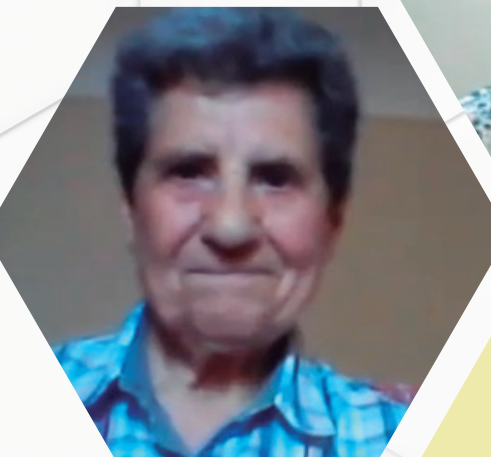
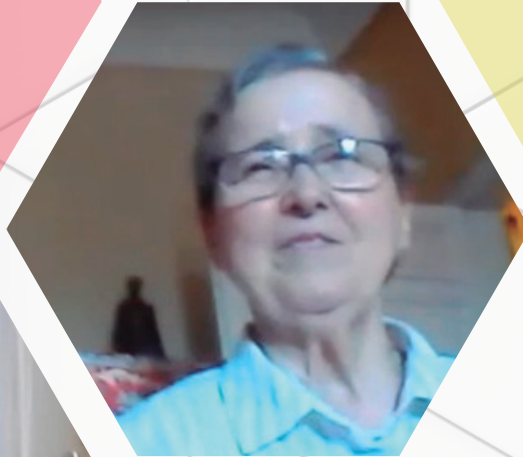


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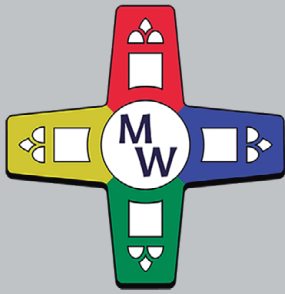


WORKING GROUP

on the
conclusions of
the CJ and
IBVM General
Congregations



CJ & IBVM



Conecta was the internal bulletin of the Spanish Province of the IBVM, but from its 100th issue, it adapts to the new times in which the IBVM and the CJ have decided to become ONE by Canonical Merger. It is now the Bulletin of the Spanish Province of the IBVM and CJ. The two branches founded by Mary Ward.

They are two religious communities inspired by Mary Ward, who want to live their spirituality and share it with the people they live and work with.

More information at
www.ibvm.es

Or on social media:



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In this issue

Page

CJ and IBVM Spain
In-depth study of the two
General Congregations.

3



Celebration in Leioa
IBVM Community closes, but
its legacy remains.

5



Youth Representative MW
Maria Perez presents her work
during this year.

8

Mary Ward JPIC Office
The Office organized a
webinar on Fair Trade.

10



World Religions
The Parliament of the World's
Religions will be held.

12



MW Educational Foundation
Essential aspects of our
educational mission.

16



**Cómo nos
organizamos**

Cover Picture

Image composed of several screenshots of the meetings of the team in charge of deepening the two General Congregations, composed of Isabel Gortázar, M^a Esther Villahoz, M^a Paz Sanz and Cecilia O'Dwyer.

Looking further into the two General Congregations

An amazing spiritual journey.

It is individual, highly personal. It cannot be organized or regulated.

Yet we are on this journey together.

Choices we made years ago are transformed into growth and fulfillment .

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Mary Ward Family,

We may be older, but we still have adventures ahead of us. We are embarking on a great spiritual journey that calls for transformation, allowing ourselves to be trans-

formed by Jesus, while embracing our highest human commitment to vulnerability and fragility.

