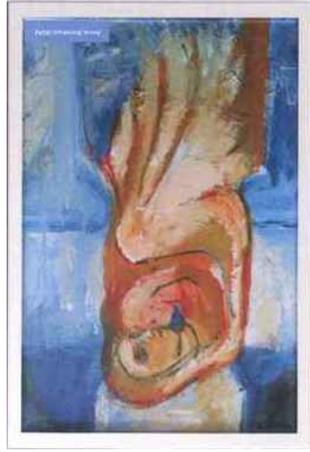


Let us pray

Be generous in prosperity,  
and thankful in adversity,  
Be fair in your judgement,  
and guarded in your speech.  
Be a lamp for those who walk in darkness,  
and a home to the stranger.  
Be eyes to the blind and a guiding light to the feet of the erring.  
Be a breath of life to the body of humankind,  
a dew to the soil of the human heart,  
and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

Cover painting: Annie Bromham IBVM



May 2013

Hail Mary, full of grace

## We pray with the Church and the World

**General Intention of the Holy Father:** *Administrators of Justice.*: that administrators of justice may act always with integrity and right conscience.

**Missionary Intention:** *Seminaries:* that seminaries, especially those of mission churches, may form pastors after the Heart of Christ, fully dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel.

**21<sup>st</sup> May** is the **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** - the day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better. On this day, take time to become aware of and pray for all of a diverse culture who are touched through our ministries and who touch us.

The full moon on **25<sup>th</sup> May** invites us to remember the **Day of Vesak** – the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. Buddha asserted that *the way to change the world is to change the nature of man* and this offers a critical insight into how to improve conditions for our planet and its people. Today we reflect on how we can change our actions to pave the way for a more sustainable future.

Ban Ki-moon

## We pray with the Institute

In **India** on May 11<sup>th</sup> Anita Lakra and Arockia Mary Dass will make their Final Vows. We pray for them on this special day and for their journey into this call to follow Jesus in the Institute.

In January this year 5 young women in **India** made their **First Vows:** Neelam Kindo, Isilda Sangriang, Biviyana Lepcha, Mann Veronica Thapa and Sarita Horo. We give thanks for this commitment.

Together we pray for **Patricia Grant**, the new Province leader for Canada as she commences her leadership role this month. We ask God's blessing on her, all members and the many colleagues.

The members of the **South African province** gather at the beginning of this month to give thanks for all that has been over the past 135 years. On May 1<sup>st</sup> they will become a *Unit under the Generalate* with Emer McNally and Marie Brady sharing the role of local leader.

This month there is a handover of responsibility for our NGO Office at the **United Nations** in New York. We give thanks for the work of Anne Kelly over the past three years and ask a blessing on **Cecilia O'Dwyer** as she commences this ministry.

## One Small Voice

On our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, each Jubilarian was asked what message she wished to send to our IBVM. My answer: *I am just beginning.* Today I live practically independent – no more therapy, limited only by a wheelchair or walker. The staff here uniformly respond to needs, even those unexpressed. *Serve the Lord with gladness* was the motto our group chose and my religious name was *Felicitas*. Both describe how my life developed then and now. A prayer in the Preces years ago I say with deeper meaning each day: *I accept at this moment from your hand whatever kind of death You are pleased to send me with all its pains, penalties and sorrows.* I pray frequently for those I have hurt and for those who have hurt me. