This edition of CJ News brings you stories from Italy, Cuba, Nepal, Slovakia and India, because we realise that “sometimes reality is too complex and stories give it a form.” The meeting of the European Regional Conference (ERC) of the CJ taught us that if we want something we’ve never had then we’ve got to do something we have never done before.

The disastrous earthquake in Nepal on 25th April and the second one on 12th May were a shock to us all. For us CJ these prove to be times of anxiety as well as great solidarity. You have already heard from ours in Nepal besides all that the media has brought to our door steps and all the networking the Generalate was able to do because of the miracle of Email. The collaboration between all the religious congregations and all people of good will have been extraordinary, in all the rescue and relief operations.

We all know well “While natural disasters capture headlines and national attention, short term, the work of recovery and rebuilding is long term”(Sylvia.M.Burwell). CJ Nepal thanks all the people who have been in touch with them, through mails, visits, and prayers. It was heartwarming to know that COIN, the Regional Conference of India and Nepal, met to discuss what they could do better together to help Nepal. Action followed in the sense that the provincial superiors of Allahabad, Patna and Delhi visited the badly-hit areas, besides sending Sr. Amalia (Patna), an experienced and committed social worker, and Sr. Mary Agnes (Patna), experienced nurse, to help out. Sr. Roshni Cheenkallel, the new Provincial Superior of Allahabad, after her visit to Nepal brought along Sr. Angelica of Nepal Region, who is not well and needs care, to the Allahabad Province for rest and nursing care. Thank God she would be able to sleep without the fear of tremors and aftershocks! COIN continues negotiating as to who else can somehow be freed to go to Nepal at this time of emergency. All our communities in Nepal are out in groups, along with members of other congregations, priests, lay persons, ex-students and parents of our students, providing food and medicines and listening to the traumatic experiences of people in the villages.

**CJ-SJ COLLABORATION**

(SR. AMALIA FROM KATHMANDU)

Nepal Jesuit Social Institute inaugurated a special office for relief work for the quake victims on 20th May.

“Sr. Marilyn introduced me to the office and I joined in partnership with the Jesuits. I met Fr. Roy (web-manager, Jesuit Curia Rome) also here at the inauguration of this office. Fr. Louis Prakash SJ (Patna Province) is the master-mind behind this project. He is the official contact person and has done a survey and has already set up priorities. The key priority is shelter.

The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in spontaneous camps keeps increasing. Most of the IDPs are now living next to their damaged houses. There is an insufficient number of partners to provide camp management services and engineering services to survey different sites.”

Fr. Louis Prakash welcomed me as the representative for the CJ partnership.
The meeting of European Provincials (ERC) took place in Rome from 20th-22nd April, to continue the journey towards unification of the provinces. The calm and supportive atmosphere of prayer and reflection encouraged collaboration and discernment in seeking together the way towards union of the CJ ‘body’ in Europe.

Sr. Jane’s intervention at the beginning of the meeting renewed the fundamental motivation for the journey that we have undertaken: to revitalise CJ mission in Europe and to become more and more an apostolic body, remembering that ‘our fundamental community is the whole body of the CJ, even when it is dispersed over the whole world.’ (CN 8.2).

The participation of the Generalate, and the help of Manuela, the facilitator, and Sr. Ottilia, the translator, were further support for more effective sharing, overcoming the difficulty on the way.

‘Clearness and concreteness’ were the watchwords on our search for a better way to achieve the goal of union of the provinces, even if it is still a long way off, and they have enabled us to take small steps towards interprovincial collaboration, with some projects that we hope to be able to carry out in the near future. The first project that we considered is a meeting of young members from the European provinces, the second a meeting of members who have lived, or are at the moment living, an interprovincial and intercultural mission, and the third is an exchange of visits between sisters from different provinces to get to know the distinctive character of each province. The purpose of these projects is to ‘strengthen our sense of being one body sharing a mission in response to challenging universal challenges’.

SPECIAL GREETINGS FROM CUBA - (SR. ELENA GATICA, CJ GENERALATE)

Our sisters in Cuba offered this cactus at a special prayer session they had for Nepal. This flower is very special, grows in this season and was offered to the Virgin of Charity of Cooper (patroness of the Cuban people) in prayer for our sisters and the people of Nepal.

