

Partnership for Development & Mission

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of the Mary Ward International Newsletter. We have stories of celebration, of people coming together and crossing boundaries to reach out to others. At the heart of it all are courageous and generous women who are making a difference in the lives of others, particularly in the lives of children and women.

Congratulations to Imelda Poole ibvm who recently received an MBE from the Queen for her achievements and services to end modern slavery. Imelda is President of RENATE, the network of European Religious fighting trafficking and exploitation. Through her outstanding leadership, the organisation has made a significant difference in improving religious sisters' support of victims of human trafficking. It is wonderful to see Imelda's hard work and dedication being recognised.

Congratulations to Elouise, our usual Chief Editor, on the arrival of her new baby boy. Wishing Elouise and her husband much joy and happiness at this special time.

Please keep the international Loreto SPARK charged and start collecting your wonderful news for 1 NOVEMBER 2018, as it is this global unity that inspires and renews our commitment to ALL that is right and just!

We are grateful to all who support our mission worldwide and ask you to keep in your prayers the many troubled parts of the world in need of love and healing.

With every good wish and blessing,

The Editorial Committee –

Brigid Tunney ibvm & **Heather Kitson**
MWIA Communication Officer



SPAIN

A Gathering of Great IBVM Women

by Aurora Moreno

The Mary Ward Foundation celebrated the first edition of the 'Great IBVM Women's Gathering' in April and intend to make this the first of many. The intention is to feature IBVM and Loreto Women who are outstanding in their communities.

Our first woman featured was Irene Villa in conversation with Antonio Garrigues-Walker.

Irene Villa, is a former student of the Irlandesas School of Cullera Madrid, who as a child suffered the amputation of both legs as a result of a terrorist attack by Euskadi Ta Askatasuna [ETA], translated as 'Basque Homeland and Liberty.' A leftist Basque nationalist and separatist organisation in the Basque Country (northern Spain and southwest France), founded in 1959.

This misfortune did not discourage her, it made her a woman who values happiness above all else and the whole of Spain admires and loves her, for her determination and resilience. The gathering took place in Madrid, and the attendance was incredible with more than 150 people there to listen to Irene Villa and celebrate the strength and the joy of IBVM Women.

We also took the opportunity to honour dear Ana Garrigues ibvm, the driving force behind the idea and who celebrates her 80th Birthday. Happy Birthday Dear Ana!

We hope to replicate this event once or twice a year and feature women (not necessary famous) who are doing something important for other women and building a better world. We want to encourage women to tell us what they do and to introduce to us friends and family members who are really making a difference in the world.

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We are already in touch with a good number of past pupils, teachers and other friends, all a part of the big Mary Ward family.

We have created a Facebook group which will become a meeting point for our large IBVM family. It will be a place to meet women who, in their lives and careers, are making a difference so we can all work together for a better world. If you are one such woman, we would be happy to hear your story and await you...



 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrandesMujeresBVMIrlandesas/>

IRISH PROVINCE

10th Anniversary Celebrations

by Brigid Tunney ibvm

The 10th anniversary of the opening of the secondary school in Rumbek was marked by a week of celebrations. Guests travelled from Rome, Ireland, Kenya and we were honoured to have the presence of Sonya Hyland, Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan and Djibouti.

It was a week of rapturous welcomes, dancing, singing, drum beating, speeches, festive meals, sports and unbridled joy! It was a week of pilgrimage and prayer and heart-felt thanks for ten-years of God's goodness. The Primary school pupils celebrated with Mass, a special meal and much dancing.

Bishop Caesar Mazzolari passed during morning mass in front of his Rumbek congregation on 16 July, 2011. His passing was one week after witnessing the birth of the nation of the Republic of Sudan. A nation through the establishment of learning institutions he had implanted great change. Bishop Caesar Mazzolari was instrumental in bringing Loreto to Rumbek. A pilgrimage to Rumbek Cathedral, to the tomb of the bishop and, to celebrate Mass was a beautiful experience for all.

On 13 April 2008, Loreto Secondary School for girls opened its doors for the first time and on Friday 13 April 2018, local chiefs, politicians, priests, other religious congregations and students from surrounding schools gathered to celebrate with us. Thirty-six Loreto Graduates returned for the celebration. Fr. John Mathiang was joined by several

priests to concelebrate Mass.

