CJ News wishes all its readers a Christmas full of peace, joy and hope. Christmas is about the wonder of God among us, coming in vulnerability. It's about the simplicity of life as a pure gift. It’s about the hope we all can have that, however nondescript our origins, we are destined for something eternal. This edition of CJ news brings stories of connectivity, of feeling, of empathy beyond one’s geographical boundaries, coming together of Mary Ward women from around the world, attempts at bringing dignity and freedom to more and more women around the globe. At its best, our work with Mary Ward is about tracing the web of meaning and the pattern of significance in moments great and small. Why? Because our faith declares that God is at the heart of them, labouring to bring blessing and encouragement for all our journeys in life. As we wish you all a very Happy New Year 2013 we relish the best of memories past and look forward to the making of new ones with you. Your leadership team is full of gratitude for all that has been, as we continue to experience great hope within ourselves and try to spread it all around. We also bring you our new Province Leaders of this year, women entrusted with great responsibilities, wishing them well and commending them to your prayers.

Award of the Distinguished Service Cross of the German United Republic

to Sr. Mechtild Meckl CJ
On 13th November 2012 Sr. Mechtild Meckl CJ, former General Superior of the Congregation of Jesus, received the Distinguished Service Cross of the German United Republic. It was presented to her by the German Ambassador to the Holy See, Dr. Reinhard Schweppe, in the presence of about 30 of Sr. Mechtild’s invited guests.

In his address Dr. Schweppe thanked Sr. Mechtild for her great commitment in the field of the education and advancement of women and children all over the world. In India, she had made an important contribution to the education of the poor by helping to set up schools. The advancement of the Schmidt School in East Jerusalem was also part of her contribution. He emphasized too, that Sr. Mechtild was also an example for many people outside the Catholic Church.

Sr. Mechtild, in her closing words, said that she was receiving the honour as a representative, on behalf of all those who had worked with her: fellow members of the Congregatio Jesu, the Loreto Sisters, the Jesuits, her family, and the many others without whom she would not have been able to achieve what she had done.

For Sr. Mechtild and her guests it was a wonderful day, warm and sunny, which they would all remember with pleasure. Now Sr. Mechtild is living in Augsburg, where she is superior of the CJ community.

Impressions - Delhi Province Visit
Jane Livesey Reports:

India makes a very strong impression in all kinds of ways – natural beauty but also great poverty; contemplative silence in sight of the Himalayas but a great deal of noise a lot of the time; vibrant colours, especially in the dress of women; and, not least, the sheer size of the country and the distances from place to place.

Journeys are a major part of life in India and ours were a mixture of some car journeys, ranging in length from two to seven hours, and some long and usually overnight (four) train journeys. We had two daytime train journeys, one through a large part of Rajasthan and the other through Uttar Pradesh. Both are under cultivation with a mixture of mainly wheat, rice, vegetables and sugar cane. One of the striking things was the amount of land under cultivation, given the dry climate and limited opportunities for irrigation. In general there are only three months of rain in northern India – from July to September - and recently there was a five year period during which there were almost no rains. In my notes written on the spot I have written – “margin between life and starvation very narrow”.

Almost everywhere water is available only through street pumps and sanitation is almost non-existent outside parts of the major cities – more Indians have access to a mobile phone than to a lavatory of any kind. On the train into Delhi one goes past mile after mile of slum dwellings made up of corrugated iron, wood or whatever can be found, including rags. Alongside these dwellings are innumerable children for whom education is clearly nothing more than a dream. Most of these people are internal migrants from very poor states such as Bihar where the crops often fail, leaving people with little option but to try their luck in the cities – where their luck almost always turns out not to be, but by then there is no going back. It is widely accepted that over half the population of India – ie over 300 million people – lives below the UN definition of the poverty line.

Counterbalancing all this were some lovely experiences of a different India. We visited some very interesting places both in Delhi and in Jaipur (Rajasthan).

