For the last two or three months the Generalate has been busy preparing for GC 2011, and there will be a second meeting of the Preparatory Commission here in Rome in February. However, just every now and again we do give ourselves a break and early in January we went on pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto. Mary Ward visited Loreto on her first journey to Rome in 1621 to present the Institutum to the Holy Father. She knew her task would be very difficult and this explains why she went 250 km out of her way to Loreto, at that time the major shrine to Our Lady in Europe. She stayed a whole day in Loreto praying intensely in the Casa di Loreto (the Holy House) and was enlightened to see that she would suffer much at the hands of the Church. Our journey was somewhat easier, but we did pray intensely too for the GC 2011 and for a future full of hope for the Congregatio Jesu.

MEP – Mary Ward Exhibition Augsburg

Sr Margita Kahler CJ, who with a professional team master-minded the Mary Ward Exhibition ‘A Woman Caught in the Cross-fire’ as part of the 400 Jubilee Celebrations of our Founding Vision, has sent the following article:

The exhibition took place in the Diocesan Museum in Augsburg from the 24th September until the 12th December 2010. The sponsor was the MEP; the Project Leader was Professor Dr Herr Hans Frei with Sr Clementine Nagel CJ in a key supporting role; responsible for the organization and guidance programme was Sr Margita Kahler, and Dr Karl Pörnbacher was responsible for the catalogue. The exhibition was only possible because of the generosity of colleagues – CJ sisters, associates and lay people - and not least the community at Augsburg who supported the whole enterprise by their prayers and efforts.

The most significant exhibits were objects and documents to do with Mary Ward herself along with many portraits of the foundress all gathered together in the one place. Further galleries displayed the history of the Institute, exhibits that revealed Mary Ward’s spiritual life, and a final gallery with contemporary documents and pictures from the time when
Mary Ward was not officially recognised as foundress, all of which made an impressive display for today. It is with gratitude to Professor Frei that the exhibition got off the ground, and that the interest of the viewers was captured. He also ensured the historical accuracy of the displays briefly and clearly. Likewise the exhibition Catalogue was outstandingly well produced with every article demonstrating that Herr Dr Pörnbacher had interpreted our request to present Mary Ward with sensitivity and respect to the full. The Painted Life in the Mary Ward Hall also attracted attention and interest. The concern that the exhibition might only have been of interest to the sisters was not realised. Mary Ward’s personality, the fascination of her story awoke admiration and recognition. We counted almost 5,000 visitors as well as many school groups.

One outcome of the exhibition has been that we are able to experience that Mary Ward’s spirituality speaks to people today and has something to say to society if we remain true to our tradition. Mary Ward’s fidelity to the church despite the injustice with which she was treated was commented on. This absolute fidelity to the church is evident in our present situation, particularly in our diocese as we strive to be credible witnesses. Mary Ward was a woman caught in the cross-fire and because she did not return evil for evil but placed herself under the cross, it is not death and annihilation but fire that has been kindled down the centuries and over the whole face of the earth.

The accompanying programme was varied and of a high standard. The celebrations of the Eucharist in the cathedral before the opening of the exhibition, and in more modest forms at the closure of the exhibition in the Institute’s church, enhanced both our message and our thanks. We will never forget that lighted cross that the students carried into the cathedral and which now is laid by our altar. We believe that the fire of inspiration and the experience that God has given us through this exhibition will continue to burn within us and take us on our pathway to the General Congregation full of hope and with a wider horizon.

**Sr Katarina Holzmann CJ** who was heavily involved in the accompanying programme has written an account entitled: Himmlische Klänge oder Der zweite Lungenflügel. This can be accessed on the German section of the CJ website (www.congregatiojesu.org ) under Dokumente und Referate. Below is a picture of Sr Katarina taking part in one of the choral events of the programme which involved close collaboration with members of the eastern Church.

[Image of Sr Katarina Holzmann CJ (fourth from left)]

**English Province - Toronto, Canada**

**Sr Gill Goulding CJ** is a theologian who teaches at Regis College, the Jesuit Graduate School of Theology at the University of Toronto, Canada. In this way she contributes to our universal mission. Alongside her work of teaching Sr Gill has recently been appointed to two administrative roles. She is the first woman to be the Advanced Degree Director at Regis which means she has responsibility for all doctoral and masters students [around 90]. She is also only the second woman to be Chair of the Theology Department [around 100 faculty] at the University. Sr Gill serves also as a mentor for young women doctoral students. Among her past students are: a sister teaching at St. John's University New York USA; a young married woman teaching in the university of Malta; a Jesuit priest in charge of the Jesuit Refugee Service in Malaysia; and a Korean Presbyterian Pastor teaching in a seminary in Seoul.
Women in Leadership Conference (Sr Gill is standing immediately behind the woman seated and with her hand on her shoulder)

