An Experience of Diminishment

Unlike other times, the months from September to mid December 2013 were very different for the General Leadership and the community in Via Nomentana. Needless to say that the community experienced diminishment on a fresher, larger scale. The members of the Generalate were away, some in Mary Ward’s own country. Jane and Prisca were on Visitation in the regions of Bangalore and Nepal, till mid- November, when finally they too were able to join the team again.

This edition of the CJ News brings you warm wishes for the New Year, 2014. As Lord Tennyson would remind us “Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering it will be happier”. Let this New Year bring us new thoughts, new words, new language, new actions, “for last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice.” (T.S.Eliot). We hear in this issue, new voices as CJs from different corners of the world share with us their gratitude for the experiences of the year- province assemblies, formation and intercultural experiences, opening of new centres, and launching out into new projects including the IBVM-CJ house in Manila.
Our second Christmas

The General Team returned in twos, threes and singles, from England, on varying dates, from 5th December to 19th, all in time to spend a fruitful triduum in preparation for the Nativity of the Lord, with very moving sharing of reflection points in both English and Italian by Fr. Mark, the General of the MSC fathers.

We had a delightful Christmas celebration, with a concelebrated High Mass with lovely singing by the excellent choir of Via Nomentana! The Mass was followed by a lovely party with the concelebrants and the relatives of one of them, all Spanish speakers!!

Multi-lingual and intercultural describe most of our gatherings and this time it was very, very special with eleven nationalities speaking 16 languages!!

Ring out the old, ring in the new

The last day of 2013 saw us in prayer and reflection in the evening and after supper.

The Generalate gathered together for a time of prayer in the Generalate Chapel while the community prayed in the big Chapel before supper. Jane Livesey led the prayer moving us into the composition of place by quoting from Karl Rahner, the great Jesuit theologian, “and now God says to us what God has already said to the earth as a whole through his grace-filled birth: “ I am there. I am with you. I am your life. I am your time. I am the gloom of your daily routine. I am your joy. Do not be afraid to be happy; ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living that is more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope…I am present in your needs. I have suffered them and they are now transformed but not obliterated from my heart. This reality-incomprehensible wonder of my almighty love- I have sheltered safely and completely in the cold stable of your world. I am there. Even if you do not see me now, I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles. They have more right to exist than all the darkness.” We lit candles, shared our light and prayed that the darkness may disappear from our lives with the help of the light we possess.

After supper all gathered in the big chapel for adoration. As the stroke of midnight tolled, all of us with the exception of three, climbed up to the terrace to see the city of Rome “ringing out the old and ringing in the new” with fireworks and sparklers. We were aware that as the stroke of midnight rolled across the world's time zones, people gathered in private and took to the streets to celebrate the arrival of the New Year, 2014. Fireworks erupted from Sydney to Moscow, and revelers gathered in Kiev, Durban, Rio de Janeiro, New York, and thousands of other places, raising a glass, keeping warm, making resolutions, and wishing each other a "Happy New Year!". Our hearts went out to those victims of violence in the many parts of the world for whom a happy New Year still has to dawn!
**In Mary Ward’s own country**

Former chancellor of Germany, Konrad Adenauer, once remarked, “We all live under the same sky, but we don’t all have the same horizon.” We are all CJs but our horizons differ in terms of understanding the rich heritage we have in Mary Ward. Our experience in England gave us a glimpse into our own great heritage.

**My experience in England**

(Elena CJ)

The word ‘THANKS’ best expresses my experience of living three months in Cambridge and three in York. Thanks to Jane and all the Generalate for their belief in mobility and availability to move to work for three months in York. For me it was significant to get to know each other closely, share daily household chores, and work with what was absolutely necessary. Thanks to Sr. Frances for welcoming us into the English province. Thank you for providing us with opportunities to visit the places related to the Catholics in England and places related to Mary Ward. Thanks to the sisters in the community of Cambridge who welcomed me, supported me, taught me with great love and patience and encouraged me every day while learning English. Thanks to the sisters in York, for their warm welcome and giving us the house for our stay and work. Thanks to the sisters of St. Joseph’s community for their witness of fidelity and serenity at this stage in their lives. Thanks for the gift of living in York, the land of Mary Ward, a land of people of faith sorely tried by persecution, a land of martyrs, and a land of wide horizons like the vision of Mary Ward. First of all I would like to say that without the generosity of those people who enabled us to fulfill the idea of our going to York it would have never happened. Thank you very much indeed!

