

Christ has no body now but yours ...



June 2013

Let us pray
The things, good Lord, that we pray for,
give us the grace to work for.
(attributed to St Thomas More)

We pray with the Church and the World

General Intention of the Holy Father: *Mutual Respect:* That a culture of dialogue, listening, and mutual respect may prevail among peoples.

Missionary Intention: *New Evangelization:* That where secularization is strongest, Christian communities may effectively promote a new evangelization.

Pope Francis continues to find and take opportunities to speak of connections – God with us, us with each other and across the many barriers that can easily divide. In these days we might spend time reflecting on [C. 671]: *on both sides, the chief bond to cement the union of the members among themselves and with their head is the love of God our Lord. For when the superior and the subjects are closely united to his Divine and Supreme Goodness, through that same love which will descend from the Divine Goodness and spread to all other persons...*

There are several **days of remembrance for the United Nations** this month and we might especially highlight World Environment Day on the 5th, World Ocean Day on the 8th, World Day against Child Labour on the 12th and World Refugee Day on the 20th. Many members are involved in ministries that directly relate to these major issues so we support them in prayer by remembering these days and their work.

We pray with the Institute

The second **younger/newer members' meeting** is being held in Curepipe, Mauritius from June 7th to 15th. Twenty members from eight provinces/regions will be involved and Julia Ling and Sandra Perrett will be the facilitators. No doubt the Spirit of God will enrich this gathering with its diversity and energy.

At the end of this month an **International Education Conference** is being sponsored in Loreto Kirribilli in Sydney by the Principals in Australia. The theme is *Ward, Works, Worldwide*. There will be IBVM and CJ sisters and lay colleagues attending from other countries so we ask God's blessing on the meeting.

Let us support the General Congregation Preparatory Committee with our prayers as they continue to work with the material from the first round of reflections and prepare material for the next round. Members are Barbara and Carmen from Institute Leadership, Catherine and Bardis facilitators, Brenda USA; Maria Australia; Judy Eastern Africa; Marie Ange Mauritius; Monica S India and Chris G Ireland.

One Small Voice

I think the new call of God now is one to a deeper, reflective, contemplative attitude, listening in prayer - but the journey from head to heart and behaviour is still often not easy – I am a slow learner. I find the gatherings of those in the autumn years refreshing, enjoyable and energising. We have talks and sharing on the process of ageing, hopefully peacefully and positively. I always enjoyed travel so outings are good fun. Cluster groups spring up spontaneously, answering any needs we feel, so continuing formation is alive and well.

An image which helped me all through life in difficult periods is the rainbow – sign of hope and God's covenant. In older years my image is the sunset which is mostly beautiful, calm and tranquil, but can be angry at times, suiting my moods in the minor irritants of daily community living; then it fades off over the horizon into darkness to appear when we come around to it in sunrise, symbol of new life.

Berna Fahy