Recently Sr Gill was chosen as one of 25 women to take part in a conference on Women in Leadership in Theology the conference was held in Pittsburgh in the USA. Amongst the participants [see photo] a third would have been Afro-American women; a good number were Hispanic or Latina women and the rest were from Asian and European backgrounds, or Caucasian Canadian and US. So the elements of globalization and diversity were very evident. Sr Gill found the occasion a great experience of internationality and it assisted her reflection on the importance of our universal mission.

Romania – Bucharest

On December 26th the first concert organized by the Ecumenical Institute of Sacred Music took place in the chapel of the CJ community at Santa Maria. Sr Carmen Petcu CJ, the director of the Ecumenical Institute, has sent us this article:

Three choirs performed, the Gregorian female choir sang *In Dulci Jubilo*, the children’s choir *Pueri Cantores* (both belong to the Ecumenical Institute), and the CJ choir *Mater Alma*. The combination of Gregorian songs for Advent and Christmas, the softness of children’s voices who performed international songs, and the beauty of the Romanian carols sung by the CJ choir created a special atmosphere. The concert was attended by Mons. Ioan Robu, Archbishop of Bucharest, and Mons. Francisco Javier Lozano, Apostolic Nuncio for Romania and Moldova.

Romania – Tertians

For two months from October - December Sr. Genoveva Ciuraru CJ and Sr. Iulia Bucur CJ from the Romanian Province spent part of their tertianship in Spain due to the kindness of Sr. Hildegard Acsany CJ and the entire Spanish Province. From Barcelona where they were studying the Constitutions and St. Ignatius’ life they wrote a full account which has been shortened for the CJ News:

During all this time we had the great pleasure of studying the life of St. Ignatius and our Constitutions guided both spiritually and personally by Sr. Hildegard Acsany. For a better understanding of his life and conversion we went on pilgrimage starting in Montserrat.
Sr. Hildegard had explained to us St. Ignatius’ process of conversion. Afterwards, we visited the house and the college at St. Sebastian, Loyola, Pamplona and Arantzazu. In Loyola we visited the castle, the chapel of conversion, the Basilica, the hermitage of Magdalene, the hospital and the hermitage Olatz of Virgin Mary. We spent much time in the chapel of conversion where St. Ignatius decided to change his life.

We spent much time in prayer in Pamplona in the chapel built on the very same place where the battle took place. In Arantzazu in the church where St. Ignatius took the vow of chastity in front of the Virgin Mary we attended the Mass with Basque people. We prayed for all CJ members for faithfulness in living their vows. In Barcelona and Manresa we were accompanied by Sr. Leticia.

We spent Christmas time with the community. We are very grateful to the entire Spanish province for this opportunity. Our deep affection and gratitude goes to Sr. Hildegard who was always with us and guided us in our spiritual and personal process of formation. She helped us a lot to understand better the inner and outer life of St. Ignatius.

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We express our gratitude to Sr Margarita and the promise of our prayers to Sr Soledad.

Sr. Maria Soledad Alibus CJ

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**Zimbabwean Region**

Sr Salome Mateko CJ’s term of office as Regional Superior ends (officially) in January and she will be followed by Sr Maria Mercy Shumbamhini CJ. Sr Mercy is presently on a three months course in Ignatian Spirituality and the handover will not take place until mid-April 2011. We are very grateful to Sr Salome for her loving service to the Region and for agreeing to extend her time in office.

Sr Maria Mercy Shumbamhini CJ

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**New Provincial and Regional Superiors**

**Argentine Province**

**Sr Margarita Kühn CJ** has completed her term of office and **Sr. Maria Soledad Alibus CJ** will be taking on as Provincial Superior in January 2011.

Sr Soledad has been Novice Director and is a trained specialist in Ignatian Spirituality. She has been a school principal, and has experience in pastoral work as well as in the field of education. Most recently she has been working in one of our schools on spiritual development for the staff.

