Dear Sisters,

All of the Province Chapters /Sector Assemblies have been completed. During your gatherings, you might have recalled the quote above in which we were challenged to dream dreams! These dreams have been shared and have taken the form of recommended priorities. With a little patience, humour and small courage, your priorities will be further refined at the Congregational Assembly of Contemplative Sisters and at the Intercontinental Assemblies. These dreams will then make their way into “listening hearts” at the 2015 Congregational Chapter.

In accordance with Article 117 of our Constitutions, it is my privilege to convocate the 30th Congregational Chapter which will be held at the Motherhouse in Angers from 7th June to 2nd July 2015.

The theme for the 30th Congregational Chapter is: **“Energized by the Spirit, we risk together for mission.”**

Many of you used the chapter theme or some variations of it for your Chapters/Assemblies! We have already experienced the stirrings of the Spirit and the challenges that risking together implies through our work at local and province levels. Now, we look forward to the action of the Spirit at the Chapter which will call forth more risk and daring!

May we be confident that the inspiration of St. John Eudes, St. Mary Euphrasia, and Blessed Maria Droste will enable us to focus on how to best respond to the 21st century need for reconciliation and compassion in our world. Likewise, may we respond with openness to live our vowed life in joy and simplicity during 2015, the year declared by Pope Francis as the Year of Consecrated Life.

Lovingly united in the Heart of Jesus and Mary,

Brigid Lawlor
Congregational Leader
Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd has been present in the struggle of the people of Cajamarca for the right to land, drinking water and the non-exploitation of open-pit mines. Sister Doris Lovón, RBP and the community have accompanied the people in these claims.

For this reason the National Entity of Humanitarian Aid and The Social development and Peace Office in Peru, has given her recognition for the successful pastoral work and rendered a special tribute in the Eucharist celebrated on June 28, 2014 and they have given her the National Union Prize of the Peru and the Golden Medal and a Diploma and Resolution for her work done on behalf of the most vulnerable (in the picture Sr. Doris receiving the distinction).

This event has also been a way to recognize Sr. Doris and her mission of accompanying women and children victims of domestic violence, participating in conversations with authorities to bring relief to the people of Cajamarca. Also Sr. Doris is developing a project to prevent human trafficking and raising awareness of this reality especially to teens in this region.

Sr. Doris is very sensitive to all these social situations that affect people in their daily living.

Read the full text of the resolution at this link:

Award to Sr. Doris Lovón, RGS
Dear Sisters and Partners in Mission,

The Congregational Chapter Planning Committee (CCPC) sends you very warm greetings from Rome!

With joy, we received the letter from Sr. Brigid Lawlor convoking the 30th Congregational Chapter to be held at the Motherhouse in Angers, France, in 2015.

Energized by the Spirit, we met in Rome from 9th to 16th June 2014. We are delighted that Sr. Susan Chia is back in our midst and able to participate in our meetings. We were also happy to welcome Sr. Martha Hernandez, OLC, from the Central South United States Province, as the newest member of the CCPC. We thank all the Units for submitting their recommended priorities. The priorities have now been collated according to Region (Asia Pacific, Europe/RIMOA, and the Americas) and will be the subject for further reflection and discussion at the Intercontinental Assemblies (ICAs). These priorities provide the lens through which we can see more clearly the dreams and challenges and listen more attentively to where the Spirit might be calling us forth to risk together for mission.

A small group of the CCPC went to Angers to meet at the Motherhouse with the team members who are overseeing the necessary details. We are very grateful to Sr. Madeleine Guigue, Sr. Noreen O'Shea, and Ms. Marie France Tulsane for their support and help in ensuring the smooth running of the Chapter.

As we prepare for the different Intercontinental Assemblies, we thank the 3 ICA Planning Committees, and invite you to pray for all the Sisters and Partners in Mission participating in the Assemblies.

**25 Aug – 05 Sept 2014 Americas ICA in Quito, Ecuador**  
**06 – 17 Oct 2014 Asia Pacific ICA in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
**04 – 15 Nov 2014 Europe/RIMOA ICA in Angers, France**

We also thank the Planning Committee for the Congregational Assembly of Contemplative Sisters (CACS) and remember our Contemplative Sisters and their Partners in Mission who will participate in CACS from 8th to 21st August 2014 in Quito, Ecuador.

By the time of our next meeting in January 2015, the ICAs and the CACS will have taken place and we will evaluate them as we continue our journey towards the Chapter. We will also finalize our Chapter plans and will provide you with more specific information at that time.

We are grateful for your prayers as we continue to risk together for mission.

