The Year of Faith ended on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on 24 November 2013. This year, for the continuum of the spirit of the Year of Faith, the House of Prayer will introduce some female martyrs who witnessed to the Faith by their lives and are now most venerated in places where our members live and work.

In England an Act of 1581 outlawed Catholic religious ceremonies and made sheltering a priest a criminal offence, punishable by death. Born in York in 1553, Margaret Clitherow observed the state religion as a child and married a prosperous Shambles butcher John Clitherow at the age of 15. However, in the early 1570s she appeared to have been converted to Catholicism. This was a particularly difficult development for Margaret’s husband who was responsible for reporting Catholic worshippers to the Protestant authorities in the parish.

Margaret was first imprisoned in 1577 for failing to attend the church. Two more incarcerations at York Castle followed, the final one lasting for about 20 months. Between 1582 and 1583 five priests were put to death at Tyburn on Knavesmire and, when freed, Margaret would make a nighttime pilgrimage to the gallows. She created a secret room in her house in Shambles as a refuge for Catholic priests. The room was discovered after a frightened boy revealed its location during a raid on her home in March 1586.

Margaret refused trial by jury, which led to her being automatically sentenced to execution. The judges and councillors all stressed the barbarity of the sentence – to be pressed to death – in a vain attempt to persuade her into conformity. On March 25, 1586 Margaret was taken to the toll-booth on Ouse Bridge and pressed to death.

Margaret Clitherow was canonized in October 1970 as one of the 40 English martyrs. A relic, said to be her hand, is held at the Bar Convent in York.

We pray for our deceased members

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25/09/2013</td>
<td>Kreis Ines</td>
<td>MEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/09/2013</td>
<td>Arappathanath Benigna Delhi</td>
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<td>04/10/2013</td>
<td>Szegedi Borbála</td>
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<td>Frenţescu Berchmana</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<td>14/11/2013</td>
<td>Dalla Via Rachele</td>
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<td>29/11/2013</td>
<td>Borzássy Hajnalka</td>
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<td>Niesel Ancilla</td>
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<td>Rottauscher Konradine</td>
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<td>15/12/2013</td>
<td>Kluch Rozália</td>
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Margaret Clitherow (1553-1585)

House of Prayer
January ~ March 2014
We pray for the Church:

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father entrusted to the Apostleship of Prayer

January

Universal: That all may promote authentic economic development that respects the dignity of all peoples.

For Evangelization: That Christians of diverse denominations may walk toward the unity desired by Christ.

February

Universal: That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people.

For Evangelization: That priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelization.

March

Universal: That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women.

For Evangelization: That many young people may accept the Lord’s invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.

We pray for the world:

The United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of the rural development. Family farming is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour.

Family farming has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role. The International Year of Family Farming aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas. All these are being made from the perspective of effectively combating poverty and hunger and the search for a rural development based on the respect for environment and biodiversity.

The International Year of Family Farming will promote broad discussion and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers.

We pray for and with the Congregation Jesu:

- General Superior’s Visitation
  20 February ~ 28 March
  Brazil Province with Sr Elena

- Jubilees
  January
  50th 5 members in Brazil & MEP
  25th 6 members in Korea
  February
  50th 8 members in Argentina, India & Nepal
  25th 6 members in India & Nepal

- Professions
  Our members who make their final vows, first vows and renew their vows in India, Korea & Nepal in January & February
  Our members who make their 4th vow in January & February in India

- Initial Formation
  Those who are in their initial formation and their formators

- IBVM & CJ Joint Community in the Philippines
  Members from the two branches who started joint community life since December 2013

- International Mission
  Our members who are carrying on their international mission in Cuba & Jerusalem

- Preparation Process for IBVM General Congregation 2014