Sr Mercy has a doctorate in Practical Theology from the University of South Africa. For the last thirteen years she has been Director of the Mary Ward Children’s Home in Amaveni. She has at different times been superior of the CJ community in Amaveni, province secretary for nine years, and is presently on the Regional Council. We will keep her in our prayers.
**Patna Province – Gulni**

Gulni is a remote, poor rural area in north India where the sisters are involved in education and social work. *Sr Sudha Kuttikkattu CJ* has sent a full report of which this is an edited version:

We run two local literacy centres for the Musahar children, and with the support of the archdiocesan Social Services have opened three more literacy centres in Kawakaul, a politically unsettled area. These Musahar children are from the lowest caste families known often as the ‘rat eaters’. Their homes are one room huts and the families own no land. Economically they are the poorest caste in society and any small income earned is usually spent on drink. With roofs built from hay that leak in the rainy season these children are prone to all sorts of sickness and many die young. They have very low self-image and are highly sensitive about their situation.

In the regular schools these children are often neglected, made to sit at the back of the classroom and humiliated. For this reason many of them avoid going to school. *Sr Pragya Alexander CJ* teaches the young children early in the morning until it is time for them to go to the government school and with the help she gives them they can make good progress and integrate more easily into their schools.

*Sr Savita Thazhathedathu CJ* goes into the local villages to seek out the teenage girls who have dropped out of school and teaches them basic literacy skills.

Only through education can these young people be helped to help themselves.

We have also just started ‘Self-help’ groups for women in the area. This has had to start slowly because the women have had bad experiences with so-called NGOs who have bluffed them and made off with their money. The women are very open to us but we have to proceed gently and carefully to win their trust.
Delhi Province - ‘Greening India’

The Delhi Province takes environmental issues very seriously. At both their schools in Jhansi the staff and pupils have been involved in raising awareness and taking action on climate change. The sisters write:

Nirmala Convent

In the beginning of October we organised an awareness programme on the hazards of pollution and how to create a clean and healthy environment to live in. While the senior students were busy planting saplings of various shade-giving trees in the school compound and nearby village, the juniors were occupied with essay writing, drawing and other small projects depicting ‘Green India’, ‘Clean Jhansi’, ‘Save Water’, and so on.

Nirmala Convent Rally to create a Green City

The senior students accompanied by Sr Geetika Masih CJ and other staff members led a rally to the town, a five kilometers walk, carrying banners and placards with slogans appealing to the public to co-operate and work together to ban polythene, to keep the public places clean and hygienic in order to create a Green City. The civil authorities were very happy with the children’s move to create a healthy environment and gave us hundred percent support and police protection throughout the rally.

St Francis’ Convent

On the feast of St Francis of Assisi we celebrated Environment Day. Thirty trees were planted outside the school campus. This was followed by a variety of cultural shows over the next weeks. Taking environment as the key theme, students recycled waste material into day to day useful products.

Another group performed a dance entitled ‘Go Green Fireflies’ designed to spread happiness in a clean and safe environment.

English Province - Immigration Centre

For the past ten years Sr Pat Robb CJ, in her role as a member of the chaplaincy team, has been a tireless campaigner for immigrants at the Oakington Detention Centre near Cambridge. This Centre closed suddenly last October leaving Sr Pat (who at age 78 has ‘retired’ many times) once again looking for employment. The following is an edited version of the account written by Sr Pat that appeared in the last English Province Bulletin on the Closure of the Immigration Centre:

The Oakington Immigration Centre, an old army barracks, was opened in 2000 and was,
at first a reception centre taking in men, women and families who had arrived in the UK by legal and illegal routes, in order to claim asylum (sanctuary), or just for a better life. In those early days the turnover was rapid: 7-10 days to have a preliminary hearing and then be allowed to live in the UK on a small allowance, but not allowed to work. Many young Zimbabweans passed through the gates at that time, some of whom knew our sisters there or had been at school with the Mary Ward sisters or who knew us from church. We also had a great many East Europeans, especially Roma people, because, at that time they could not move freely around Europe. People often arrived very traumatised, some victims of torture, others after travelling for months, even more than a year by foot, by boat, by plane, by lorry - stowed away underneath - in order to reach a safe haven. However, there was hope in the Centre: hope that even if the first appeal to stay was refused the second would get a positive result and so asylum seekers left us with a smile of their faces. That all changed. First the families were sent to other centres, then the single women were sent, and we were left with a completely different category of men – over 400 of them.

The Immigration laws were changing every week it seemed, and more and more people were brought to Oakington, not to process their entry into the UK, but to deport them. They would contest their deportation orders as many of them genuinely feared what would happen if they returned from where they had come; perhaps they owned money, perhaps they were wanted by the police; perhaps they needed health care not available back home. Often they had been in detention for so long that they had partners and children from whom they would now be separated for ever. ‘Take them with you!’ was the official response.