In the Heart of the Shepherd,

*Congregational Chapter Planning Committee*
Towards the Congregational Chapter 2015

Description of the Congregational Chapter Logo 2015

Energized by the Spirit, we risk together for mission...

From the crook that is in the center, we feel the presence of Jesus the Good Shepherd who journeys with us, and the Spirit which energizes us to risk together and invites us to experience in finding new and different and risky ways to live the mission.

The variety of colours and their movement revive in us an inner strength that involves our whole being and encourages us to live in constant transformation.

The coloured lines represent the 5 continents and invite us to continue creating networks in favor of justice and peace in the world.

The open Spiral encourages us to live in constant readiness to put aside all that does not give life, allowing our hearts to reveal all that helps us to experience more inclusive communities and apostolates.

"We invite you to spend some time in reflection on the theme as we explore where we are as a congregation and where God is calling us to go. Personal time for prayer and silence will allow the Spirit within to speak to our hearts. Deep listening to one another as we come to share our wisdom with others will allow the group to discern what is surfacing."

Reflection booklet

The updates of the Cacs and Icas will be on the Home page of the site

Calendar

Congregational Assembly for Contemplatives Sisters
Ecuador (Aug 8 -21)

Intercontinental Assembly for the Americas
Ecuador (Aug 25-Sept 5)

Intercontinental Assembly for Asia-Pacific
Malaysia (Oct 6-17)

Intercontinental Assembly for Europe and RIMOA
France (Nov 4-15)

Congregational Chapter 2015
June 7 - July 2, 2015
Angers, France
Be informed! Be in touch!
Be in global solidarity!

Congregational Assembly for	Contemplatives Sisters
Guest Speakers
Mary Teresa Mc Cormack
Sr. Hedwig Jöhl
Facilitator
Janice Rushman

Intercontinental Assemblies
Americas, Asia Pacific
Europe Rimoa
Guest Speaker
Rekha M. Chennattu, RA.
Facilitators
Sr. M. Elena Martinez OSF - Americas
Jill McCorquodale - Asia Pacific - Europa Rimoa

Reflection Booklet

The updates of the Cacs and Icas will be on the Home page of the site
Lord, you have gifted me with 60 years of religious life! It has really been a great gift from God calling me to the Congregation of the Good Shepherd where over "60 Years" I have received the gifts of happiness, peace, joy in my vocation of service to my dispossessed, brothers and sisters.

As I thank God for His faithfulness and love to me I say with the Psalmist, "I will take the chalice of salvation, and I will give thanks to the Lord."

I felt called to follow Jesus when I was not yet 16 years old, my parents who learned to live the faith and love of God, fully supported me, even though I had to enter in Chile, "The Mission of Love of Santa Maria Euphrasia." I was always happy and despite missing my parents and family, I never thought of turning back or returning to my family. My entrance date was April, 1952, and in the same year I took the habit. In 1954 I made my profession. It was the happiest day of my life. In 1957 I pronounced my perpetual vows.

I was in charge of a group of 120 young girls. I was the directress of the Home and I taught in the school. At the age of 29, I was appointed local superior at the Provincial House and at the age of 35, I was appointed Provincial Superior.

I was a Missionary in Chile for 44 years. Then I lived in the General Curia for a total of 13 years in two stages. I worked in New York with migrants in a parish for 7 years, and in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, for 2 summers with migrants.

Today as I complete my 60 years of dedication to God I feel flooded with thanksgiving and want to say: “Thank you lord for your love and your loyalty. In order to thank you perfectly I would need another thousand lives.” My heart rejoices in the Lord. Thanks to you and to my congregation for all you have given me. As a consecrated woman I have been very devoted and very happy. If I were to be born again, I would do exactly the same.

This was a wonderful day in the company of my sisters of the General Curia. I was so happy to be accompanied by my sister Edelmira who came from Chile and also with Father Alejandro Silva who honored me with his presence and was the chief celebrant of the Eucharist with 6 other priest friends: Eudists, a Jesuit, and Fathers of Mercy.

The Sisters of the 3 communities who live with us were present together with sisters from the Provincial House of Italy/Malta and members of the Holy Family of Bordeaux.

Continued on page 6
The massacre happened 10 minutes away from the Good Shepherd Community in Aldea de Ger-
manía Honduras.

Our Honduran people are living through a tremen-
dous crisis of insecurity and disrespect for life. The words of St. Mary Euphrasia, “A person
is of more value than a world” resounds in our
ears each time we hear news, and it is always
about youth, or men and women of the streets
who have no right to live.