In April 2023 many of us went to San Sebastian for a

meeting. It was more than an event. It was a starting point for new steps on the road travelled together in recent times. A team emerged; a team committed to providing us



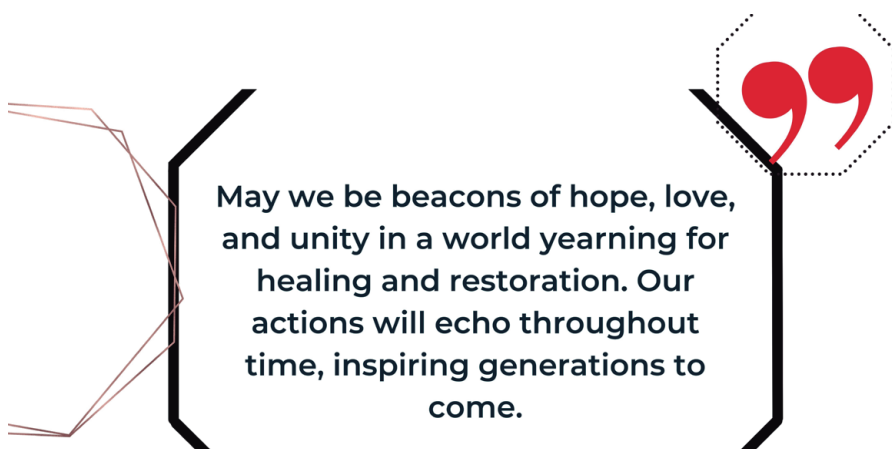
we must perceive how the Spirit of God speaks through each and every one of us. We will listen to the cry of our human brothers and sisters living in poverty and victims of discrimination. They are also the ones most affected by the changes happening to our planet, whose beauty we must nourish. We cannot ignore the cries of the Earth or refrain from questioning our role in its destruction and restoration.

Once again, we are called to testify and share our lived experiences, affirming that the Spirit of God is alive among us and acts through us. We will discern the personal values and attitudes that enable us to participate in the new life of the Church, humanity, and creation. Synodality will guide every aspect of our lives and missions, as we commit ourselves to safeguarding at all levels.

Together, we will embark on this adventure of the spirit, embracing transformation and surrendering ourselves to the divine presence within us. May we be beacons of hope, love, and unity in a world yearning for healing and restoration. Our actions will echo throughout time, inspiring generations to come.

We ask our friends colleagues, families, and the whole Mary Ward Family to ask God to bless us on this incredible journey. Let's us make it and incredible journey!

ISABEL GORTÁZAR
M^a ESTHER VILLAHOZ
M^a PAZ SANZ
CECILIA O'DWYER



with opportunities to deepen the conclusions of our recent General Congregations.

No matter how old we are, there are always new adventures awaiting us. We now have before us a multidimensional call from the CGs. It is a call to testify and share our lived experiences, to proclaim that the Spirit of God is alive among us and acts through us. It is an opportunity to reorient

our lives and missions, measuring them against the needs of our time.

We seek a deeper rooting and transformation in our spirituality and charisma, a process of becoming one that embodies the UNITY of all. To "be one" is to be an expression of the UNITY of everything that surrounds us, the human family, and the planet we inhabit,

With open minds and hearts,

Celebrating the life and legacy of the IBVM community in Las Arenas and Leioa

The IBVM community is leaving Leioa, but its legacy remains with the school and the large family that has been built up over almost 80 years around the IBVM sisters in Zalla, Las Arenas and Leioa.



Group photo of the current educational community with the IBVM sisters and friends

On 22 and 23 June, the Colegio Irlandesas Leioa hosted several farewell celebrations for the sisters of the IBVM community, which closed its doors at the end of the school year in June 2023. Many people who have or had a relationship with them and the school, families and friends came to give a hug to M^a Cruz Vela, Stella Lecanda and M^a José Muguerza (from left to right in the photo) and the rest of the religious who attended the celebrations. They were two days of joy and encounter, of gratitude and much affection.