So Oakington became a Removal Centre and a place without hope, a place of anger and frustration, of periods of violence and bullying and it was to these desperate men that the chaplaincy team tried to minister. The management wanted us just to say prayers and hand out bibles or Q’rans, but we, the Christian group, said we had to think of the whole person, and that our first allegiance was to God and not to the government. Whether it was listening to their stories, contacting a partner, providing a mobile phone, writing a letter in English, trying to contact a lawyer, a member of Parliament or torture experts. We tried to be there for them and, of course, we arranged services, and had some baptisms of converts. We were supported in all this by a wonderful team of visitors drawn mostly from the Cambridge churches, who would visit a detainee and give him one-to-one quality time.

During my ten years there I had, as you would expect, many conflicts with the management and had been suspended three times, but it has only strengthen me in my work for justice for the oppressed and marginalised. I shall miss ‘my boys’ and some of the staff, who were delightful, and the chaplaincy team. I now wait to see what God, having closed another door in my life, will see fit to direct me to next!

\[Image of Sr Pat Robb and multi-faith Chaplains at Oakington Detention Centre\]

**Romanian Province**

For several years our sisters in Radauti in northern Romania have been part of an Italian based Social Project called “Geppetto”. Three members of the CJ work here full time: Srs Ştefania Mărăuţ CJ, Luiza Tuţuianu CJ, and Isabela Pericică CJ, as project manager, social assistant and personal care assistant. All together there is a team of twenty or so volunteers who give their time and expertise for the project. Recently,
the Italian sponsors were in Radauti for an assessment of the project and interviewed some of the volunteers. Sr Stefania has sent a long account taken from these interviews part of which is reproduced here:

The project provides social care for children from dysfunctional families. Some come from backgrounds where there is alcoholism, violence or poverty. The children often have no hot food, good hygiene, or the level of care they need, and often drop out of school. The centre cares for their needs as far as possible.

Three of those interviewed said:

Alberto (financier and one of the founders of Geppetto) “I’m very impressed. I haven’t seen something like this in all these fifteen years I have been coming to Romania. At the beginning it was only a charity, now it’s a real organization. The net of services is very well defined and the cases are numerous. I am most impressed and surprised at how the sisters managed to create a team of volunteers who are so involved with many activities. The variety of activities shows the seriousness and the professionalism employed by the sisters and the laity in the team to try and solve some of the social cases. When I started this action I can tell you that I didn’t think we’d get so far. God has done a big work here. The seriousness and devotion of the sisters make me stay for the future. God gives himself every day through these people I met here at Radauti”.

Mr. M (plumber and administrator) “I started working with the sisters sixteen years ago and I’m still here. I was attracted by their simplicity and dedication, but especially by the joy of the sisters and the children”.

Mrs. H (retired teacher with eleven years work for the project) “It has been a huge development of the project....My biggest joy is the children’s diplomas. They arrived illiterate here at the Centre and at the end of their studies they are prize-winning and even proceed to studies at university’.

Sr Stefania pulling her weight with the deprived children of Radauti

The project has a very good blog at http://asociatiaisea.blogspot.com/ - for those who don’t read Romanian there are lots of photos!

MEP – El Salvador

Sr Sabine Adam CJ, former Novice Director in the MEP, is presently on sabbatical in El Salvador staying with Sr Martha Zechmeister CJ who is a professor of Theology at the Jesuit University in San Salvador. She has sent us this article:

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America with just nine million inhabitants and another two million currently in the USA. The capital city, San Salvador, has just two million citizens. Sr Martha has seven students living with her as the only way they can afford to study at the university. For the first few weeks of my time here I lived with this small community. For me it was a great help to be with trustworthy people and to allow me to get a feel for this country, especially as I had never lived in an unfamiliar culture for a long period. The hectic bustle, and crowds, the noise and the pressure in the city centre took its toll on me initially, but I have now become more relaxed about it all.
Violence against people is the great theme of this country. Violence against women in San Salvador is the highest in the world. Particularly dangerous are the different groups of ‘Maras’ – youth gangs who are ruthless against each other. Anyone who comes into contact with these groups can fear for his or her life. During the day one is less aware of the gangs but at night everyone gets home as quickly as possible. For the first time I realised what a luxury it is for me, as a woman, to be free to move about especially in the evening.

El Salvador is also where in the last century there raged a conflict between the army and the guerrillas. Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was murdered in 1980, is honoured here as a martyr. But there are also many other martyrs - priests, religious sisters, catechists - who are still alive in the memory of many people. Suffering and death play a conscious part in the lives of the Salvadorians.