**Holy land of the CJs (Františka CJ)**

When I look back it seems to be a dream that we have spent three months in Mary Ward country working as if we were in Rome! When we reached York everything was prepared so that we were able to work and to live as a small community which I did not take for granted. It was a unique experience. Every day we could to pray together with St Bede’s and St Joseph’s communities at Mass or a Eucharistic Service. During four weeks, when Elena and I went on an English course on Thursdays, we took part at Eucharistic services led by Sr. Agatha at St Joseph’s. She always conducts them with such immense love!

The Saturday Mass in St Margaret Clitherow’s Shrine reminded me of the first Christians and of the totalitarian regime in Slovakia very much. Only around 30 people can fit in together in the room used as chapel on the Shambles, a street full of small shops, in the immediate proximity of a market. You can feel the atmosphere of faith, fruit of the martyrdom of those who laid down their lives during the persecution. It made me wonder what the atmosphere would have been like during the period of Mary Ward! I learned to pray with the Anglican brothers at their beautiful Evensong in the prayerful atmosphere of the famous York Minster every day.

One of events we most appreciated was our visit to the sisters in Hull where we could see how blessed and fruitful their mission for poor people has been. The most important experience for me, personally, came at the end. It was the great privilege of visiting Mary Ward places and experiencing the faith of the believers in this present day and to be able to pray there. Only after our return to Rome was I able to see what a tremendous privilege it had all been. I think that what the Holy Land means to us as Christians is what Mary Ward country means to us as CJs.

**Four months in York (Cecilia CJ)**

Four months of life in York led me to realize what the meaning of “the living heritage” really is. The heritage of Mary ward seemed to be alive and speaking to me about all the messages it has conveyed so far. Wherever I went and whatever I did, every day of my life was filled with meaningful and significant conversations with this “living” heritage and our foundress Mary Ward was at the centre of those conversations. It was a great joy and a privilege for me as a member of the CJ.

I arrived in York much earlier than the others and thus I saw what the sisters did and how they prepared for the Generalate’s coming to York. I was deeply touched by their love, concern and joy. The sisters made great efforts to prepare all the facilities needed for the daily life of the Generalate, which clearly showed how delighted they were with the Generalate’s staying with them in the Bar Convent, and how much they loved not just the Generalate but the whole congregation.
The three months that followed confirmed and reinforced what I had experienced. I very much appreciate what I experienced in York, which led me to learn how to love and care for our members and the congregation as a whole.

On this occasion I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Sr. Frances Orchard and all the sisters in the English province for their hospitality and generosity.

**A special Experience**

*(Elisabeth CJ)*

To live in the Bar Convent was a very special experience, knowing that for 427 years sisters were living there and survived in spite of all the difficulties and hardships. Now, once again, the sisters are trying to make this place fit for the future with the “Living Heritage Project” in renewing the Centre at the Bar. We felt very much at home there, and the sisters did everything to support our living and our working. Another place which was important for me during this time was Osbaldwick. Whenever possible I made a pilgrimage to Mary Ward’s tombstone there. I appreciated the quiet, the simplicity and the dignity of this place. And on my way back it was clear to me, that we needn’t worry too much about our future. Mary Ward will care today as she cared for the last 400 years.

The third place I began to love is York Minster. Evensong in this most beautiful cathedral was always one of the highlights of the day, when there was time to attend. Sad to say that Mary Ward probably never had the chance to see the Minster from the inside. Thank God there is such good cooperation between our former school, now All Saints RC School, and the Minster!