For me the highlight of Delhi was a visit to the shrine where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi are buried – Raj Ghat. It is a very plain and simple slab of marble, decorated with flowers and with a permanent flame burning. We were also able to visit the Gandhi Museum where there was a sentence on the walls summarizing his philosophy - “My life is my message”. 
Most days, however, were spent on the main purpose of our visit – to meet all the members and see the apostolic works in which they are engaged. The majority of members of the Delhi province work in schools – some our own and some run by us on behalf of a diocese. There are 88 members in 11 communities in three states as well as in Delhi itself – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

The emphasis here is still very much on school ministry because in India education is still the most effective way to empower the poor and the pre-eminent way to scientise the rich. Other ministries include a small maternity hospital which also undertakes minor surgery when needed. Although we have no doctor there are six CJ nurses working in the hospital and they deliver an average of 2 to 3 babies a day/night. Women come in, have their baby, stay for three hours and then go home. These are poor people who can afford only a few rupees or, often, nothing at all. Close by is a social centre providing skills training in three month courses for young women and men in areas ranging from a short basic hygiene and home nursing course to computer skills to electrical skills to tailoring to beautician training (naturally very popular!).

In Jeolikote there is a second social care programme, being run by a member of the CJ with lay helpers, which enrolls sponsors from all over the world to sponsor children in primary and sometimes secondary education. The centre also runs a few micro-financing programmes for women and does outreach work with young people aged up to 24, who have left school and are usually unemployed.

To end on a note of calm, our other “visitor experience” were the drives from Nainital in the hill country in the very north, to two nearby lakes (tal means lake in Hindi) and to a viewing point for the western end of the Himalayas. The silence and the beauty of God’s creation are balm to both heart and
soul and weave a special kind of magic. They are also another part of the incredibly rich, beautiful, complex, challenging sub-continent that is India.

**St Omer Plaque inauguration – St Omer**
From CJ website

On 28 November 2012 a group of CJs and IBVMs converged on St Omer for the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Mary Ward, which has been placed on the wall of her house there.

The initiative for this plaque, as for its partner which will be placed on the wall of the English College in Rome, came from the two Generalates and is the final collaboration of the Jubilee years. The St Omer civic officials, notably the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, met the proposal with great enthusiasm and not only supported it but also arranged a Reception to follow the inauguration of the plaque. There were about 30 people present for the occasion, including representatives of both Generalates, both CJ and IBVM English provinces and the IBVM Irish province. The Mayor spoke about Mary Ward with a depth of understanding and appreciation that moved us all. It was a very happy day with a real sense of the union of minds and hearts among all Mary Ward’s daughters – which we all experienced as we prayed together in the Cathedral and sang the Salve Regina in front of the statue of Notre Dame de Miracles, a statue before which we know that Mary Ward also prayed.
“God has his time for everything”. These words of Mary Ward summarize the process which has been developing with the workshop “Buena Tel-a”, for women in San Ignacio, Chile. Everything began as an idea from a group of lay people, invited by the Sisters of the Congregatio Jesu, to organise themselves into the Foundation “Mary Ward”, an entity which has among its priorities the “commitment to the dignity of women”.

At the beginning a group of women were invited to sew ecological bags which would remind people to be aware of the care of the environment. Then the need arose to have a place where the women could get together to share life, their dreams and difficulties and to seek together for a way to develop initiatives which would allow them to be acknowledged as capable women with dignity.

This was the way that the House of Encounter “Edulia Ortiz” developed, which today has the necessary installations, machines, equipment and materials for a group of women who work at sewing, knitting, embroidering and generating income to help their families. At present twelve women belong to the Workshop “Good Material” and they make uniforms for the schools, sheets with embroidering, ecological bags, curtains for showers, jackets, table cloths and things which people order.

For this work we have received several contributions, in the first place from the Congregatio Jesu which has lent the house and a small space in the courtyard. Adveniat from Germany contributed to the construction and the Italian Episcopal Conference contributed to buy the machines and other installations, besides different kinds of threads from different companies and also some yarn for knitting, etc.

This woman’s organization has juridical recognition, and it is civilly recognized which allows it to function adequately according to the legislation of Chile.

This work of the Foundation “Mary Ward” has been permanently animated by the Sisters of the Congregatio Jesu, whether as members of the Executive or supporting the workshop directly. This Foundation has also established other workshops with women; pastry shops, in Santiago, Chile, Colina and San Ignacio, besides a workshop for recycling in the Home for children in San Fabian de Alico, an apostolic work of the CJ.