The raising of flags followed the Mass, and the special anniversary cake was then blessed and distributed to everyone. There was entertainment and speeches and one of the graduates gave an excellent speech challenging the government to work for girls' education and for lasting peace in South Sudan.

A celebratory meal was enjoyed by over 1500 people. It was a wonderful week of celebrations and the excitement, the joy, the pride, the sense of celebration and togetherness were palpable all week.

A special thanks to the Rumbek community – Orla, Penina and Rosemary, to the girls and boys of both schools and to the staff and the local community for the warm welcome and generous hospitality. It was a special week that will live long in our memory.



Clockwise from top left: 1. Primary pupils dance during Mass. 2. Girls carry gifts to the altar during the offertory procession. 3. Orla, Penina and Rosemary bid farewell to their visitors – Maria, Brigid, Colette (Misean Cara), Sonya Hyland – Irish Ambassador, Noelle, Brenda, and Ita. 4. The girls on pilgrimage to Rumbek Cathedral.

PERU

News from Peru

by Janet Palafox ibvm & Viviana Herrera Sarmiento

In the Parish Medical Centre in Lampa de Oro, workshops directed by the psychologist Karol Portillo were held for mothers and their children. The mums learned about listening, understanding and working together, while their children, with great enthusiasm, participated in activities such as art, gymnastics, handwork and other creative events. We are grateful to all the staff at the Centre and to Foundation Mary Ward, for making these workshops available to families.

On 8 March, the community of The Women's Development Centre took part in a march to celebrate "Women's International Day." With firm determination, conviction and joy, they expressed the urgent need to continue their effort to end all forms of violence against women in Peru. Domestic violence is alarmingly prevalent in Peru. Not only is it

statistically more common than in other more progressive cultures, but Peruvian women tend to accept it as simply a 'part of marriage' (Inter Press Service).

"Woman, stand up!" was the motto frequently heard at the march. It is necessary to continue providing opportunities for reflection and a place where women's voices are heard and they receive the support they need to confront this epidemic.

We support Deepa Biswas ibvm who is taking on the accompaniment of "Warmi Wasi" in Huaycan. It is a new and challenging undertaking but we know she will give it her all.

In Lampa de Oro, the community celebrated Earth Day by 'Plogging.' This is a new sporting model, which combines sports with care for the environment. It involves jogging, running or walking while collecting rubbish found on their way. We are grateful for the commitment of all those in the neighbourhood who participated.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Read more news about the ibvm sisters in Peru by clicking on the below link

English:

http://www.ibvm-peru.com/boletin/rimaq_warmi_08_en.pdf

Español:

http://www.ibvm-peru.com/boletin/rimaq_warmi_08_es.pdf



Clockwise from top left: 1-2. Parish Medical Centre Workshops 3. Women's International Day 4. 'Plogging' Earth Day 2018

INDIA

Loreto Family March Against Rape

By Monica Suchiang ibvm

A lit candle of compassion can easily illuminate the world far more than the blinding light of anger, intolerance and violence...

To spread the message of humanity, more than 500 people in Kolkata from different castes, creeds and religions, marched alongside the Loreto family from St Paul's Cathedral to Gandhi's Statue on April 17, 2018 praying "make me a channel of your peace."

Through interfaith candle light and silence, we peacefully marched, praying for unity and harmony among all the people of different communities. Religious clerics, Loreto sisters, Kolkata Mary Ward staff, Loreto students and teachers, gathered in peace to protest crimes against women and children, with emphasis on the Kathua and Unnao cases that shook the nation.



The fact that our mothers and sisters are insecure is of great concern in today's world and a resolution must be found. The Loreto India Family

demanded immediate justice and strengthening of the laws to prevent these heinous and despicable crimes against women and children.



SOUTH AFRICA

Women's Group in the Parish of Kleinvelei, Western Cape

By Rosaleen O'kane ibvm

In the parish of Kleinvelei in the Western Cape, a Women's Group was established in 2012 as one outcome of a Diocesan pastoral conference. A subgroup within this organization was formed which had the specific aim of training women in leadership – Emerging Leaders Process.

This process aimed to give women the opportunity to discover their own inner

leadership and to equip them to use this leadership more effectively in their own life situations. The Emerging Leaders Process is loosely based on Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People but different as it is faith based.