**The Rising of the North (Prisca CJ)**

Cultural legacies are powerful forces. They have deep roots and long lives. Elena and I were indeed privileged to have a profound experience of a slice of history from Mary Ward’s times - the rising of the North. Ann Stafford CJ and Agatha Leech CJ, two very enthusiastic and caring members of CJ England, took us to the Markenfield Hall to the celebration of the 444th anniversary of the Rising of the North. Although Ann Stafford had to brave the pouring rain and strong wind driving from the Bar Convent to Markenfield on a cold wet night, the drive itself gave us a feeling of the sense of adventure prompted by the faith of the daring Catholics of Mary Ward’s time. The plan of the event organizers was to replicate in some way the events of the 20th November, 1569. This meant gathering outside the Markenfield Hall, on the long road leading to it, so as to come in procession with the flag into the hall singing and praying together. This took place on the ground floor of this ancient hall to recall the events of the first rising of the North. Due to the heavy rainfall the gathering outside and the procession on the road with the flag had to be abandoned, with some disappointment. Here is a bit of the history of this place. Canon John Markenfield was of high standing under the sovereign, and his family formed many connections through marriage with the other great ruling houses of the North. The family had supported the king at the earlier battles of Agincourt, Bosworth and Flodden, all the while prospering and increasing the family's status. Their good fortune came to an end with them turning against the crown and Sir Thomas Markenfield being among the Catholic nobles leading the Rising of the North in 1569 with a large contingent setting out from Markenfield Hall itself. The rising which stemmed from the Dissolution of the Monasteries thirty years earlier aimed to counter the suppression of the Catholic faith in favour of Protestantism and replace Queen Elizabeth I with her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots. The rising was unsuccessful and among the brutal retaliation the Markenfield family was forced to flee first to Scotland and then to the Low Countries surviving in increasing poverty.

In commemorating this event, the next step was to climb up the stairs to be in the small chapel to celebrate the Eucharist. We had a very inspiring piece of history and having offered Mass praying...
for all those who kept up the faith, we were driven to a cozy pub for a celebratory meal. The warmth and the friendliness of each one there, towards us and each other, were indeed superb!

**Compassion Alive- Hull**

We, the general Leadership team, were thrilled and extremely grateful when Jane Livesey announced that she would drive us to the CJ social centre in Hull, in the afternoon of 21st November. Anna Hawke CJ and Josie CJ welcomed us into St. Stephen’s Neighbourhood Centre very warmly and shared with us their life experiences in this centre and the surrounding areas of Hull. This centre has been maintaining an outstanding outreach to the elderly across the city of Hull. We were very moved by the commitment of the CJs and the volunteers in serving the adults and older teenagers with learning disabilities, besides taking care of the faith life of the people of the place. We arrived here at a very significant moment in their life, when we CJs are getting ready to hand over this very warm loving service to the Daughters of Charity, handing over to younger hands to make sure that the work of the Lord continues. We were overwhelmed by the selflessness and the freedom in letting go and the love in making sure that the poor are served. All the best to you Anna and Josie, our love and prayers accompany you, wherever your next mission will be!

**ALL IN UNISON**

Our experience of Mary Ward country was possible only because of the generosity of Sr. Frances Orchard and Sr. Patricia Harris. We appreciate very much her availability and generosity in taking us to Mulwith, Harewell, Ripon and other important places in our history and being our guide for our many visits, patiently waiting, describing events slowly and clearly giving all the time to relish the experience. Thank you dear Sr. Patricia, you will always be remembered with gratitude!
The IBVM-CJ collaboration has taken another forward step in Manila, the Philippines, where we have now a common house. IBVM Australia and CJ Korea have worked together to accomplish this happy pioneering. Sr. Chris Burke IBVM, Bosco Lee and Cecilia Choi CJ are the happy beginners.