The three sisters who were part of the Leioa community, M^a Cruz Vela, Stella Lecanda and M^a José Muguerza will move to live in other houses with the companions of the Spanish province. Although the Leioa house will no longer be listed as a community of religious sisters, the school they founded 79 years ago continues to grow and has a bright future ahead of it, integrated into the Mary Ward Educational Foundation, whose board of trustees is presided over by Elena Cerdeiras, Provincial of the IBVM.

The Irlandesas Leioa School, today one of the 8 schools of the Mary Ward Educational Foundation, is an indelible legacy of the spirit of the Institute, highly appreciated in the society of Leioa. The members of the IBVM and the Congregation of Jesus are looking forward to this new stage of their great educational project.

We have published several videos about this celebration on our YouTube channel. You can watch them at this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/@ibvmirlandesas7686/videos>





Maria Perez Manzano's finalizes her year as Youth Representative

María Pérez presented to the religious of the Institute her work during this year in which she has been the Youth Representative Mary Ward Spain. We were able to see the great work she has done and were grateful for the dedication and passion she has put into these tasks.



María Pérez Manzano, a former student from Seville, finishes her course as Youth Representative IBVM Spain at the end of July.

Throughout these months, María has organised various events to raise awareness about the work of the UN and the processes in which young

people from all countries of the world can get involved, in order to move towards sustainable development and a more just and peaceful world that fulfils the human rights of all people, leaving no one behind.

Among the events Mary has organised we can mention

concern for the Climate Crisis, the situation of women and girls, connecting Mary Ward schools around the world and education.

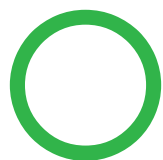
She is also promoting the five revised Sustainable Development Goals at the High Level Political Forum 2023 just held by the UN.



María Pérez, at the European Youth Event 2023 (EYE 2023) in Strasbourg

Mary Ward Family JPIC Action Plan: Fair Trade

21 June 2023 marked the third anniversary of the launch of the Mary Ward Family 7 Year Action Plan. Many good things and exceptional actions have happened since then. We have approached each other and continued to respond to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor, two of the goals of Laudato Si, in a variety of very creative and beautiful ways.



On the occasion of this anniversary, the Mary Ward JPIC Office organised a very interesting webinar on Fair Trade. Fair Trade aims to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development, but is it succeeding? The three speakers talked about the achievements and challenges of Fair Trade.

The first speaker was Joseph Blay, who spoke on “Mining and Fair Trade, a Ghanaian backdrop”, focusing on gold mining in Ghana, the country where he lives, the largest gold producer in Africa and the sixth largest in the world. He began by explaining that

it would be hypocritical to say NO to any form of mining while we use technology such as mobile phones or computers, or fly in planes that need metals extracted from the earth through mining. Gold production in Ghana is mainly carried out by small-scale artisanal miners whose most fundamental rights are not respected. Father Blay denounced the modern slavery suffered by the exploited people in Ghana, and by the whole of society, as pollution from untreated gold mining waste poisons the water and the land, causing suffering to the whole of society, including the unborn, as many babies are born with malfor-

mations due to the effects of pollution on pregnant mothers. He called for gold production to be included in fair trade, so that its rules of respect for the dignity of people and the environment can help to improve life in Ghana.

We then had the opportunity to hear from Roopa Mehta, president of the World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO). Fair Trade began in the 1960s and aims to explain that the lives of people and the planet must come before the accumulation of economic profit. It is a business model that has to take its rightful place in the new economy. For the WFTO it is a challenge, among many



By clicking on the images, you can access the videos

others, to implement truly fair trade and to unmask these false models of production that reproduce exploitation centred on profits without taking care of human dignity or the planet.

Finally, the Franciscan Rodrigo de Castro Amédée, who lives and works in Brazil and has almost 40 years of experience working on land conflicts from the pastoral commission on land, among other responsibilities he is advisor to the Special Commission on Integral Ecology and member of the Board of Directors of the Churches and Mining Network. He spoke about resour-

ce extraction and fair trade from a Latin American perspective. The intensification of resource extraction, not only mining, but also the extraction of agricultural, fishing, oil and gas, etc. resources, stems from strategic policies adopted by countries or economic blocs that want to secure control of the world's raw materials.