Meanwhile, I am living with a woman from the parish community in Chakra. Here there are 20,000 people most of whom live in dwellings made of corrugated iron. The parish community developed a good network for help and support. There are schools for adults and children where one can learn from the Alphabet to the Baccalaureate. There is a daytime care for children and for the elderly. The older generation often have to live here without family to support them as their children have gone to the USA. I work in the day-care centre for the elderly. Here they can get a free midday meal.

In the afternoon clothes are knitted that can then be sold. Some of the elderly learn to read and write. In addition I do a quarter of an hour’s gymnastics with them - and there is much laughter!

For me this time in El Salvador is a time where I can immerse myself in an unfamiliar culture, learn to let go of some of the ‘standards’ I have taken for granted, and allow myself to think that my (German) ways of doing things is just one way among many.
English Province – Pilgrimage to Mount Grace

Earlier last year Sr Mary Walmsley CJ organised a Pilgrimage to Mount Grace as part of the celebrations of the 400 years of Mary Ward’s foundation. Sr Pat Robb writes:

Mount Grace, in Yorkshire, was founded about 600 years ago as a place of hermitage for monks from the nearby Carthusian monastery. After the Reformation it fell in run, but many, including Mary Ward, continued to make pilgrimages to the holy site. Our modern day pilgrimage was arranged by Sr Mary Walmsley who had spoken to every parish in York about Mary Ward, and who prepared a very moving liturgy.

In glorious weather we set off for the village of Osmotherly; some by coach, others by car and even some on foot. There were CJ and IBVM sisters, members of the (joint) Mary Ward Association and parishioners from the York area: over a hundred of us. From the village we climbed 2 km up a stony track enjoying the wonderful views and glorious colours of this spectacular landscape. The small chapel of the shrine was much too small for such a number, so we sat on the surrounding grassy area.

The liturgy was in four parts: the first three on Mary Ward’s very special words - ‘Justice, Sincerity and Truth.’ Each part consisted of hymns, readings and prayers and between each section we were encouraged to reflect and to get to know others among the pilgrims. We met people from various York parishes, from Hull, from London, from Manchester - and one group which had met us whilst walking on the Pennine Way! The final section of the liturgy was dedicated to the Holy Spirit and to Our Lady and included the litany of Our Lady from Walsingham (the major Marian Shrine in England) which really fitted all Mary Ward lived for as she followed God’s will for her.
The last three lines of the litany are:

Mother who went on believing.....we thank God for you
Mother who never lost hope.....we thank God for you
Mother who loved to the end.....we thank God for you

The Benedictine priest in charge of the Shrine then gave us all a final blessing and it was very joy-filled pilgrims who made their way back down the hill, back to the village and on to their homes, feeling close to Mary Ward and all she means to so many in our times.

Korean Province - ‘Listen to your Heart - and go your own Way’

In 2010 the Korean Province organised four festivities for young people along the theme: Listen to your Heart – and go your own Way: an Ignatian Youth Camp in March; a Pilgrimage in June; in August participation in ‘a day for Korean youth’; and at the end of the year a ‘Songs of Praise Camp’. Sr Gemma (Ko Mi-Kyoung) CJ writes about the ‘Songs of Praise Camp’:

I am pretty sure that the four festivities stirred not just the hearts of the young people, but also the hearts of the CJ who took part. We experienced the Lord Jesus and our foundress Mary Ward as being effectively with us.

On the 30th October 130 young people and 70 CJ members gathered in the Novitiate house in Seoul. We began with our focus on Mongolia. For this we had prepared various programmes to enable the participants to get to know each other better. We opened with ‘a small conversational concert’ in which a sister, dressed as Mary Ward, invited the participants to ‘listen to their hearts and go their way’. We listened to the story of a sister’s vocation, an experience from the...
Mongolian mission, and episodes of convent life. Everything was accompanied by music. The sister lit a fire in the hearts of the young people. There were opportunities to speak where each participant could ask questions that came from her heart. At the conclusion the sister playing the part of Mary Ward, demonstrated that despite the many difficulties that faced her, she went her way with courage and faith.

The life of Mary Ward stirred the young people a lot. They got to know Mary Ward and showed much interest in the Ignatian Exercises. We thank God that out of little actions something great always comes.

Closing Liturgy for the Augsburg Exhibition

Directory

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**CJ Website** – sometimes articles submitted for the CJ News fit better to the CJ website. You can find them on [www.congregatiojesu.org](http://www.congregatiojesu.org). For access to the CJ only part of the website for information on the General Congregation you will need the special CJ password.

The **next CJ News** will be in March and the final date for submissions is **March 15**. Please would those provinces which do not feature in this edition of the CJ News send us some news! Articles in Word format and photos as jpg files please.