In the last 15 months, 41 massacres were regis-
tered, each with 4 or more victims, according to
information divulged by the National Commis-
sion on Human Rights.

In the first 3 months of 2014 there were 5 kill-
ings. And in 2013 there were 111 crimes with
180 dead and 29 wounded. Almost all have
gone unpunished.

The observation of violence by the National Au-
tonomous University indicates that the actual
rate of homicide is 79 for every 100,000 inhab-
habitants.

The relatives of the victims claim that those
killed were reputable youth, working, and mem-
bers of the Catholic Church. The neighbors have
opted to remain in their homes to avoid becom-
ing victims of similar incidents. The police au-
thorities affirmed that they are continuing the
investigation of the multiple killings in which
the “gang of 18” is related, according to the di-
rector of the Honduran National Police, Ramon
Sabillon.

The massacre happened the same week that the
authorities dealt a big blow to organized crime
with the confiscation of more than a million dol-
ars.

Let us pray that God have mercy on our people
who are suffering so much with this wave of vi-
olence which seems unabated. And we see no
much hope for those who suffer most and need
everything.

Sr Nidia Quesada

---

60 Years of Religious Life
Testimony of Sr Ana Maria Quiroz

Continued from page 5

I warmly thank Sister Brigid and Council, and Sr. Marta for their sisterly love and for the beautiful celebration which they prepared with the rest of my community.

What beautiful gifts you have given me lord, "When you called me, when you chose me.”

With a heart full of gratitude and love I say to everyone, thank you, thank you infinitely.

Sr Ana Maria Quiroz
Generalate - Rome

The Church Reunites to Pray
Massacre at Aldea Santa Rosa—Honduras
EXPERIENCE IN ‘MADRE DE DIOS’ (Town named ‘Mother of God) “…we listen to life where God is calling…”

Madre de Dios is a district in the southeast of Peru. It was named after the river Madre de Dios (Mother of God), a river basin, which is the source of most of the rivers in the region. On the banks of ‘Madre de Dios’ is the town ‘Puerto Maldonado’ which is situated on the border with Brazil and Bolivia.

It is a beautiful place in the Peruvian Amazon, but it is plagued by pollution and exploitation of the land. Due to the existence of gold in its rivers, mining – legal, illegal and informal - has increased at an alarming rate, with the disastrous consequence of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation. Girls and women, boys and men are captured in various parts of the country and brought to the mines. Access to these places is very difficult and costly.

In 2013 the Conference of Religious in Peru (CRP) initiated exploration in the district of ‘Madre de Dios’ through an inter-congregational community, an initiative promoted by the Kawsay-Peru network. It is composed of women and men religious who work against human trafficking.

Three missions have been planned for this purpose in 2014.

We visited ‘Puerto Maldonado’, the capital of ‘Madre de Dios’, from 15th to 31st March. On this occasion we were three female and one male religious. We shared with the Missionary Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception and the Marist brothers, both of whom have missions with indigenous children in the region. It was an opportunity to connect with the people and institutions which are working against human trafficking. We were able to visit places where people are recruited and brought to the mines, for example prostitution zones. We also made contact with a native community who had suffered because of the inundation of ‘single’ children, who are exposed to many dangers and potential victims of trafficking.

What did this experience mean?

To be present in a place on the border, to listen, look, get a sense of the situation. What to do? How to get involved? We must be in solidarity with religious life in ‘Puerto Maldonado’, which is committed to specific tasks. We have to approach a highly complex reality where life has no value, just a ‘price,’ and listen to the cry to protect the children who are at risk, who need households to host them.

During our stay the miners’ went on strike because of the norms set by the government to eradicate illegal mining, while at the same time granting concessions to foreign companies coming to extract gold. This highlights the problem of the place because the state presence is weak there, and corruption is large-scale.

Since being a Sister of the Good Shepherd means leaving the gathering to go to the margins, or as the ‘Latin-American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious’ puts it, “to discover emerging persons.” This means searching, watching over a place where life cries out for a God who frees.

At the same time we are experiencing the richness of inter-congregationality, sharing everyday life as consecrated persons. This allows us to develop new projects and contribute to making the Kingdom of God present, incarnating ourselves in a reality where God himself is crying out.

Sr. Isabel Chávez, RGS
Province of Peru
We, the Good Shepherd Community in Campinas, Sao Paolo, Brazil, in partnership with the laity committed ourselves to a project of prevention and awareness raising regarding the Trafficking of Persons. Together with us are the boys and girls, teenagers and women supervised by the St. Mary Euphrasia Community Aid to Marginalized Women (CEPROMM) located in an area of prostitution in Jardim Itatinga.