During the year 2012, The Foundation “Mary Ward” organized a broad project for personal formation and training for other works. This project counts with the support and financing of the “German Committee of the Day of Prayer”. The different workshops developed themes, such as: Personal Development, Team Work, and Leadership, Prevention of Cancer in Women, Domestic Family Violence, Business and Sales, Estimate of Costs and Determination of Prices. Another workshop on the Spirituality of Mary Ward, as a Christian woman, pioneer and committed to the cause of women of her time, was also introduced. The different official workshops were: bakery, chocolate shop, apiculture and pastry shop. Approximately 25 women, of different ages, expectations, with great desires to learn and with great constancy, participated. They came to the workshops during winter, in spite of the wind and strong rain. The project gave them technical tools that help them in their initiatives for production and training so that they are able to develop other skills for productive enterprises.

Written by: Angélica Ponce, lay person from the Executive of the Foundation “Mary Ward”

---

"Congregatio Jesu News"
Allahabad C.J. Educators Meet
Sr. Jane Chennakudy CJ

Thirty Sisters from various CJ Schools attended the meeting of the Educators on 22nd and 23rd Oct. at St. Mary’s Convent, Provincial House, Allahabad. After the opening prayer by Sr. Jane, the Provincial Superior, Sr. Sumita CJ welcomed and addressed the gathering. She invited the group to respond to the needs of today with a creative vision and passion for mission in the spirit of Mary Ward.

Sr. Mary Jude CJ (Bangalore Region), the resource person, spoke on the theme, “Education through the eyes of Mary Ward.” The Sisters were helped to reflect on Mary Ward’s Philosophy of Education; on Mary Ward’s charism, its meaning and expression; the application of the spirit and thrust of Mary Ward’s charism and mode of education to the present day situation and how to pass on the CJ legacy of Mary Ward education to teachers, students, parents etc. After discussing these topics in detail the Principals reported on the activities and development of the schools. At the end of this two day programme action plans were drawn up for implementation:

It was indeed marvellous to see Sr. Mary Jude, still young at heart at the age of 76, enthusiastically helping the sisters reflect upon Mary Ward’s philosophy of education and the application of the spirit and thrust of Mary Ward’s charism and mode of education to the present day situation.

Companions from the Central European Province in England
Report by Angela Simek

A pilgrimage made in mid-July by 13 companions and sisters from Germany, Austria and South Tyrol forged new links between the provinces and opened new horizons for the women living in the footsteps of Mary Ward.

The pilgrimage started in Worcestershire where the group, based at Barnes Close (the ecumenical retreat centre of the Community for Reconciliation near Bromsgrove), first visited houses well known in 17th century Catholic circles (Baddesley Clinton) and closely associated with Mary Ward’s family and friends, not least because of their involvement with the infamous Gunpowder Plot (Lapworth, Coughton Court).

Using the easy access to London by rail, we were able to continue in the footsteps of Mary Ward walking the same roads in London (Moorgate, Milk St., Cheapside, Baldwin Gardens...) and seeing with the inner eye 17th century London unfold before us. After Mass in St. Etheldreda’s, we paused to reflect in St. Clement Dane’s on the beginnings of the Institute with which we have such an integral association. Our whistle-stop tour of London ended with a trip on the river from Westminster to the Tower, following again in the footsteps of so many Catholic martyrs.

Before continuing our journey northwards, we joined (somewhat unexpectedly) the local Catholic primary school for Mass and delighted in the lively devotion and participation of the children. The parish priest in turn was only too happy to point out to the children the universality of
their Church through the “many” nations we represented.

Arriving at the Bar Convent was like coming home. As companions, we are used to meeting up in different CJ houses, getting to know sisters in their various situations, and so we were very grateful for the most warm English welcome we received in York from sisters and staff alike. Sr. Charlene, a Loreto sister from India, joined us on all our days out, and we were delighted that Sr. Ann Stafford was able to accompany us on several occasions, extending our already packed programme with a few gems that we would otherwise have missed (an evening in Whitby, and an afternoon on Spurn Head – surely where Mary Ward first experienced dramatically how the turbulence of the sea on the outer coast need not disturb the peace of the inner harbour). We in turn discovered the unexpected treasure of Spofforth Castle (near Harrogate), where Marmaduke Ward became steward when Mary was six months old. Is this where she spoke her first word?