Chris Burke writes: On December 1st we moved into a house on the corner of Avelino and Jocson streets, in the barangay of Xavierville 2, Loyola Heights!

The house has been rented for one year. While it has not as many rooms as each province had hoped (both the Korean and Australian provinces had been separately looking for a five bedroomeed house) – we hope it will have a special quality of building bridges between two parts of Mary Ward’s institute, and the spiritual benefits will balance the issues of space.

The five bedrooms each have a bathroom attached. Four of the five have a dressing room and are large enough to accommodate two or three sisters. There is ample common space, a covered patio area with a grotto, and this can serve as an extra room, a prayer area, and an outdoor dining space.

Before moving in we worked together to clean the house which had been unoccupied for some years. While we were given access to some furniture by the owners (lounge suites and tables, chairs etc.) we decided to buy supplementary furniture separately as needed, but to split the rent, and to share ongoing costs of water, electricity, and food according to numbers as we go. We discovered on moving in that various plumbing and electrical aspects of the house were badly in need of attention, and for the first few weeks we have had lots of hammering, times without water, times with water overflows, and much besides, but we have managed with a good sense of humour.

We had our first mass and house blessing celebrated by Fr Mark Raper, an Australian Jesuit. We welcomed our first live-in guests, Srs Dorothea and Helena from Korea, and while Chris has returned to Australia, Bosco and Cecilia are holding the fort ready to welcome Janet Palafox (who will live in in nearby Ateneo, but will visit our house to see how it is settling down), and Therese, a Chinese CJ who is coming to study English. Chris will return in early February and another Korean sister, as well as a Vietnamese and an Australian IBVM are due to arrive during February - the last two for a short three week course. Two other Koreans sisters who are coming for language study will live out initially (one in each of the FCJ houses) and will be with us for weekends and for community support.

We do not know what the future will bring. As we looked back on the night before Chris left, we each saw that already we had learned from each other and that we felt we are getting into one community. We are prepared to work at this and to ensure that the students who come through this house have support and friendship while they study. We plan to get help in learning to live together as a multi-cultural community, because we realise it will take a lot of generosity to make it work well, but we are committed to this, and so far we are enjoying the challenge of difference and unity.

We feel Mary Ward is with us because this is not what we had originally planned, but it has happened, and if all continues well we could imagine seeking to either renew the lease or find alternative accommodation for 2015.
**A Happy Surprise**

Sumita Pinto CJ writes from Allahabad:

‘In the midst of our Province Assembly, we were in for a pleasant surprise, for we had a visitor, the Pope’s representative in India, namely the Nuncio, His Excellency, Most Rev. Salvatore Pennachhio. He was accompanied by his secretary, Mgr. Marco Sprizz. Soon after arriving in Allahabad on the morning of 2nd December the Nuncio, accompanied by his secretary and Bishop Ignatius, came to St. Mary’s Provincial house around 1:30 p.m. The distinguished visitors were given a cordial and warm welcome by the children of Classes I and II as well as by all the sisters who had come for the Province Assembly. We received them at the gate with bouquets and garlands while the little ones, lined up on either side of the driveway, strew flowers lisping “Welcome, your Excellency”. His Excellency appeared in high spirits and very jovially posed for photographs with the little ones. The welcome was followed by a visit to the chapel where the Nuncio was given an official welcome. His Excellency then delivered his message to the whole Congregation exhorting us to fidelity in our commitment. He reminded us to be happy religious women and shared the good news that the year 2015 will be announced as the ‘Year of Consecrated Life’.

He then gave us the Papal blessing after which our guests had a hearty lunch in the dining room. Before departing the Nuncio presented us with a book entitled, ‘Year of Faith – The Witnesses of the Faith, 1883-2013’, a commemorative book on the 130th anniversary of the representation of the Holy See in India. The visit of Papal Nuncio was indeed a memorable occasion for us.