Today I am going to Bhaktapur one of the very badly-affected villages. Yesterday evening (21st May) there was a meeting of all the religious and priests with the Nuncio for India and Nepal. All the congregations presented the report of all the relief work they had been doing. A lot of work has been done but there are lots of people still living in painful and precarious conditions. Smaller quakes keep on happening. Right now I am in a hurry to leave but will keep updating, on a regular basis.
needs.’ (Message of GC 2011). We have not yet reached the goal but we know that ‘the path is made by walking’. We look ahead with faith and hope, uniting our forces, as women on the way, in Mary Ward’s footsteps. Sincere thanks to Sr. Jane and the sisters of the Generalate, who accompanied us not only in prayer but by their presence and valuable support, thanks to the Roman community who gave us such a welcome, and to the communities, who feel involved in this unification process and always support us by their prayers, and, finally, thanks to the Provincials for the effort they put into this journey.

On 18th December 2014 at 11.00 a.m. we reached Jhajjar along with Sr. Pratima, the Provincial of Delhi Province and Fr. Joseph Kochhupura S.J. (fondly called Kochhu). Our school is situated about 75 km away from our provincial house. We are very much grateful to our Jesuit Fathers for their generosity in providing us with their newly-constructed residence. In the evening we had a simple blessing of the house followed by a Thanksgiving Mass and dinner.

The Jesuit residence consists of 10 rooms, two halls, chapel, library, parlour, laundry, kitchen and dining room. Fr. Kochhu had got everything ready; even our beds were prepared in Jesuit style. He has given us four rooms upstairs with all the facilities. Fr. Kochhu stays downstairs. We have all meals with him.

Salesian and MSFS fathers are our close neighbours, almost 20 km away from our house. We found them very open and generous in helping us. We have already visited more than 20 villages; we found that there are plenty of children around and we hope to get a good number of them into our school.

ST. MARY’S CONVENT, JHAIJAR
(SR. PRATIMA PINTO, DELHI PROVINCE)

The long-awaited day came for Srs. Digna, Mary John and Alka to venture out on a new mission in Jhajjar, in the Indian state of Haryana.
Fr. Varkey S.J. Provincial (Delhi Province), Sr. Pratima, fathers and sisters and a few well-wishers.

Our school building (primary) is ready and looks very inviting. We have done some spade-work - levelled the ground in front of the school and also planted grass to give a green look. So far about 40 applicants have come for admissions. We hope to get more admissions in the beginning of April. So we celebrate the tiny successes, hoping for bigger ones.

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CJ CUBA HAVANA – FORMATION
(YANET LOPEZ AND SR. TERESA HECK CJ, HAVANA, CUBA)

In the Year of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis invites us to renew our vocation and to be men and women who awaken the world.

In Cuba we wish to live it with reflection, discernment, prayer and commitment from an updated theological and human depth that allows us to experience the beauty of consecrated life and leads us to serve and love our wounded brothers and sisters in our world as Jesus did.

The Dominican Study Centre in Havana periodically offers workshops to renew and update ourselves. We participated in a workshop about the dimensions of the human being according to Mounier’s thought, which drives us to get out of ourselves to commit with greater audacity to the painful and marginalized peripheries. On another occasion, F. Benjamin Buelta SJ made us hear the calls of the Spirit with a talk about the journey of the founders and foundresses. Fr. Juan Miguel Arregui S.J. enlightened us on the topic of Religious Life Today: Walking in Hope. Both themes helped to challenge and enlighten our spirituality. The course on ‘Ongoing Formation for Religious Life’ by Fr. Martin Gelabert, O.P. proved a gift for religious in general and those in formation in particular. The course is articulated in different modules beginning with ‘Following Jesus Today in Consecrated Life’, based on Christology. The final ‘follow me’ aims at entering the unconditional love of God. We are immersed in the land of gratuity and freedom based on the ‘If you wish’ of Jesus. The poor and most deprived individuals are always in the background.

We thank God for the opportunity offered by these meetings to nourish our lives, bear witness to, and live, our discipleship radically and with quality.

