CJ News wishes all its readers a New Year full of hope, courage and joy! This year offers us the challenge to discover something new in everything, something inspiring and something heartening! “One cannot discover new oceans unless one has the courage to lose sight of the shores,” (Andre Gide, French Nobel Prize winner 1947). This edition brings you stories of those who had the courage to say good bye to the old in order to be able to embrace the new. “Say goodbye to the golden yesterdays or your heart will never learn to love the present.” (Anthony De Mello SJ – ‘Wellsprings’)

At this time our thoughts and prayers are with the IBVM leadership teams as they let go of familiar shores to discover new oceans and landscapes.

New IBVM General Leadership team: (left to right) Judith Nekesa (East Africa), Noelle Corscadden (Gen. Superior- Ireland), Brenda Egan (USA), Macarena Fdez De Bobadilla (Spain), Igora Pinto (Gen. Vicar-India)
We have a team of professional designers and fundraisers working for us and the project is progressing very well. We have named the project the Living Heritage because the Bar Convent is the oldest convent in England with the continuous presence of a religious community, and it is that, more than the buildings and artefacts, that makes the Bar Convent so attractive to visitors. They come from all over the world and we want to encourage more. The reconstruction of the visitor experience involves better access, better signage, and a better interpretation of the Bar Convent. This is being done by better display of our artefacts, and by making extensive use of modern digital and video interactive displays to meet the requirements of 21st century audiences. The Bar Convent is expected to close for three months in 2015 for renovation and installation, and the re-opening will probably be in October. We need to attract an additional 25,000 visitors to make the Bar Convent a viable centre. Fundraising for the £2 million needed is a challenge and we have been helped by the CJ Generalate, the IBVM Generalate, and by several provinces from both parts of Mary Ward’s institute, as well as by our many well-wishers, trusts and foundations. We have had a series of receptions and other events in York and in London, the most recent being a reception in the Houses of Parliament on 5th November. This date was chosen as it commemorated not only the Gunpowder Plot of 5th November 1605 when a group of dissident Catholics, including two of Mary Ward’s uncles, tried unsuccessfully to blow up the Houses of Parliament whilst King and government were present, but also it was on the 5th November, 1686 that Frances Bedingfield took possession for the first time of the key of the Bar Convent. To date we have raised £755,000 towards £2 million target.
The English Province will fill any temporary lack of funds to get the project completed, but if anyone would like to make a donation we will not stop them! Further information is available on the website at: www.livingheritageproject.org.uk and by email at: info@livingheritageproject.org.uk

An experience at the Hostel ‘Hermanos en el Camino’ (Brothers on the way) Ixtepec – Mexico
(Sr. Estela Clara Grignola CJ - El Salvador)

I am pursuing a Masters in Latin American Theology at the Catholic University of El Salvador. In July and August, I shared the life of the Hostel for Migrants “Hermanos en el Camino” (Brothers on the Way) located in Ixtepec – Oaxaca, Mexico. Brothers and sisters from Central America come to this shelter as they migrate to the north. As CJ presence in El Salvador, we experience in this context the departure of Salvadoran nationals for the US and Mexico. I wanted to go and meet them and share with them at least a short stretch of the ordeal these migrants experienced. The Central American countries with the highest rate of migrants are El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. In these regions, migrations are mainly in order to escape violence and also to a search for better economic conditions. It is nearly impossible for the poor to live in these countries taken over by gangs, engaged in kidnapping, extortion and forced recruiting of the young for the ‘maras’ (gangs).

There are different ways to migrate; those who can afford it, travel accompanied by “coyotes” while the poor travel alone and with no money. The Salvadoran migrants leave from El Salvador and travel across Guatemala to reach Mexico. There, the most serious problems begin. Due to US pressure, the Mexican government demands a visa from Central American citizens. Therefore, irregular migration begins at the southern border of Mexico for Central American nationals. They cross the border through rivers, swamps, avoiding border crossings and the Mexican gangs who kidnap and extort. Migrants include men, women, boys and girls and families with children. Migrant women are raped in 70% of the cases. Many women, girls and boys are captured and sold by human traffickers.