The two neighbourhoods are near the international airport of Viracopos and suffer from social vulnerability. In CEPROMM we care for 220 children and youth and their families, preferably those who are children of women caught up in the web of prostitution, poverty, violence, and drugs. The majority are at the mercy of the traffickers who promise them jobs with higher salaries and better living in other parts of the country and even abroad.

Besides prevention we focused our awareness raising efforts around the theme of the Fraternity’s Campaign this year: Fraternity and Human Trafficking with the slogan – “It is for liberty that Christ liberated us.” We worked in the different parishes and basic Church communities and with small groups of women using videos, reflections, sharing, studies, books, and banners, etc.

We had a formation session on the Trafficking of Persons with Priscila Siqueira, a well-known journalist with great authority and experience regarding international human trafficking. The session was attended by the staff, adolescents and families of CEPROMM as well as the staff and youth of St. Mary Euphrasia Community and the villages around which were in situations of poverty and risk.

This year, on International Women’s Day, we concentrated on awareness raising in the zone of prostitution and spoke with the women about the risks and consequences of Human Trafficking. During Holy Week the parish of St. John the Baptist organized the Stations of the Cross on the theme of the campaign, starting from the area of prostitution.

Some stations were in front of the brothels where the women actively participated by decorating their houses. The Stations continued along the streets which were extremely poor ending at the Church of Our Lady of the Apparitions, in the neighboring village. During the Way of the Cross, the four kinds of trafficking were emphasized:

- Trafficking of Women
- Trafficking of Children
- Slave Labor
- Trafficking of Organs

The parish of St. John the Baptist is continuing this formation and awareness raising on this terrible scourge which wounds the dignity of the person and the merciful Heart of God.

We are organizing networks to appeal to public officials to cure this cruel wound in society in which the human being totally loses his or her dignity as a child of God.

Srs. Ana Maria Bastos & Lourdes Vicari
Province of Sudeste America Latina
New Unit Leaders

The new unit leaders who were elected during the
Province and Unit Chapters 2013-2014
Province and Unit Chapters list 2013 - 2014

Isabel Royuela
District of the Isles

Adela del Carmen Reyes
Bolivia-Chile

Marie J. Bae
Northeast Asia

Cordis Ganslmeier
Deut./Albanien

Francine Muthugala
SriLanka/Pakistan

Bridget Paily
South West India

Sabina Pathrose
C.East India Nepal

Germaine Rogers
Canada Fr.

Gilda Fernando
Canada En.

Alicia Corvacho
Perú

Dorothy Ndumba
Congo/Kenya

Angela Ricci
Italia/Malta

New unit and Province leaders on the Congregational Website
Note: Some Units and Provinces did not have Election of Leaders
New Unit and Province Leaders

Mary Zelna Oosthuizen
South Africa

Catharina Supatmiyati
Indonesia

Germaine Diatta
Hilaria Puthirikkal
West Africa

M. Alejandra Aguilar
Mexico

Regina T. Kuizon
Philippines

M. Susana Franco
Sudeste de América Latina

Magdalena Franciscus
Europe BFMN

Rosemary Kean
Great Britain

Graciela Méndez
Argentina Uruguay

Simone Zakher
Egypt Sudan

Elizabeth Yuko Takeda
Japan

Ethna McDermott
Ireland

Regina Htoo Htoo
East Asia

Madeleine Munday
Mid- N. America

Ellen Kelly
New -York

Rosa M. Corral
Spain

Marcelina Nascimento
Angola Mozambique
Agreement between The University of St Joseph and St. Anthony’s Medical Dispensary, run by the Congregation of Jdeide-Fanar

On the occasion of the signing of both agreements on co-operation, firstly between the USJ (University of St. Joseph) with the Good Shepherd Sisters and, secondly, between the Faculty of Medicine of USJ with St. Anthony’s Medical Dispensary, run by the Congregation of Jdeide-Fanar, a special ceremony including visits to both premises was arranged for 12 noon. This included also a visit to the Clinic and education centre.

The importance of the occasion was emphasized by the presence of the Rector of USJ accompanied by P. Scheuer and by Dean Roland Tomb who were met by Sr. Marie Claude Naddaf province Leader and Sister Hanan and also present were Dr. Nemr, Vice-Rector and several doctors and interns.

The scope of the Agreement between USJ Lebanon and the Congregation deals with the decision of USJ to support the different areas of health care — social, humanitarian, formative and direct medical attention.