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**Blessing of the new Mary Ward Centre – Sancta Maria in Prešov, Slovakia**

“I hope in God it will be seen that women in time to come will do much.” Mary Ward

On 16th November 2013 at 4 p.m. we celebrated the blessing given by Monsignor Bernard Bober, Archbishop of Košice, of the new chapel of the Holy Trinity and the Mary Ward Centre in Sancta Maria, the historic building in Prešov. About 60 members of the CJ Slovak province took part in this celebration.

During Mass we gave thanks to God for the work that was done here in the past and which, now renewed, will serve the whole province once again, especially the formation of sisters and for their apostolate. In his homily Archbishop Bernard thanked the sisters for their previous work, particularly emphasizing the heroic testimony of their faithfulness during the period of communism, and he encouraged us to live our religious life truthfully and authentically in the present time.

After the liturgical celebration Sister Klára Füryová spoke briefly about the history of Sancta Maria. Sister Eva Jaroušková thanked Sister Helena Bugošová, the Provincial Superior, for this renovation of Sancta Maria, and at the same time congratulated her, on behalf of all the sisters in the province, on her 60th birthday. The programme continued with refreshments and time for the Archbishop, priests and sisters to chat together, and to look around the newly-arranged space in the Centre.

One part of the Mary Ward Centre is the conference room, which has mementos of our beginnings in Sancta Maria: the portraits of the first sisters from St. Pölten who came to Prešov in 1882, Bishop Konstantin Schuster, who invited our sisters to Prešov, and the Canon who contributed to the blessed beginning of the “cradle” of our province. The library, which contains about 7,000 volumes, is also worthy of notice. It is available not only for sisters, but for all who are interested. The library also serves as a classroom for the students of religion from the state Grammar School which is located in the building. The chapel is open to school students and staff for personal prayer.

Thanks to the Internet and good cooperation with the Christian television station LUX the sisters abroad could also watch the Mass.
On this occasion we thanked in our prayers all the benefactors who contributed to the realization of this project. Without their support we could not have carried out this work.

We hope and pray that the Lord will bless and watch over the Mary Ward Centre – Sancta Maria, that it may achieve its aim.

We offer you the link to our photo gallery on the Slovak province website:
http://www.congregatiojesu.com/centrum-ward/

**MARY WARD VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER, RAJAPUR (ALLAHABAD)**

This humble attempt of ours, to train girls from the poorer sections of society, in order to empower them to stand on their own feet and give them faith in their own dignity and power, have borne ample results. We, Srs. Sunita, Aniceta and Daya, feel a sense of satisfaction in contributing at least a small bit to the empowerment of women of our country.

As usual this year too there was rush for admissions for various courses in the summer. All three of us set our minds to be available for 24 hours for these girls. We began the spoken English classes with 20 students at the beginning of April. Next we started computer and ‘mehendi’ design courses. Many more girls came for mehendi design because of which we were persuaded to start a second batch with 20 girls on roll. By the end of May we started this skill based training along with one month of dance class. In the beginning of June Macramé classes began.

It was very heartening to see the girls keenly interested in learning one or the other skill. All were serious about what they were learning. For the dress making course the number went quite high as usual. The room is packed as they sit on the carpets when they learn to cut and stitch with hands before starting to use the machine. The beauticians were busy practicing various make-ups and hairstyles as their course was coming to an end. Without any effort at advertisement from our part, the girls come to our centre as they come to know about the various courses from their friends. All these courses are conducted under our supervision and our presence makes a great impact. At the end of one month of dance class the students perform what they have learned. All those who complete these courses successfully are awarded certificates. At present there are more than a hundred girls attending different courses.

Seeing the interest and enthusiasm of the students and sensing the need for such skill based training programmes to equip the girls with skills necessary for employment, we wish to expand the number of courses offered and provide more space to the students so that more girls can be admitted. But at present our resources are limited. Let’s hope and pray that God may show us a way.

