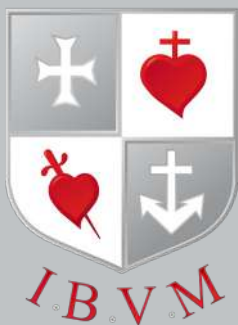


CONECTA

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IBVM ON THE MOVE



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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Cover Pictures:

Pilar González-Cano, with other IBVM's and CJ's in a meeting of RENATE; María López de Haro, with Victoria Ripa, CJ, in the Mission of Asilah; Cecilia O'Dwyer, in a sit-in protest against the Ecocide and Magdalene Baturone and Victoria Lassaleta participating in the campaign #RiseYourHandsforKids, against child labor.

Retreats of the eight IBVM-CJ schools

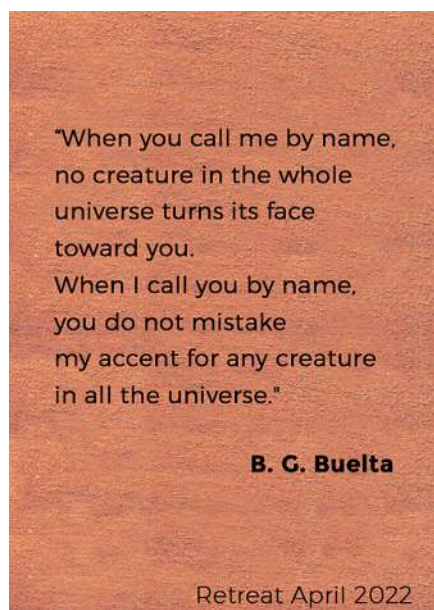


“To define a formative and experiential itinerary that would involve the greatest number of people...”

Thus, with these words, the people who form the Charism Formation group received a few years ago the task of continuing with the growth itinerary of our schools. Something that we have tried to do during this time and in spite of the pandemic, looking for a way to get together, to get to know each other, and in this way be able to help us to search for that God that we know is at the center of our lives.

With this objective and following the line of the second session of the course -“Being a Christian today: Jesus”-, we invite the educators and Administrative and Service Personnel, ASP, of our eight schools, to a meeting of prayer and retreat. Friday and Saturday to gather

from different parts of our geography: in Zaragoza (the schools of Badalona, Donostia and Leioa), in Madrid (the schools of El Soto and



Madrid) and in Castilleja (the schools of Bami, Loreto and Aljarafe).

We knew that people were

eager to get to know each other, that they were asking for more time to go deeper, but we preferred to start little by little to awaken a greater interest and facilitate the attendance to the greatest possible number of people. Special thanks are due to the IBVM and CJ Provincial Councils for their support in the organization and financing of the activity, and to the Leadership Team and the directors of the centres for facilitating the participation of the people by giving them the Friday afternoon off.

The retreat-meetings took place on April 1 and 2 in Castilleja, accompanied by Rocío García Carranza, on April 22 and 23 in Carabanchel, accompanied by David Cabrera SJ, and on April 29



Group photo of the attendees to one of the retreats

and 30 in Zaragoza, accompanied by Pilar Urretavizcaya CJ. The task entrusted to the companions was not an easy one: to work on the “Principle and Foundation” of St. Ignatius with a heterogeneous group of people with very different experiences of deepening.

It was about reflecting on what moves our lives, the soil on which we put our deepest roots, the sense and reason that makes us get up in the morning, the firm rock on which we build our reality..., to “being indifferent” (a very Ignatian term), to abandon ourselves in the arms of a God who seeks us and wants the best for our lives.

They did a fantastic job, and all in an atmosphere of

silence, indispensable for personal reflection.

Some schools were encouraged to share the experience with their cloisters in order to spread enthusiasm for the future. As an example, here are the words of Pilar Gómez Trujillo: “For me it was an oasis to enjoy



The idea was to reflect on what moves our lives, the soil on which we put our deepest roots

the silence, the Encounter with Jesus and his Word that always takes me beyond myself; it was also a real gift to be able to meet with colleagues from other schools and share life, silence and laughter. An opportunity to discover, once again, that I need to connect with the deepest part of myself more than I think”.

