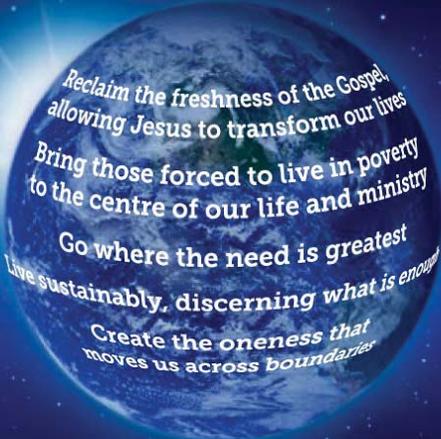


GENERAL CONGREGATION

LOYOLA, SPAIN SEPTEMBER 2014

GC CALLS 2014

As Mary Ward
companions moved
by the person of Jesus
and the needs of our
world today we seek to:



*Reclaim the freshness of the Gospel,
allowing Jesus to transform our lives*

*Bring those forced to live in poverty
to the centre of our life and ministry*

Go where the need is greatest

Live sustainably, discerning what is essential

*Create the oneness that
moves us across boundaries*

Acknowledging
vulnerability and
fragility we turn to
Jesus knowing that
"...all we need we will
find in Him."

MARY WARD

INSTITUTE OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THE GENERAL CONGREGATION

The SECOND General Congregation of the Loreto branch of the Institute opened on September 7, 2014. The forty-eight GC members were joined by five support staff, two members of the Congregatio Jesu and two facilitators. All were strengthened by the prayers and support of members of the Institute and co-workers, colleagues and friends around the world. Daily reflections, images and some short live recordings of events on the IBVM website highlighted the rhythm and dynamic of each day and enabled a greater sense of inclusion for all.

Gratitude

The Institute Report presented an overview of the work of the outgoing leader Marian Moriarty and her council: Sandra Perrett, Carmen Diston, Barbara Murphy and Beatrice Stuart. The members of the General Congregation gave thanks in ritual for their leadership over the past eight years.

OUR NEW LEADERSHIP

In an atmosphere of prayer and blessing, confidence and joy we celebrated the election of Noelle Corscadden as Institute Leader with Igora Pinto (Vicar), Judith Nekesa, Macarena Fernandez de Bobadilla and Brenda Eagan as the incoming Institute Council.

During three periods of Institute wide conversation and community reflection followed by the Province Congregations, two discerning questions emerged that were taken forward to the General Congregation.

THE DISCERNMENT QUESTIONS

When we witness to the Gospel of Jesus, we promote the reign of God; proclaiming the Gospel with bold humility, we commit to a faith that does justice. (Const. 2.3)

1. In what ways is God inviting us, within our Institute reality, to live this prophetic discipleship in the 21st century?
2. What activities, resources, structures will nurture and sustain, release and unblock the fire and passion within us and in others for the *Magis*?

From these questions and in a process of communal discernment involving daily faith sharing on the Gospel, table conversations in two different groups and regular plenary sessions, the Calls emerged as the fruit of the Spirit working among us.

*Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and God will give you everything you need.*

Matthew 6:33

CALL 1:

**Reclaim the freshness of the Gospel,
allowing Jesus to transform our lives**

Action

Launch an Institute wide process of gospel sharing that will invite members, co-workers and associates to join “a Mary Ward circle” to rekindle commitment to Jesus and recover the initial passion for the mission of God. Guidelines, training and leadership will be provided where needed.



**As Mary Ward companions
moved by the person of
Jesus and the needs of our
world today we seek to:**

CALL 3:

Go where the need is greatest

Actions

- Institute leadership to mission across boundaries beginning with initial formation.
- Institute Leadership to call members to undertake ministries for the “Whole Body.”
- Establish cross province sharing of IBVM personnel
 - in an established ministry in another Province
 - in an international community for mission.



CALL 4:

Live sustainably discerning what is enough

Actions

- Develop discernment material for review of personal and community living in the light of the theology of enough and act on the implications.
- Plan for Province sustainability.
- Where needed set up income generating projects in accordance with Institute guidelines.

CALL 2:

**Bring those forced to live in poverty to
the centre of our life and ministry**

Actions

- Review our personal lives and ministries through the lens of Jesus’ stance with the marginalized with the assistance of resources provided.
- Challenge our artists, musicians and writers to create materials and images that evoke our world’s reality and our response to it.



CALL 5:

Create the oneness that moves us across boundaries

Actions

- In the light of being one global body, initiate an Institute review process on our cross-cultural reality and our experience of equity.
- Initiate a process for Institute-wide education in participative leadership.
- Develop guidelines and formation/training for members, associates and co-workers so that we minister in a co-equal way.
- At Institute level establish ministry networks, twinning and/or other means of connecting.
- Evaluate different governance structures and leadership models.

COMMISSION TO INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP

1. **IBVM communications capacity**
 - a. Establish a central communication office to enhance communications throughout the Institute.
 - b. Upgrade technology and skills in the parts of the Institute that require support.
2. **Sharing of resources: finances and personnel**

Plan new ways of sharing our resources equitably across Provinces.
3. **Relationship between the CJ and the IBVM**
 - a. Seize every opportunity to develop closer relationships between the CJ and IBVM and encourage members to take opportunities to build and deepen relationships.
 - b. Consider together the establishment of a joint initiative with a specific name and clear goals to formalize our desire to deepen the relationship.
 - c. Find ways of updating and sharing the story of the many movements towards being one.
 - d. Review progress in 2018, make adjustments and choose further steps.
4. **Commit to reviving Province JPIC committees and to strengthening the IBVM international JPIC network.**
5. **Outline a process for (a) making advocacy statements on behalf of the Institute and (b) identifying areas of special focus.**

Helps for reflection, sharing and living into the Calls:

Cross Cultural Handbook – revised 2013

Short Term Cross-Cultural Missioning

Constitutions Vol 1, Part VII, esp. Chapter 2

Constitutions Vol II 4.13 – 4.18

JPIC Handbook

Review and Discernment of Ministry: Personal and Corporate

Mary Wright IBVM, Mary Ward's Institute-The Struggle for Identity (Sydney, Crossing Press, 1997).

Acknowledging vulnerability and fragility

we turn to Jesus knowing that ...

all we need we will find in Him.