If they succeed in crossing the State of Chiapas and reach the locality of Arriaga, they get on the cargo train called “the Beast”, which travels to Northern Mexico. This train journey is fraught with dangers, police operations, assaults, kidnappings by Zeta, the Mexican organized crime syndicate. The train reaches the State of Oaxaca and stops at Ixtepec, where the Hostel is located, prior to continuing its journey northbound. On ‘the beast’ migrants are assaulted, many are thrown off the train, some jump off to avoid being caught, losing their identification documents and few possessions. They reach the shelter in these conditions, often carrying nothing, injured, sick and beaten. At the Hostel, they are given food, a place to sleep, the possibility to take a bath, they get clothes, legal assistance and health care.

The Hostel was created by Father Alejandro Solalinde, the leading advocate for the Rights of Mi-
Asian Women Against Human Trafficking
(Sr. Cynthia CJ, Patna Province)

I was privileged to participate in the 6th Annual Meeting of the Asian Movement of Women Religious Against Human Trafficking (AMRAT) which was held in Secunderabad, India. There were 90 participants from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The vision of AMRAT is that the Women Religious of South Asia (Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka), inspired by the love of Christ, who came to offer fullness of life to all, commit ourselves to protect, promote and restore human dignity in our mission.

We address the issue of trafficking of persons in collaboration and solidarity with equally motivated organizations and individuals. AMRAT aims at involving at least 1000 Women Religious in networking for counter trafficking in South Asia, to support grass root activities in addressing the issues, and to network with Government and non-government stake holders against trafficking of persons.

We have been inspired by what Pope Francis has said: “trafficking in persons is a despicable activity, a disgrace to our society that calls itself ‘civilized!’” (Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, May 24, 2013).

Trafficking between Indian states is rising due to increased mobility, rapid urbanization, and a growth in a number of industries that use forced labour, such as construction and textiles. An increasing number of job placement agencies lure adults and children for sex trafficking or forced labour, including domestic servitude, under false promises of employment. Bihar is one of the states of origin from where women, children and girls are being trafficked. On the 26 October, 2014, the Hindustan Times, reported that over 2,000 children went missing from various parts of the state between January 2012 and June 2014. The fact is that 90.3% victims have not been rescued, 6% have been rescued once and 2.7% rescued twice.
Experience in Africa
(Sr. Savia Kroková CJ - Slovak Province)

This summer I had the chance of spending six wonderful weeks in Africa. How was this possible? I made the acquaintance of Father Epiphane Kinhoun, a Jesuit from the West African Province. He was involved in the ministry for our Slovakian Community in Munich mainly for young people and families. Father Epiphane has written his thesis in Philosophical Anthropology while in Munich for three and a half years. After finishing his work he founded a project ‘Palaver Tree’ for the development of African people. The first steps of the project are now complete. Fr Epiphane has accomplished the first concrete part of the project and I could take part in the official ceremony with three Slovakian friends of our Community in Munich. But what I have now personally experienced in Africa is much more interesting, and I can hardly describe it. This experience was somehow part of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. Therefore my report will have the structure of four different motives of the Exercises.

First motive: To enjoy the miracles and to question oneself. People in Africa have almost always lived cheerfully and happily. They live in joy and one could ask about the source of this joy. They are happy about little things, gestures, glances, laughter. They don’t seem to focus on appearances, but on relations. They are ready to share their visible joy with others. It is easy to get into contact with African people because their life is cheerful and communicative. It was a special experience for me to realize how African people are filled with God. In this sense Africa is a miracle of our Lord.

Second motive: A deeper experience to get to know oneself better. In Cameroon I had an experience in an African family where I spent three days. Father Epiphane had arranged this experience; he wanted us to experience the life in an African family. In Africa, family is different from Europe. Family is not father, mother and child, but always includes several persons. There is a child of a relative, there is an aunt or an uncle, there is the brother of the wife or the husband, and all just live together. It is wonderful to see how they share everything. We were invited by a poor family who had almost nothing to live on, as we learnt from Father Epiphane later. Nevertheless they prepared a rich meal for us. Later I was moved to tears. It is touching how they organize a feast for guests, because the guest comes first. I understood that they enjoy giving joy to others. This is really impressive. I have discovered the wonderful heart of the African everywhere.