Highlights of our time at the Bar Convent were undoubtedly our meetings (both formal and informal) with the CJ sisters and associates during which we were able to share together and explore the importance of Mary Ward and the Congregatio Jesu for our personal discipleship and our companionship of the Lord. It was therefore a great joy that during our stay two of our number were able to renew their companionship in the beautiful chapel together with so many others of the CJ community.

Tracing the roots of Mary Ward and the Congregatio Jesu in England, living, travelling and praying together like the companions of old, we have returned to our homes in central Europe with a deeper awareness of what our companionship means to us – and hopefully have shared something of this with others – ad maiorem Dei glori-
The first task of the Sisters has been to know the culture of the place and the reality of the local Church.

At present, Sister Electa is responsible for the sacramental catechesis of the children and young people in the Parish School, in collaboration with the laity. In the Parish, Sisters Liliana and Electa work on the catechesis and in the oratory with the children and young people who come from the public schools, and the three Sisters also accompany the regular liturgical and devotional activities in the Church. The principal work of Ema is to collaborate in the service of solidarity of the parish Caritas. One of these services is the “Friendly table”, in which, together with a group of volunteers, 70 meals are offered daily to persons who are in need, especially immigrants. In the future Emma will also collaborate at the level of the diocesan Caritas.

With this new apostolic community, the Province wishes to promote an experience of universal mission among the members of the CJ in Rumania and to respond to the urgent calls to work with the Rumanian immigrants in Italy.

**130 Year Jubilee of the CJ in Slovakia**

Report by Sr. Zdenka Špaková CJ

“We remember the members of the CJ who lived before us. We remember their quiet prayers, their service and the lives of those we no longer know.”

With this paragraph from the prayer for the women in the CJ we want to express our gratitude in God to those women who were responsible for the formation of the Slovak province. We want to dedicate our prayers to these people rather than immortalise them on monuments. We give thanks to all those women who have given us light and hope. Thanks to their fidelity they “forged links” (Rufus, M.: Treue, S. 5). The CJ sisters celebrated the 130th Jubilee of Presov on the 1st September 2012. On this occasion we had a festive Eucharist celebrated by Archbishop Mons. Alojz Tkac. In it we gave thanks to God for the remarkable sisters in the CJ, for all the benefactors and friends of the Institute, for those who supported us during these years. At the same time we prayed for grace for the years to come. Part of this celebration was a presentation in six parts which showed the history of the CJ: the development of the Institute since its foundation in the years 1609-1611 to the end of the exile in 1950, the sisters’ ministry in Presov, the founding of the girls’ school and the change in the school in the respective historical stages. This presentation will be taken round to be presented in the parishes, towns and schools in which the CJ work throughout the year.
CONGRATULATIONS & GOD’S BLESSINGS ON THE NEW PROVINCIALS OF 2012!

Sr Dorothea CJ - Provincial - Korea

Sr Helena CJ - Provincial - Slovakia

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW GENERAL BURSAR
Sr Christina Kenworthy-Browne CJ
English Province

Sr Pilar CJ - Provincial - Spain

NEWS ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE VERY WELCOME UP TO 28th February 2013
JPIC News from Korea
Sr Hyacintha Chang reports:

We are now facing many JPIC (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation) issues in Korea and our sisters have made a commitment to actively participate in JPIC movements this year. A Catholic nationwide conservationists workshop was held at the Uidong meditation centre in Seoul from 11-13 October, with the participation of 40 conservationists including four CJ sisters: Ambrosia Um, Honorina Lee, Hyacintha Chang, and Theresa Shin. Jong-Chul Kim, the publisher of “Green Review,” addressed the theme of “theology and ethics of nuclear counter-proliferation.” Gui-Lim Park, a representative of Seorak Green Korea United, addressed the theme of “living together with mother Mt. Seorak and goat.” He has been protesting against the construction of a cable car (disturbing the integrity of creation) on the top of Mt. Seorak. Fr. Chun-Han Kim, vice-director of the JPIC committee in the Busan diocese, explained the situation involving a 7 year long protest against the construction of a power-line tower in Miryang. Listening to their lectures, we were deeply ashamed of our indifference toward the interests of the poor. After the three lectures, we walked the trails of Mt. Bukhan to feel and be aware of ecological sensitivity and to praise God’s creation. At the end of the workshop, we decided to go to Miryang by the Catholic Hope Bus in December.