Sr. Sunita CJ
The Province Assembly in Patna province began on 5th November 2013 at 7.45 am in the SJC Bankipore auditorium and was concluded on 7th November. Eighty of our sisters actively participated in it. Each day began with very meaningful prayer services connecting to the theme of the day and concluded with the Holy Eucharist.

On the first day after lighting the lamp Sr. Vimla, our Provincial Superior, gave the inaugural address on the theme ‘Rooted in Christ and Grounded in Faith.’ In her address she reminded everyone of our collective responsibility to the mission which is a challenging one, as we are placed with the Cross bearing Christ who is the root of our own faith. She invited the whole province to experience a new Pentecost in our hearts, in our communities and in our mission. Thus she declared the Province Assembly 2013 open.

Later, in the morning Sr. Vimla presented the state of the Province. She began with the Province vision statement emphasizing Mary Ward as a person rooted in Christ and grounded in faith.

Fr. Louis Prakash SJ, the facilitator of the Province Assembly accompanied us throughout. His inputs challenged us to go deeper into our roots and then rise to greater heights; he helped us to evaluate and plan each of our ministries. The inputs and the rich experiences of faith shared by our own sisters, Aloysia, Sophia, Sarita, Justina and Poonam were very inspiring. During the sessions for practical considerations the sisters discussed openly various issues, such as the problems faced by sisters in various places regarding their ministry; land related issues; relationship with the collaborators; the future of some of our houses and so on.

While proposing the vote of thanks Sr. Teresita mentioned that ‘the success of this Assembly depends upon each one of us - what we carry back with us and how we would keep the flame burning’.

The highlights of the days were the Holy Eucharist. The entrance procession of the first day’s Eucharist was led by Mary Ward (in the person of Sr. Manju) bringing various sisters from different cultures belonging to the province. This gave us an awareness of our unity in diversity. On the second day the struggles of Mary Ward in founding our Congregatio was depicted. On the third day we had a Thanksgiving Mass. At the end of the Mass symbolically the sisters were send out on mission as we lighted our candles from the candle lit by our Provincial Superior, Sr.Vimla which we passed on to every member of the Assembly. A special remembrance of gratitude to all those who prayed for us during our Assembly. We specially thank Sr. Jane our General Superior and her team, for their prayerful support.
Formation for universal mission
CLAR / South America

From 5th November - 7th December the juniors Eliana Diaz from Brazil, and Paula Montano from Chile, took part in a meeting on Formation and Interculturality in Argentina. The meeting consisted of two weeks of reflection and two of mission in El Caburé, a very poor place in Argentina. In the final days we also shared with Mariana Ojeda, from Argentina, who is completing her tertianship year and who had come back from a three-month experiment in Cuba.

It was a very enriching for everyone to experience and share the stages of passing from one culture to another: the experience of transition, according to Adler, consists of five stages: contact, disintegration, reintegration, autonomy, and independence.

Our reflections were based on the Just Soul and the preferential option for the poor, as the place from which to live and set out on mission, which is to say we mean to ‘feel and taste that the poor person is also our formator.

‘They are our judges’, said St. Ignatius. To see the poor as point of reference for our lives, ‘....their food, drink and clothing’...’ does us good, and brings us close to the poor Jesus whom we wish to follow.

This meeting of the Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean (CRAL) brings us close to our single universal mission: ‘The propagation of the faith’, and sets us new challenges.

Sr. Liliana Castro CJ

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JPIC SECTION
RENATE training in Slovakia
(Sr. Bohdana Bezáková)

RENATE - Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation

Twenty five religious women and co-workers representing fourteen European countries, Albania, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and UK, came together to share our experience in a common ministry ‘Combating Human Trafficking’. All are members of RENATE.

Srs. Adina Balan, CJ (Romania) and Bohdana Bezáková (Slovakia) attended this programme.

We gathered in the small village of Čičmany, northern Slovakia from East, Central and Western Europe to learn about Catholic Social Teaching, Spirituality of Fundraising and to support one another in ministry. We learnt from the stories from various countries, celebrated together through liturgy, through cultural trips, and supported each other in ministry and enjoyed companionship.