With these beautiful words that perfectly capture the goal of our group, we ended with the promise that in the near future we will meet again to continue deepening this way of being followers of Jesus, in the style of Ignatius of Loyola and Mary Ward.

JAVIER ALONSO
Charism Formation Team



Youth Representative IBVM Spain closes this academic year

With a virtual meeting of former students (AA) between 18 and 30 years of age from our schools (Seville, Madrid and Bilbao), held on June 14.

The Alumni virtual meeting started at 20:00 and lasted about one hour. Three girls participated: two 18 year olds from Madrid and Bilbao (Sofia and Carlota) and another one (Julia), who is from Seville, although she is currently living in Paris. They were also accompanied by Cecilia O'Dwyer, Ibvm.

The objectives of the meeting were to create a space

for young people to express themselves on international issues related to the UN and to try to attract people to attend so that they can get involved in upcoming activities/events.

After an introduction of everyone, Cecilia O'Dwyer began with an explanation of IBVM's work at the UN and the importance of the SDGs. Next, Carlota and Cecilia talked about the different

events at the UN level that are held every year in which youth can participate and attend online (CSW, COP, CSoD, HLPF etc).

Then, it was time to work on the Sustainable Development Goals, which Carlota divided into 3 blocks:

- **Society:** SDG nº16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
- **Economy:** SDG nº8 Decent Work and Economic Growth.
- **Environment:** SDG nº6 Drinking Water and Sanitation; SDG nº7 Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG nº11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.

The participants exchanged very interesting reflections in an open and honest way and felt that the time had run out too quickly, as they had all spent a very pleasant and enjoyable time.

Recruitment process

The selection process to find a new young person to fill the position of IBVM Spain Youth Representative for the next academic year was open until the 8th of July. We hope that whoever



Encuentro virtual Antigu@s Alumn@s

Dirigido a Antigu@s Alumn@s de Colegios Irlandesas (Bilbao, Madrid y Sevilla) 18- 30 años

Animate a participar y elegir el tema del que hablaremos con la siguiente encuesta

<https://forms.gle/nyC4MvoL296apUBF9>

Youth Representative IBVM Spain

Youth Representative IBVM Spain



is selected will be as enthusiastic as Carlota Gayo has been.

Carlota says she has really enjoyed this opportunity. As far as possible, she will continue to offer her support to the person who fills this

position during the academic year 2022 / 2023, and to the youth network that she herself has initiated, being the pioneer in this position.

It has been a real pleasure to have Carlota with us. She has opened an exciting

path and has left an indelible mark, both in the Spanish province and in the IBVM / CJ network at international level.

We hope that the network will continue to grow for a long time to come.



To start in
September 2022
until
September 2023.



10 hours per week
of tele-working
and free schedule.



This is an unpaid
internship, but
a small financial
support will be
offered.

IBVM SPAIN | YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

offers the opportunity for internship as Spanish Youth Representative

If you are between 21 and 30 years old, fluent in English and interested in international processes for justice and equality, this is the network for you! Join the Youth Representative network, apply for the internship for the next academic year and join the global youth movement!

Uncovering lies

Political decisions



Many years ago I heard an explanation of what happened in Colombia when they allowed the entry of subsidized wheat from the U.S. Many people stopped being able to buy bread because it was selling so cheaply that they were ruined and could not buy anything. Their business was totally bankrupt, they were peasants who had been producing wheat until then. They did not have bad crops and knew a lot about producing wheat, it was political decisions that destroyed their livelihood.

In the same way, since the 1980s, also in Africa, the arrival of agricultural products from industrialized countries to countries of strong rural nature has been one of the fundamental reasons for impoverishment - and its derivatives, such as hunger and migration.

As in other parts of the world, multinational organizations imposed “free” trade. “You,” they told them, “stop producing your basic

foodstuffs, which will already come to you from the rich countries, which fertilize your crops with subsidies, and dedicate your best lands to producing and exporting raw materials for the global agro-industry... and you will not know what to do with all the profits you have collected”. And so it happened that where food was harvested, coffee, cocoa, palm oil, cotton... In a few years a landscape of agrarian mosaic was redrawn in the monotonous unicolor of these large plantations. Self-sufficiency mutated into a very high external dependence, and the promised income from exports remained in the pockets of local hierarchies and large international corporations.