Third motive: to suffer with the permanently suffering Christ in Africa. Father Epiphane’s project for Africa shall be a sign that we won’t find peace as long as most people in Africa suffer from ex-
treme poverty. They are not poor because they don’t want to work, but because they are part of a system that leads them into poverty. I could see the contrast between rich and poor people during my time in Cameroon as well as in Benin. I often thought of the story which Jesus told about Lazarus and the rich man. I asked myself how this can be possible. Must these people suffer from poverty? For me this question became real and I am convinced that I could contribute a small drop of all my opportunities. In a village where we spent some days, I saw children in misery and poverty with dirty and long nails. I opened a ‘Saloon for Manicure and Pedicure’; I saw their wounds and I became a ‘nurse’ for them. This news spread quickly. Many children came. This showed me how simple it is to give help in Africa.

Fourth motive: Hope is fulfilled. I tell what I experienced, what my hands touched and my eyes saw: Africa is a continent of hope. Africans have something special to give to the world, their rich culture, their friendly life, their joy in life, their easy pleasure when they first help themselves. My joy is really great; this journey was a special gift from God for my life. I feel new energy in the faith, the hope and the love of God. For me it is the experience of the 30 days retreat. Through Africa it became concrete in my life. I thank God for everything I could experience and I thank all the people who had helped me to make this journey possible.

CJ novices with the Loreto Juniors at Tarumitra
(SR. BINDU JOSEPH CJ AND NOVICES, PATNA)

The twelve novices from COIN (Conference of India and Nepal) had a very enriching gathering in Patna with four Loreto Juniors from Kolkata, from 13th to 17th October. Our common concern for the planet Earth brought us together at Tarumitra meaning ‘Friends of Trees’, an organization for ecological ministry.

CJ Novices and IBVM Juniors at Save Electricity Campaign

This was to attend a Seminar on eco-spirituality under the guidance of Fr. Robert Athical, SJ and his team. Apart from becoming friends with creation we strengthened our Mary Ward family bond; it was a wonderful opportunity for us to come to know some of the Loreto sisters personally and share our common roots and spirituality. All of us were very eager to build up deeper bonds with each other. The spirit of oneness characterized all our dealings. Their love for the Congregation and for Mary Ward certainly encouraged us, the novices. Being with them for five days we experienced within us that we belong to the same family. Their visit to our sisters in the Provincial House and Novitiate truly delighted us. We are convinced that common concerns, such as ecology, would certainly continue to strengthen and bring together our Mary Ward family.

An invitation to journey with the refugees
(SR. ELISABETH KAMPE CJ, ROME)

On the 14th of November 2014 the “Jesuit Refugee Service – International”, with its office in the Jesuit Curia in Rome, invited religious congregations to mark the 34th anniversary of its foundation. The aim was to widen their support base, and they were very astonished that so many religious responded to the invitation.

In the beginning Fr. Peter Balleis SJ, the Interna-
tional Director of Jesuit Refugee Service, gave an overview of the present situation of refugees and the need for religious to respond. I took part in this meeting on behalf of Jane, our General Superior who was still on visitation in India. Fr. Balleis SJ pointed out that hospitality stands at the center of our Christian faith: welcoming strangers into our homes, offering the little that we have, is our Christian responsibility. This call to “invite a stranger in” is the reason why we gathered on the 14th of November to ask ourselves how we can answer this call by opening our doors to refugees inviting them into our religious houses, offering them the comfort and spiritual support in their time of need.

At the moment there are 52.3 million refugees and the current refugee crisis has been described as the worst since the end the Second World War. In listening to the work of the Jesuit Refugee Service all the participants had the impression that this initiative is a potent answer to the need of the hour and this definitely should be our way of helping to heal our world.

