The GCPC met for the second and last time in Rome in February with our two facilitators. We worked hard and managed to accomplish a great deal as many will be aware from the documents that have gone out to delegates and also onto the CJ website. Next time we all meet together will be in Loyola at the end of September.

One of the easier decisions that was made at the GCPC Meeting was to invite each Province between now and the start of GC2011 to plant a tree to celebrate the end of the Jubilee years. As this is the International Year of the Forest and eco-spirituality is an integral part of our Ignatian charism a tree is a fitting symbol for us. In Rome we decided to move fast and our tree was planted with great celebration on Friday, 18th March.

The Roman Community together plant a Jubilee Prunus Tree in the garden of the Generalate.
**Rome - New Superior**

After nine years of dedicated service to the communities of the Roman House the term of office of Sr Flavia Filipeková CJ has come to an end. After a short break she will be taking up a new mission in Jerusalem, at Paulushaus, and will also be joining the support staff in Loyola for GC2011. We would like to express our thanks to Sr Flavia for her total dedication to the care of all who live in, or pass through, the Generalate house.

The new superior who took up office on March 18th is Sr Cristina Írsara CJ of the former South Tyrol Province (now the MEP). Sr Cristina speaks fluent Italian and German and had two months in Ireland learning English as well as a short spell in Jerusalem. We ask you for your prayers as she takes up this challenging mission. Sr Cristina’s official email address is: suploc@congjesu.org Sr Flavia will continue to use her existing email address until further notice.

**Slovakia - Ukraine**

Last November a new community house was founded in Nova Borova in the Ukraine. This makes it the fifth such foundation in the Ukraine and Southern Russia along with Seredne (1991), Uzhorod (1997), Novocerkassk (2003), and Kiev (2005). The two Slovak sisters, Sr. Mariana Komlošová CJ and Sr. Marietta Nagyová CJ have been in the Ukraine for many years and have sent this report:

Nova Borova is a village with 5,000 inhabitants in the diocese of Kiev-Zhitomir. Eighty percent of the villagers are Orthodox and just twenty percent Catholic, many of them with Polish roots. The Church is dedicated to the suffering Mother of God. Near to the church is the parish house of the priest, and opposite the church in the house where we live. In our house there is space for catechetics and also a playroom for the children.

The house can also accommodate retreatants and in the summer we can expect to have around twenty. The area is a place of natural beauty with woods and water.

To start with we are concentrating on parish catechesis and we care for the parish sacristy too. Later, when we have a car, we intend to visit the outposts of the parish. Since last Christmas we have been busy getting to know everyone by creating a theatre group and
visiting families - especially the sick and infirm who cannot get to church.

The people are very grateful to have sisters here as they have prayed and asked for us for a long time. We ask you to accompany us with your prayers.

We know that it was not a big thing but considering the mentality of our country we are happy to have had this opportunity to make our foundress known. It was a time of grace for all Mary Ward’s Sisters.

In the "Mary Ward" Kindergarten this time was marked by a small celebration where each group of children presented a different moment of Mary Ward’s life.

The Creation Dance Group presented "Sunshine" to make us aware that we are all created for God's greater glory; “The Fire Fly Group"- presented a sketch of Mary Ward’s life and the Bee Group helped us to reflect on the moments of light and grace that were shown by God to Mary Ward.

The Butterfly Group presented the joyful moments that marked Mary Ward’s life.

For us Mary Ward Week began with a retreat day which had as its theme "The Courage to Say Always Yes to God." During the whole week we prepared the Holy Mass for our parishioners in a special way. In front of the altar we put Mary Ward’s picture and at the homily the Priest spoke about our foundress’ life. Every evening before Mass we prayed the rosary and one evening we had an hour of adoration with the whole assembly. At the end of the Mass the parish priest prayed for the beatification of Mary Ward.

All the children’s parents were invited to the celebration and at the end the priest concluded with a biblical story and blessed the children. The celebration ended with the song “Your First Word” dedicated to Mary Ward and the children were very enthusiastic to sing it.

Venerable Mary Ward pray for us!
Slovakia – Tertians

Two Slovak tertians Sr. Abiela Mihová CJ and Sr. Letícia Dirbaková CJ write about their recent experiences:

Last October we had the opportunity, along with the tertians of the Middle European Province, to spend some time with our sisters in the community at Rovereto. The sisters there welcomed us with great joy and warmth. Sr Michael Pelli CJ gave us her time to share with us the richness of her experience and knowledge of ‘our way of life’. Through this experience we were able to deepen our understanding and grasp of our spirituality and Constitutions……..

…..in January we went to Rome to get to know more intimately the places associated with our foundress. The places that Mary Ward visited are those where St Ignatius lived too. We visited the rooms of St Ignatius where he lived when he was General Superior, and where he also worked and died. At La Storta we were able to meditate, not only on St Ignatius and Mary Ward, but also how we ourselves have been placed with Christ in a special way.....we are very grateful for this time that has been a real blessing for us.