Fair trade emerges as a potential solution to the negative impacts of mining and other extractions, however, the expansion of fair-trade products on the international market threatens to dilute the critique of the dominant economic model. Father De Castro

warned against the risk of fair trade becoming just another brand, losing its link to justice and solidarity. He also warned against the narratives of "green capitalism". One sign of these risks, he pointed out, is that the term Fair Trade has replaced the term Alternative Trade, diluting the need for alternative approaches to the dominant economic system, which prioritises profit over the lives of people and the planet.

The recording of the webinar is posted on the YouTube channel of the Mary Ward JPIC Office, led by Pauline Macharia, Ibvm, and Adina Balan, FT, in both English and Spanish.

Parliament of the World's Religions



The Parliament of the World's Religions met for the first time in Chicago in September 1893. In fact, it was a specific activity within the World Columbian Exposition, an early World Fair. The Parliament brought together representatives of virtually all the world's religions in a massive gathering. It was the first time in the history of humankind that a forum for dialogue and an attempt at understanding between the different faiths of the world was created.

The next Parliament was not convened until a century later, again in Chicago in 1993. Since

then, it has been held several times and an infrastructure has been created to support the continuity of the work and the conclusions reached at each session of the Parliament.

The Parliament of the World's Religions aims to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and to foster their engagement with the world and relevant institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

Since the meeting in Chicago (1993) the Parliament has been held in Cape Town (1999), Barcelona (2004), Melbourne (2009), Salt Lake City

(2015) and a Virtual Parliament (2021).

In addition to the main world religions, the Parliament meetings bring together religious groups that, under normal circumstances, would find it difficult to meet. At the meetings small or marginalised faith groups have the unique opportunity to educate others about their traditions in the respectful and compassionate atmosphere of an interfaith gathering.

In Chicago 1993, the elaboration of a Global Ethics was initiated. It was the theologian Hans Küng, who aroused great interest on a global scale of

2023 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS



*A Call
to Conscience:*

*Defending Freedom
and
Human Rights*

”

this initiative. In the Declaration Towards a Global Ethic, a catalogue of universal ethical norms was formulated, based on the basic precepts of the great religions and non-religious ethical systems. Since 1993, working groups have been set up to monitor and develop this and other emerging issues at Parliament meetings, e.g., Climate Action, Peace and Justice, Women, Future Generations, Indigenous Peoples.

With “A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom and Human Rights” as its theme, the Parliament of the World’s Religions 2023 will be held in Chicago from 14 – 18 Aug. In light of the present and growing

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authoritarianism in our world today, this Parliament “will be the largest and most important gathering of the world’s religious and spiritual leaders and practitioners, coming together in a collective, courageous and clear response to this most dangerous crisis facing us today.”

A group from the Mary Ward Family will be in Chicago. I am privileged to be part of our delegation and know it is going to be a meaningful experience at this time. We will share the conclusions and the tasks ahead with the international Mary Ward Family.

CECILIA O'DWYER, IBVM

Essential aspects of our educational mission

To bid farewell to the academic year, the schools of the Mary Ward Educational Foundation have published videos in which their managers share the essential aspects of their educational work.

The videos can be accessed through the QR code that appears in the images or by searching their social media.

First of all, Elena Cerdeiras (president of the board of trustees) and Pilar Urretavizcaya (member of the board of trustees), **religious of the IBVM and CJ** respectively, explained where the Mary Ward Educational Foundation comes from, how the union of [their schools](#) has been and at what point the congregations are at.