At the end of the presentation Antony Mukui from Kenya gave us a report of his own experience. He and his family fled Kenya in January 2014 due to persecution that left his cousin dead and another family member in hospital. The Capuchins in Kenya helped them and the Capuchins in Rome took them into their house. Antony said “It is not an easy decision to take someone into your home and make them part of your family, to let them into your private space. In the 10 months that we have lived with the Capuchins I have seen the attitudes of the brother’s change from one of fear and suspicion to one of love, affection and brotherhood. I now feel part of that fraternity of brothers. Displaced persons have many needs such as housing, food or education. But what refugees need most is love and compassion, which enables them to restore the dignity that has been taken away from them by conflict and sudden displacement. They need to feel that they are human beings so that they can heal their wounds and rebuild their lives again, and hopefully heal others that are likewise wounded.”

The presentation was followed by group work. We were about 30 sisters from different congregations. The first question we dealt with was: “Has anyone of you had experience taking refugees into your house?” One sister explained that they had given one empty house in their garden for refugees. Their experience was positive as the women were more or less responsible for themselves. And for all it was clear, that taking refugees is for a transition period. It is not forever, because they have to find their feet in the new country and settle down. The task of the religious is to support them in this difficult transition. The day came to a close with a thanksgiving Mass.

**Meeting on Formation**

*(Sr. Liliana Castro C.J. Junior Director of the Regional Conference of Latin America-CRAL)*

“United in the diversity of cultures” – that was the motto under which we met in Santiago de Chile from 16th to 18th October: the Provincials from Brazil, Chile and the Argentine, the superior of the IBVM of the Peru region and the respective sisters from these provinces/region responsible for the novitate.

We evaluated the formation processes, their implementation and the aspects mentioned by the younger sisters. Very enlightening were the contributions made by two religious of the CONFERRE (conference of religious in Chile) and a married couple who shared their reflected experiences with us. They were a valuable part of our meeting. We came to the conclusion that a cross cultural formation is necessary as well as a continual reference to the “Just Soul” throughout the whole formation process. There we put a special accent on the empowerment for the ministry for the neediest (JPIC). Faced with the complexity of...
challenges we mean to strengthen team work in the sense of “never do alone what we can do together”.

Considering today’s crisis of religious life we realized again the necessity of ongoing formation for the sisters of all provinces as it is the communities who are meant to witness the joy of religious life. It is also a question of growth in the commitment of each sister in vocation ministry and that means that we have to give enough time to human development and having respect for diversity. Both require a continuous readiness for conversion.

**The other Jane**
(Sr. Prisca Vadakepoondikulam CJ, Rome)

We, the Generalate team were indeed very happy to look back on our life as a team since we came together for the same purpose a year ago in Mary Ward’s own country. This year too we were fortunate to have a very important and interesting venue located in close proximity with Lake Albano, reminding us once again of our Jesuit connections. We did “Take the same of the Society” for a day and a half. Villa Palazzola, owned by the Venerable English College, was our happy home for this short duration. This former Cistercian monastery, built on the site of a Roman villa, occupies a dramatically beautiful position above Lake Albano in the Alban Hills, 18 miles from the centre of Rome. As well as being a retreat centre for the English College, the villa also welcomes visitors throughout the year. Palazzola is one of “Rome's Greatest Secrets!”

Jane Bertelsen, the General Superior of the FMDM (Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood), who now is affectionately called “the other Jane”, was our facilitator and she did a wonderful job, helping us “not to waste my (our) heart in fear”. We shared with courage, openness and respect. We reflected on how we live together as a team, and as a community. We looked at where we are and where we need to be. We reflected and discovered gratefully a lot had been accomplished through the work we had done with the accompaniment of Clare and Gill in the first two years, namely in Mondo Migliore and in York. We left “asking for more” and are promised another patch of time in the very beginning of 2016. We owe our gratitude to both the “Janes”.

**The CJ General Leadership Team at Palazzola**

**The other Jane (Jane Bertelsen FMDM)**

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 10th April. 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.