Climate is also political

Hunger in Africa is not a problem of droughts or poor harvests, as we are led to believe; it is fundamentally the result of colonization and plunder. We can now add the climate crisis as a key factor that aggravates the difficulties of this continent... It is estimated that in the coming years 10-20% of Africa's total food production will be lost, so that by 2050, according to the UN, it will only be able to supply 13% of its food needs.

While the industrial food system is associated with at least half of all global greenhouse gas emissions, and is the main cause of species collapse, deforestation and habitat destruction worldwide, which affects and will affect so much Africa, it is, paradoxically and unfairly, the territory that contributes the least to global emissions, with 4% of the total.

That the industrial food system is a failed system is already a certainty. That is why we are seeing more and more programs appearing in industrialized countries to defend local agriculture and peasants.

However, on the African continent, the one that needs it most to fight hunger and reactivate its economies, international organizations want to promote once again the so-called “Climate-Smart Agriculture”, fictitious names for outdated practices based on the industrial model dependent on corporate fertilizers and seeds.

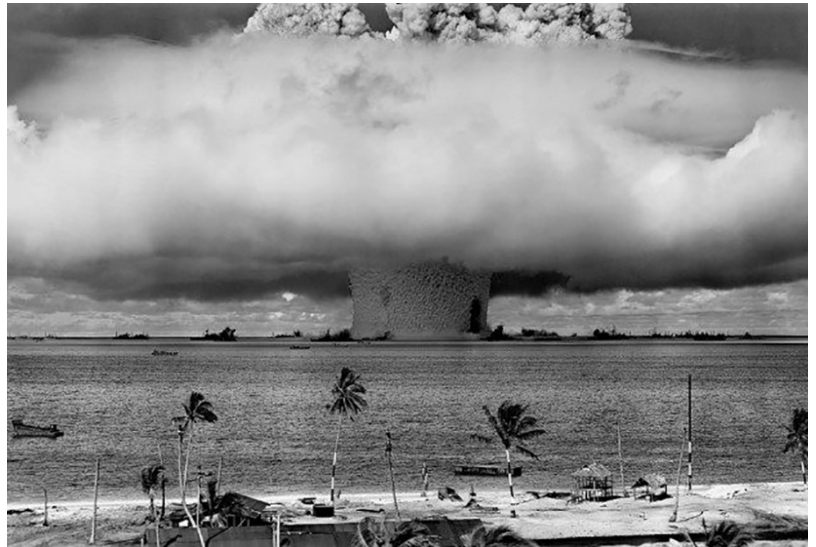
Poverty and climate are political and it is also with political decisions that industrialized countries have to correct their interference in African agriculture and climate.

Adapted of
GUSTAVO DUCH,
from Food Sovereignty

Interfaith unity against nuclear weapons

The IBVM has endorsed the inter-faith joint statement on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

“As religious communities from diverse traditions and located around the world, we join with one voice in celebrating this first Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We believe that this historic milestone brings us closer to a world without nuclear weapons”.



Celebrating the first year of the Mary Ward Family Living Laudato Si 7-Year Action Plan



On June 16, an online event organized by the Mary Ward JPIC office took place to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Mary Ward Family Action Plan. The event can be viewed on their YouTube channel.

Irene Reynolds' Birthday

On April 25, we celebrated the 90th birthday of Irene Reynolds Ivbm, who lives in the Community of El Soto, Madrid, after having spent many years in Peru.



More than 40 years praying together in Madrid

One of the tasks that the IBVM members carry out with discretion but perseverance is the promotion of prayer, Ignatian spirituality and making the Gospel known. Many of them accompany prayer groups wherever they are, and some of them have been doing so for more than 40 years...



This is the case of a prayer group accompanied by Piedad González Cano, Ibvm. It is a prayer group started by her sister Rosario, Ibvm, who died in 2011, back in the 1970s in El Soto, Madrid. They called themselves the “Grupo del Corazón de Jesús” (Group of the Heart of Jesus).

They meet once a week and the duration is around an hour, sometimes longer for the talk afterwards. Even during the pandemic, they have maintained telephone contact with each other, keeping friendship and accompaniment alive. The

aim of these groupings is to progress in prayer, to know the Gospel better and to help others to come to God by their example.

