhibition, entitled ‘Titling World’, which brings together images, music and poetry about the changing world we have had to live with in the wake of the pandemic. Religious women and friends of the Mary Ward Family from different countries have participated in this event, and the result can be seen on the [website of Anawim Arts](#), the online community directed by Arlene Ashack, ibvm, under the name 2020 Fall Art Show.

In May 2019, IBVM artists, musicians and poets from around the world gathered in Toronto, Canada, to explore the intersection between the arts, spirituality and justice and to look at

how art can become a form of pastoral and professional ministry. It was a response to one of the Calls of the 2014 General Congregation, which invited “our artists, musicians and writers to create



... in a time of pandemic

We have inaugurated another joint project between IBVM and CJ: the dissemination of the spirituality of our foundress.

In the context of Covid 19, this project proposes to deepen and illuminate the reality that we live in through the four liturgical seasons, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Each week, we share stories of daily life that are reasons for positive feelings that bring to mind the teachings of the Gospel and of Mary Ward.

During Advent, we have shared stories that motivate hope. At Christmas, we are sharing signs of celebrating Life. In Lent, they will be stories that call us to partake of suffering around us, to share this reality. At Easter, we will share stories of joy. If you would like to receive them in your mail (in Spanish), write to us at comunicacion@ibvm.es

Hilos, 26 Artists against Trafficking

These days the exhibition 'Threads, Artists against Trafficking', organised by the Mary Ward Foundation, is taking place in Seville. A collective charity exhibition in which 26 artists from Seville have donated their work to raise awareness and funds for the project against the trafficking of women and girls to support the DMWSC project on Preventing trafficking in the tea fields.

The name of the exhibition, 'Hilos' [Threads], refers to those fine threads that unite our lives with those of women who are enslaved, here and there, now and yesterday. That fine line we could draw from our daily actions, like drinking a cup of tea, to the lives of the women who pick it up in exploitative conditions.

For those who cannot travel there, all the works can be seen on the [Mary Ward Foundation website](http://www.marywardfoundation.org).

ALMUDENA ARENADO



Islamic-Christian dialogue from Asilah



The companions of the IBVM Mission in Asilah, north of Morocco, always invite us to the Islamic-Christian dialogue. From their Christian mission in a mostly Muslim country, they promote fraternity over religion.

* In Mauritius, all the mosques and madrasas are painted in green



Wishing to welcome in me two so different flavors

Our schools in Spain: a case of success



Working on technological innovation has become necessary in our schools. On the one hand, as a tool to connect with the students and promote work from home and in the classroom. Also as an ally for our teaching staff, who are constantly looking for the best ways to educate their classes and organize the different departments and groups to work together. Furthermore, as a powerful tool for the fundamental communication with families, trying at all times to offer solutions and make their relationship with the school easier. Finally, as an end in itself, which educates students (and teachers) to know the good use of technologies to take advantage of them in a responsible way.

This whole innovation process has led us to meet people and companies that have helped us to develop our full potential. Specifically, in recent years we have worked with [Ieducando](#) to implement the Google Suite in the daily life of our schools. Since the training of the faculty in the Google certifications for educators (Level 1, Level 2, Trainer, etc.), we have made progress in improving facilities and equipment (wifi connectivity, acquisition of Chromebook devices ...) to enable the best methodologies in our schools. All of this is structured by the Digital Citizens Project, which is being developed in the six Irlandesas Schools.

Once the implementation of all these processes is com-

pleted, Ieducando has certified us as a "Success Case" in the implementation of [G-Suite for Education](#), in all Irlandesas Schools. As the report points out, our educational community is very satisfied with the work carried out as it is giving very good results on a methodological and pedagogical level.

It is an honor for us to receive this recognition, as all our staff and administration and services personnel have worked very hard to get here.

We will continue to grow and evolve as far as these exciting processes take us, discovering new tools to give our students the best possible future for our world.

ALEJANDRO DELGADO

The revolutionary spirit that distinguished our beloved Mary Ward continues in our centres and keeps us at the forefront of educational innovation. Cooperative Learning, Multiple Intelligences, Project Based Learning... and, of course, new technologies.



A Foundation: the future of our schools



We have taken an important decision that is the fruit of a whole process of reflection, and which responds to the need to ensure the future of the schools of the two congregations, the Congregation of Jesus and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary: that of constituting a canonical Foundation that will assume ownership of the eight centres. Both congregations will be guarantors of the maintenance of the charism and values that identify us.

In January 2021 we will begin to work with several commissions, with the help of experts in different subjects, so that on September 1, 2022 the eight schools will begin to be part of the foundation.

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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