Secondly, the members of the **Management Team** took part:

- Teresa Clemente, General Director of the Foundation
- Jorge Largo, Director of the Pedagogical Area
- Josep Cerrada, Director of the People Area
- Luis Miguel Cuñado, Director of Strategy and Communication
- Clara García, Director of Pastoral Care and Charisma

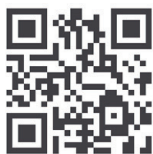
And finally, some of the **coordinators of specialised teams** will go into some of the more technical aspects in more depth:

- Alejandro Delgado, Coordinator of Marketing and Communication
- Manuel Sánchez, ICT Coordinator
- Javier Alonso, Charism Coordinator

In the links that appear in this text you can go deeper into all these aspects through the different sections of their web page www.feducativamaryward.org.

ALEJANDRO DELGADO, COORDINADOR DE COMUNICACIÓN INSTITUCIONAL FEMW

Nuestro origen



ELENA Y PILAR

Elena Cerdeiras (president of the board of trustees) and Pilar Urretavizcaya (member of the board of trustees), IBVM and CJ sisters respectively, explained where the Mary Ward Educational Foundation came from.

Teresa Clemente, Director General of the Foundation, explains how it is [structured](#) and what it entails.



TERESA

Cómo nos organizamos



Proyecto pedagógico

JORGE



Jorge Largo, Director of the Pedagogical Area, summarises the main lines of his [pedagogical project](#): to respond to educational needs through identity aspects and new horizons.



Un equipo excepcional

JOSEP



Josep Cerrada, Director of the People Area, explains what the human team is like in his schools, what their [values](#) are and how they face the different challenges they face.

Plan Estratégico



Luis Miguel Cuñado, Director of Strategy and Communication, presents how its [Strategic Plan](#) is built according to the needs of schools and taking into account the Global Education Pact and the SDGs.



LUIS MIGUEL

CLARA

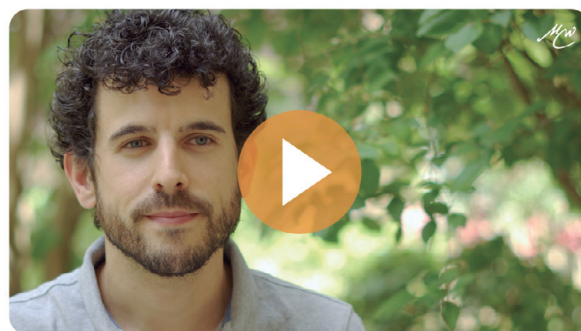


Clara García, Director of Pastoral Care and Charism, explains in depth what [Pastoral](#) Care is like in the schools of the Mary Ward Educational Foundation.

Pastoral oxigenante



Alejandro Delgado, Marketing and Communication Coordinator, explains the role of communication in the Foundation's educational work and how this aspect is taken care of in its schools.



ALEJANDRO

Comunicar es educar



MANUEL

Manuel Sánchez, ICT Coordinator, explains how the irruption of [technology in the classroom](#) has helped and how they work with it at their schools. He also explains how this has led them to become the first Google Reference School Network in Spain.

Tecnologías para el futuro



Javier Alonso, Charism Coordinator, focuses on how Mary Ward's charism is lived in the schools of the [Mary Ward](#) Educational Foundation.



JAVIER

Carisma vivo



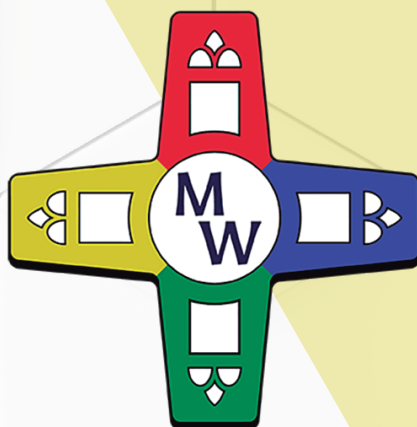
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If you want to collaborate with the Conecta newsletter by writing, sending a photograph, suggesting a topic... whatever you can think of, contact us!

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