Some participants are front line workers offering shelter and support to women who have been the victims of this horrendous crime and who return home psychologically damaged and penniless. Some run shelters supporting women who were lucky enough to escape from their traffickers. Some of the participants were women who work in source countries and so work on preventative programmes with vulnerable women and children. Other participants work to raise awareness responding to requests for talks in universities, schools, media, youth, and other groups. One participant is a volunteer in the UK with PACE (Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation) formerly known as CROP (Coalition for the Removal of Pimping) and one other participant works with the Roma Community in Slovakia.

It was the most enriching experience to have gained from both the inputs and the sharing of stories. We were delighted to welcome Imelda Poole IBVM (Albania), Marie Helene Halligon RBP (France) and Mary Patricia Mulhall CSB (England) who had returned from the workshop in Rome, called by Pope Francis on ‘The Trafficking in Human Beings.’ We caught their energy, enthusiasm

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Sr. Liliana (CJ) with the formees of Brazil and Chile
and inspiration when they gave input the following morning sharing a little of what they had experienced at this workshop and of their face to face meeting with Pope Francis. The message of HOPE was palpable.

We were privileged to have Fr. Donal Dorr, a member of St. Patrick’s Missionary Society, a theologian, active member of the Irish anti-trafficking group APT, and author of many books, to lead us with input on the development of Catholic Social Teaching, followed by very engaging discussions. Donal in his own unique way took us through a brief historical outline of key issues in Catholic Social Teaching from 1891 up till now.

Donal emphasized the need for us as Christians to develop a spirituality centred on human rights as this touches people’s hearts today. Love and anger are two sides of the same coin – if we have compassion for those who are abused then we have a right to be angry/outraged about Human Trafficking.

We recalled the familiar words of the Popes on Trafficking in Persons:

Pope John Paul II, 2002 said “Trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offence and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. Such situations are an affront to fundamental values which are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person”.

Pope Francis, Easter 2013 “Human trafficking is the most extensive form of slavery in this twenty first century” and again in May 2013 Pope Francis said “I affirm here that the trade in people is a vile activity, a disgrace to our societies that claim to be civilized”.

‘Respect for Human Dignity’ is key to Human Rights. What we mean by respect varies in different cultures. This initiated much discussion and by the end of the week participants asked to have a training on how to effect cultural change in source and destination countries. This request no doubt will be taken up by the Working Board of RENATE.

Fr. Milan Bubák, SVD from Slovakia, took us through the social analysis method he used for writing a booklet on human trafficking. He explained the stages of his work on this subject at the time when he served as the Coordinator for Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation for his congregation in Rome. It was very helpful and encouraging especially to these who are new workers in the field.

On our final day Imelda Poole and Ivonne van de Kar introduced us to the concept of ‘The Spirituality of Fundraising’ and led the group through a basic dynamic for preparing the documents for fundraising. The focus for the topic, ‘The Spirituality of Fundraising’ was based on a book written by Henri Nouwen called ‘The Spirituality of Fundraising’. The themes ranged from the call to conversion for both the donor and the one applying for funding as all are called to be engaged in this work for justice in the mission which is all part of God’s work in the birthing of the kingdom of God in today’s world. It is a call to humility, to ethical behaviour, truth and transparency. It is a call to networking and working in community for a common goal and objectives leading to a greater good.

Time together as East, West and Central European representatives working in the field of anti-trafficking was time well spent.
CJ NEWS congratulates the three newly appointed provincials - Sabine Adam (MEP), Alma Chunayanmackal (Bangalore Region), and Marilyn Murickal (Nepal Region). The prayers of all CJ members accompany you!

Your Attention Please! Thank you very much for the news items for this edition. Please send in news for the next edition to reach the editor by 28th February. Please could I request you to keep the size of the text to one side of A4 and kindly send the photos separately in jpeg format.