Over the years many women have participated and have been both inspired and overawed at the discovery of their own innate leadership. For some, the learning was related to work situations but for all the women, whether at home or in the workplace, acquiring skills such as how to be proactive, how to listen, how to set

personal goals and how to work as a team, gave them a great sense of empowerment. At the end of the training, the women attested to the positive changes it had brought about in their lives: they had grown spiritually and emotionally, they could now handle issues from a different perspective, they had more empathy, they felt empowered in situations that were previously challenging.

The larger umbrella group, the Women's Group of Kleinvelei parish, has grown and flourished over the years. The aim is the empowerment of women and the formation of strong women who can be a positive force, especially for other women. They organised a series of activities including 'pamper packs' for those who are ill or in hospital, knitting blankets for the elderly and visiting hospitals. One of their most successful initiatives is an annual Wellness Day May 12, 2018 where speakers talk on health issues and give hands-on treatment where it is appropriate. This Wellness Day is very popular and all are welcome.

CANADA

Change Beyond Borders

by Angelica Dela Cruz & Evanne Hunter ibvm

For years Loreto Abbey students have invested time, effort, and energy into creating social change through initiatives in conjunction with the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loretto/Loreto).

Fundraising for Loreto projects in various parts of the world – a playground for children after a monsoon destroyed their school in Thakurpukur, India; employment and sustainable income created for women in El Salvador; solar panels for a centre for eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation in Kenya; enabling mothers on a tea plantation in Darjeeling to provide their children with education whilst working; reforestation, solar cookers and sewing machines for women in Peru; Loreto quality education in war-torn South Sudan – all have raised awareness among the Loreto Abbey students as to the needs beyond our borders and the importance of their engagement in fundraising for international projects.

Fundraising for projects at home, like the Angel Foundation for recently arrived



children; Becoming Neighbours which welcomes and walks with refugees and Arrabon House that assists challenged young women; all raised awareness of the less advantaged in our community.

In 2017–18, Loreto is focusing on a project in Kishiri, Mwanza Region, Tanzania. Vast distance between Kishiri and the nearest accessible water means people are susceptible to water-borne diseases such as malaria, cholera, and stomach ailments. This is in addition to the complications of HIV/AIDS that are prevalent in this community. Funds raised will help with boreholes and solar pumps, ultimately allowing access to drinking water, free from water-borne diseases. This clean water will also be vital for the planned dispensary to provide people in Kishiri with protection,

education, and medication for HIV/AIDS. The United Nations Agenda 2030 and Pope Francis in Laudato Si' reminded us, that there will never be peace in the world while extreme poverty exists. In engagement with these projects, Loreto Abbey is trying to enable people to lift themselves out of poverty.

Our efforts have allowed for changes in the material realities of the disenfranchised at home and around the world, all allowing people to better their lives. Activities such as Civvies' Days, Pasta Night, and Charity Cup only require a small monetary donation but the impact is extraordinary. It allows these projects to continue and the Loreto School Community, to be part of Loreto's mission to make our world a better place for all, not just for the privileged few.

AUSTRALIA

Loreto Federation Be the Change!

18–20 May 2018

LORETO NORMANHURST

by Wendy Hildebrand ibvm

Would it not be a good thing for all Loreto girls to Federate! Federate to lend a helping hand to whatever is good and beautiful, noble and useful in the world around.

So Mother Gonzaga Barry challenged Loreto past pupils to unite together with spirit and passion to lend a helping hand to make the world a better place. Across the Pentecost weekend over a hundred years later around 400 delegates participated in various sessions at Loreto Federation, hosted by Loreto past pupils



and the extended Loreto Normanhurst community.

The theme for Federation 2018 'Be the Change' was brought to life in keynotes and workshops exploring care in the health sector, concerns of Australia's First Peoples, sustainable farming, women in the Church, advocacy for those living with disabilities and those caught up in human trafficking. Through prayer, input, dialogue, shared meals and stories; delegates were prompted

and encouraged to consider how our actions large and small can have a transformative impact on our world.

Encouraged once more by Mother Gonzaga Barry let us strive to do good...

"It may seem to you that you cannot do much but you will do much if you do all you can and do it with a great and generous heart and a humbled mind - and do it for God's sake."



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MWIA is always ready, willing and happy to share your news, achievements and information, please make sure you follow us on all our social media platforms and please send high resolution images and a 'few' words and we will post these as well. Let's make our Loreto World more connected than ever! Heather.Kitson@loreto.org.au

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