JPIC SECTION

I HAVE HEARD THE CRIES OF MY PEOPLE
(SR. JESSY PULIANTHURUTHEL, JPIC ANIMATOR, NEPAL REGION)

In an effort to network with all the eleven women’s congregations working in Nepal we joined the women religious gathering at Thecho, Kathmandu. Discussing the recent attack on two girl students (grade10), and rapes of women and children in various parts of our country, we were challenged to raise our voice against these atrocities. Taking the opportunity of March 8th, International Women’s Day, the CJ sisters took the initiative to gather the church authorities, religious men and women, parishioners, staff, students of all the mission schools in Kathmandu, ex-students, national Scouts and likeminded people to have a peace rally on the theme, ‘Make it Happen’.
The rally began from St. Mary’s school premises and the walkathon went through the important roads of Lalitpur, Kathmandu, and ended at Krishna temple, an important public place of Nepal. Around two thousand people carried placards, and banners with slogans like Stop Violence Against Women, Stop Organ Trafficking, Why Only Women??? etc., made the onlookers and passers-by raise their eyebrows.

The gathering was addressed by Sr. Marilyn Murickal CJ, our Regional Superior, Emeritus Bishop Antony Sharma S.J and an eminent woman leader of Maithri Nepal, Mrs. Anuradha Koirala. All the speakers spoke vehemently of the present happenings to women and exhorted the public to stop such violence against humanity. Inspired by the mass peace rally our staff, students and women’s groups have decided to continue our efforts to stop modern forms of human slavery. The local government authorities and the police were a great help to make the day’s programme a successful one. Actions speak louder than words. In an effort to alleviate the disparity between the poor and the rich our staff and students extended their hearts and hands to help a poor family to make a house and a handicapped girl to start a tailoring shop, to pay off the bills of a poor sick boy in Patan hospital, to feed a few government school children and to provide them with stationery.

Our efforts may be small drops in the ocean of programmes that are conducted around the world to stop modern forms of human slavery, but may God bless our efforts!

The war in the east of Ukraine makes people take flight into the west. Officially there are 1500 refugees in Užhorod, unofficially there are probably twice as many. They come to escape the bombs and to save their lives and the lives of their children. There are many religious communities that offer help to the refugees. But I am the only one who offers help on the part of the parish church. Many refugees are housed on the 8th and 9th floors of a former communist hotel. I visit individually, but also women and children.

The refugees experience great difficulties. They are permanently afraid. If they hear loud noises at night they think that they are being bombed again, and they sense that they are not welcomed by the locals. They value it greatly when I listen to them and when I try to put myself into their shoes. I regularly meet the women and encourage them to talk about their difficulties. Only in this way can the hope grow that God will give them a new chance.

Their reality is a hard one. The refugees get money from the town but of course that is not enough. Often they have no food and have to go begging. Everything is expensive: livelihood, nappies for the children, medicine etc. One mother did not have any money left for food because she had spent everything on medicine.

The conditions in the hotel are difficult. Often the women live in one room with their children. The beds are broken. They only get warm water once a day, sometimes only once a week. There is a lack of beds for children, prams, washing powder etc.

Often our sisters from Osterhofen send us packets with clothes and food, anything you need for life. The Caritas from Slovakia and other organizations from Slovakia donate money for basic needs.
At the moment there is a campaign to collect money for a washing machine, a stove and a vacuum cleaner. So far everything is hand-washed because there is no other option. More and more refugees are coming because the situation in Ukraine is very uncertain at present. Let us pray for the people in Ukraine.

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERS

CJ News greets with joy the following Provincial Superiors and the Regional Superior of Zimbabwe. God’s blessings and many congratulations.

Sr. Maria Helena Gabai, Provincial Superior of the Province of Brazil, who took charge on 1st Feb, 2015

Sr. Roshni Cheenkallel, Provincial Superior of the Allahabad Province, who took charge on 1st April 2015

Sr. Mercy Shumbamhini, Regional Superior of Zimbabwe who took charge on 1st May 2015

Sr. Patricia Rediu, Provincial Superior of the Romanian Province, who will take charge on 1st June 2015

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 mid October. 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.