Sr. Honorina Lee and Sr. Theresa Shin joined the Korea Grand March for Life and Peace: Let’s live together! (from October 5 to November 3). It was held throughout Korea from the Gangjeong Naval Base to the Seoul City Hall Plaza. After protesting in front of the Department of National Defence, people continued the march to the Seoul Station and then to the Seoul City Hall Plaza to hold the last night of the rally. So many people gathered and all of the marginalized groups including the Gangjeong people spoke out on their need. Gangjeong villagers have been suffering because of the naval base on Jeju island. Sr. Honorina has already visited Gangjeong four times with other sisters to join the protests against the Gangjeong Naval Base.

There was a Mass for the release of the Jesuit priest Young-Chan Lee and for the realization of the Island of Peace, Jeju, on November 9, at the Jesuits’ Korea Center in Seoul. Sr. Dorothea Lee and 14 CJ sisters participated in the Mass. Fr. Lee who was in front of the main construction gate of the Jeju naval base to protect peace and justice, and to preserve natural heritage was arrested and has been detained since October 26.

On November 10, about 60 people including JPIC activists, 8 CJ sisters and 35 Asia youth academy members from India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Nepal, etc. went to Miryang by the Catholic Hope Bus. The government has been constructing 69 high voltage transmission systems comprising of the 765kV transmission lines in Miryang to transmit electricity for Seoul and the capital area. Around the power-line tower, Miryang villagers cannot live because of huge electromagnetic waves with cancer-causing substances, severe noise pollution, and severe headaches. Their health, their human rights, and their right of residence are at stake. They cannot sell their homes and borrow money from the bank. Some villagers have received ridiculously little compensation for the price of their land. On the second day, there was a Sunday Mass for Catholics’ solidarity to recognize the Miryang at the Carmelite Monastery.

Three power-line towers are supposed to stand erect 350 meters away from the Carmelite Mona-
Congregatio Jesu News
December 2012

In the spirit of Universal Mission
Report by Neeta CJ

Allahabad Province
Asha Niketan, the CJ community in Varanasi happily welcomed Srs. Juliana and Serena, our Korean tertians, who came to spend a month of inter cultural experience serving the children and destituates in the home of the Missionaries of Charity.

Though, unlike other years, they were only two in number, yet their eagerness and enthusiasm equalled that of a dozen. They took care of the orphan children, lovingly and devotedly and in the process endeared themselves to all the inmates of the home. We were indeed happy to have them with us as they brought a new dimension to our routine life; each day we looked forward to hearing from them about their day’s experiences. We also made sure they had a good time, taking them out to see some of the famous places of this Holy City, Varanasi. They got a splendid opportunity to go to the Ghats of the Ganges, beautifully illuminated with innumerable lights and also witness the “Maha Aarathi”. We also took them to our friends in the neighbourhood when they invited us to their “pooja” (worship) and dinner parties. Their final gift to us was a mouth-watering, Korean meal, prepared and served by them. They returned to Korea with rich memories of Varanasi, plenty of photographs and a smattering of Hindi words.

News from Mumbai (Bangalore Region)
Edwina Monis CJ reports

God loves a cheerful giver”. Our students contributed generously to the victims of fire at the Children’s Home in Zimbabwe. The amount collected was approximately Rs.1,30,000/-

Through this little contribution we express our solidarity with the victims.

Lately our Class X students, along with a few teachers and Sr. Smitha (our vice principal) visited the Homes for the Aged at Byculla, Bandra and Mahakali, Andheri, with food items, stationery and toilet articles, along with the cash amount generously contributed by our teachers and students towards this noble cause.

CJ NEWS WISHES YOU
A NEW YEAR FULL OF
HAPPY SURPRISES!!