Zimbabwe – Nesigwe Mission

The new CJ Mission in Nesigwe was officially opened by Bishop Floro of Gokwe diocese on March 5th. Bishop Floro had been waiting for this day for over ten years! As many members of the Region as possible made the long journey to join Srs Magna Maminimini CJ and Monica Mujera CJ, along with all the local people who arrived by donkey taxi for the celebration. Even 94-year old Sr Christopher Angell CJ endured the bumpy journey down 50 km of dirt tracks. Bishop Floro was very pleased to see her!

The celebratory Mass was in the local language Ndebele, and in his homily the bishop welcomed the sisters and said that the Mission was now a home. He particularly mentioned Sr Monica who in the few months she has been there has already begun to transform the school. The clinic and the Kindergarten now await the same transformation when there are sisters available. The headman spoke on behalf of the local people. He welcomed the sisters saying that the presence of women brings a certain warmth that had been missing these past ten years. After a celebratory lunch brought by the visitors and prepared with local help the young CJ sisters led the dancing.
The founding of a new mission had been one of the goals – “Get Up and Go” - of the Zimbabwean Region for the Jubilee years. The people of Nesigwe now have a hope for the future.

Nesigwe Choir

New Provincial Superior

Sr Annarita Marin’s term of office as Provincial Superior of the Italian Province comes to an end soon. She has led the Province through a difficult period of change and we are most grateful to her for her leadership.

Sr. Letizia Galbusera is the new Provincial Superior. She trained in Religious Science at the Gregorian University, and has attended courses on Ignatian spirituality. She has been working most recently in the field of education and pastoral work. At the present she is the deputy head of the secondary school in Merate, a teacher of religion, and local superior.

Social Ministry Section

India – Allahabad

Sr Sunita Thekkan Vazhakkala CJ of the Allahabad Province has sent us this account of the Women’s Rally in February:

Women of all age groups have begun to feel insecure everywhere due to the recent attack on them in various places in India. Girl children at a tender age are falling victims to rape and sexual abuse. Day after day we hear the occurrence of rape, attempted rape, and attacks on them with harsh weapons, acid or fire when resisted. More than twenty-five cases have come to the limelight in Uttar Pradesh alone in 2011.

How many such incidents go unnoticed! Being aware of all these atrocities against women and girls the Manav Kalyan Trust, St. Mary’s Convent, Allahabad organized a rally as a protest march from Sadhana Sadan in Allahabad to Subhash Chouraha via Yatrik Chouarha on 22nd February 2011.

Sr Sumita flags off the Women’s Rally in Allahabad
Staff and students of many schools and colleges of the city took part in the rally. The participants were briefed at the starting point on the purpose of the rally. A street play enacted by the girls of Mary Ward Vocational Training Center, Rajapur, Allahabad depicted the plight of the girls in the society at present.

**Sr. Sumita Pinto CJ** flagged off the peace march. The students carried placards and banners to make the public aware of the seriousness of the situation of women. Around 400 participants walked silently through the streets of Allahabad city. The police protection during the rally provided by the local administration was remarkable. Many of the newspapers carried the news with the photographs of the rally the next day. A few TV channels too reported the same. Though it was only a small attempt and with a limited number of people the message was powerfully spread far and wide.

**Slovakia - Zborov**

**Sr. Salome Kuzmová CJ** writes from Zborov:

In November last year we opened a Kindergarten in our house. Previously the room was the sister’s dining room, but now we are using it for a new project entitled: ‘A Good Start’. The project is for Roma (gypsy) children age 4 - 6 and it is here that I work. Why have we done this? In general it is known that Roma children do not integrate well into the school system. The main reason is that they have no pre-school and little command of the Slovak language because of financial and other difficulties. The village of Zborov has just over 3000 inhabitants of whom 1400 are Roma. In the Primary School 300 out of the 437 children are Roma. However, in local Kindergartens only nine of the sixty who attend are Roma. For the municipality of Zborov it is very good that the project is based here. Through this project the Roma children will be helped to have the essential preparation they need to make a good start when they enter the Primary School.

At present there are eight Roma children in our Kindergarten and I visit another five in their families. The children learn Slovak poems, good behaviour and basic hygiene, and their manipulation skills are developed through art. What concerns me is that the children do not attend regularly. They enjoy coming but their parents have no mid-morning snacks for them and so prefer to keep them at home.

**In gratitude I recall the words of Mary Ward:**

‘Do good and do it well’
The next edition of the CJ News will be in May. Please send articles (in Word) and photographs (in jpg) to arrive no later than May 15th.

Remember, copies of the CJ News can also be found on the CJ website

www.congregatiojesu.org
Sr Mechtild and the Jubilee Tree planted at the Generalate in March 2011