When Piedad joined these women, on her return from Asilah in 2010, there were 11 of them, but now there are only 5 left, as some have died and others have had to withdraw for reasons of change of residence etc.

Throughout these more than 40 years, the group has developed very strong links, so much so that they now recognise that one of their main objectives is to get to know each other deeply,

almost all of whom are now grandmothers, and to help each other.

They are in contact with other people, for example, they visit and accompany a sick person, who offers her sufferings for the group and the group prays for her. Also with a cloistered community, which they visit and collaborate with. The nuns pray for the group that has stood firm against time, distance, a pandemic and whatever comes in the future. Now they are happy because last May, they were able to meet again physically, in El Soto, where the photo was taken.

What is the JCoR and why does it recommend the UN Ocean Conference to us?



The IBVM / CJ network at the United Nations is one of 20 non-governmental organisations that are accredited at the UN to collectively represent more than 200 Religious Congregations of the Catholic Church, and that make up the JCoR, the Coalition of Religious for Justice, an alliance formed in 2017.

Convinced that Justice is at the heart of the needed global transformation, these congregations formed the JCoR shortly after the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda were adopted by the world's governments. As men and women members of the Church, they saw that their work to alleviate human and environmental suffering is, after all, in line with the SDGs and the UN's 2030 Agenda: ending extreme poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030. They were well positioned to guide local and global leaders in fulfilling the commitments of this global agenda.

Since then, they have organised different events and trainings, in the form of workshops, courses or conferences, in order to contribute to strengthening the capacity of members of Catholic religious congregations working at the grassroots and those who are representatives at the United Nations to:

- advocate for justice for people living in poverty in international, national and regional forums
- address the root causes of unsustainable development;
- and promote just, equitable and rights-based development through fair implementation of the SDGs.

Oceans Conference

SDG 14 aims to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

From 27 June to 1 July, the UN organised the Oceans Conference to try to find innovative, science-based solutions to address sustainable ocean management. The JCoR produced an awareness-raising guide on the importance of underwater life, listing several ways in which we can join many other people around the world working to reverse the current trend and save the oceans that nourish the 80% of life on our planet.

Sports - 2022



There are feelings in the air that are difficult to explain. That is exactly what happened on the Sports afternoon at the **Aljarafe** school. We filled our SAL A LA VIDA jar to the brim thanks to all the people who joined us on that day.

The little ones brought happiness and joy to the beginning of the afternoon and the older ones were an example of competing with sportsmanship. Together, we were able to remember how lucky we are to live our beloved SPORTS again.



With more strength than ever, with more enthusiasm than ever, this is how we have gone out for life throughout the entire school year at **Bami** School, with the enthusiasm that characterises us and the Sports have been the perfect reflection of this. Once again, we have been able to show off our flags, torch, boards, games and, best of all, we have been able to share it with our families. Let's go for another year full of excitement!



At last our longed-for Sports were back and our little boys and girls also wanted to be protagonists and gave a lesson in friendship, companionship and tenderness on such a special and exciting day at the **Leioa** school.



There was a great desire to celebrate and, above all, to share with our loved ones. We were able to enjoy a magnificent day, from the morning with the Eucharist until the end of the Sports. To define what we experienced on our day, there is a phrase by Jorge Bucay that sums it up perfectly: “The time that is enjoyed is the true time lived”. Well, that is what we did to go out and enjoy life at **Loreto School**.



How nice to see each other again! A happiness that we had long since lost due to the pandemic. Some nerves and much, much enthusiasm for the Sports of **Irlandesas Madrid** to reopen its doors to families and the whole educational community on June 24th. In the end, and with the nerves already put aside, time went by amidst laughter, joy and life. That which builds day by day the identity of our school, which identifies us and makes us unique.





On 24th June in **El Soto** we were able to celebrate Sports as a family, a wonderful celebration which is our hallmark. It was a spectacular, emotional and unforgettable day for our whole educational community which united us, if possible, even more as a school. Our celebration began with a prayer. There were stalls and activities organised by students, teachers and Kambia Foundation, cake competition, teacher-student match, etc. In the afternoon, the sporting event of our students and with the presence of families, friends, former students. Congratulations to all, and especially to the house of Avila for their victory!

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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