The Agreement with the faculty of medicine emphasises the involvement of doctors, interns and trainees within the running of the Dispensary. Daily no fewer than 10 doctors and interns provide a permanent presence and deal with an ever increasing number of patients who know that it is doctors from Yassou3iyye who minister there.

The situation of the Dispensary is of great significance as it is situated in a popular mixed area and deals daily with not less than 500 persons.

In the interchanges that followed the signing of the Agreement, the Rector stressed the cordial relationship that has always existed between the two partners; both parties agreed that the formal Agreement just signed confirmed the fact that such a relationship bears much fruit.

Sr. M. Claude spoke to Jdeide of the 4 pillars of their action: cooperation, charity and friendship, conviviality and education. Sr. Hanane, Superior, praised the doctors and interns for their patience and devotion to patients especially the most marginalized.

Sometimes our deepest dreams are realized! .... After much patient waiting, our dream of providing top quality medical care for a marginalised people has seen the day. The project begun in 2005 achieved its purpose on 4th June 2014.

The Rector of the Jesuit University, accompanied by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and a large group of doctors came to inaugurate the collaboration between the Jesuit Fathers and the Good Shepherd Sisters in Lebanon.

From now on, the Faculty of Medicine is medically responsible for St. Antoine’s Dispensary where daily a huge number of patients, mainly refugees and generally women and children, have access to medical-social services.

We are surely witnesses to the fact that Jesus the Good Shepherd continues to care for his people.

Sr Georgette Tanoury
Province of Lebanon Syria
Calendar 2013

Good Shepherd News
While each unit is encouraged to send articles anytime during the year, we have planned that there are specific editions when each unit is asked to submit an article so that at the end of the year all the units have been part of Good Shepherd News.

Please send articles on or before the 5th of each month. Here is the suggested schedule:

January
Commissions, CLT, Bolivia/Chile, Indonesia

February
Argentina/Uruguay, Lebanon/Syria, Mexico, South Africa

March
Europe BFMN Belgium/France/Magyarország, Netherlands, Mid-North America, Egypt/Sudan

April
Philippines, Portugal, Peru, Australia & Aotearoa/N. Zealand

May
Spain, Angola/Mozambique, Colombo/Venezuela/Cuba

June
Central America, Northeast Asia

July
East Asia, West Africa, (Sénégal, Burkina Faso) The Isles

August
Italia/Malta, Singapore/Malaysia, Deutschland/Albania

September
New York, Canada, Ecuador

October
Sudeste de America Latina, Sri Lanka/Pakistan

November
Japan, Great Britain, Österreich/Schweiz/Czech Rep

December
Central East India/Nepal, S. West India, Ireland, Congo/Kenya

Launching New Page for the Spirituality centre
The 2013 retreat on “Creative Fidelity” is now online

Living in creative fidelity
Beginning in 2011, the Congregational Spirituality Centre of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd has been offering two retreats annually linked with the spirituality of the Congregation, at the Motherhouse in Angers, France. These retreats are prepared in French, English and Spanish.

As part of the “Journey of Enrichment” between the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity and the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a request was made to prepare a retreat on the charism (special giftedness/sensitivity) of both congregations.

The Team at the Spirituality Centre, Sr. Denise, Noreen and Paulina together with Sr. Liliana from Mexico developed a retreat with the overall theme “Living in Creative Fidelity”.

This retreat was offered three times at the Motherhouse in 2013 and was followed by persons of many different cultures. With the technological expertise of Sr. Stefania from Italy, it is now being offered to you online.

Apology
I wish to apologize if some articles have not yet been published or have been delayed because I gave priority to the Reunification’s Updates. These articles will be published as soon as possible. Thanks for your usual collaboration.

Reunification
You can continue to visit the Reunification page. I have been posting all the news I received from different units. If you wish to send some articles I will post them on the same page and if you have not seen the articles or pictures you sent please let me know.

Reunification Update /// Home Page

Good Shepherd News
Special thanks to the following for the translations and proof reading
Nicole Bastien Canada; Mary James Wilson, Philippines; Ana Maria Quiroz, Marta Ceballos, Bernie Howes, Claire Allesandri, Generalate; Adriana Peréz, Marie Hélène Halligon, Claudine Fargeix, BFMN; Ethna Mc Dermott, Czech Rep; Rosario Ortiz, España, Angelica Guzman, Bolivia/Chile, Narcisa Vivanco, Ecuador; Marlène Etienne Coret, France; Karla Bernabe, Sénégal, Yolanda Sanchez, New York, Delia Rodriguez, Peru, Catherine Veale, Ireland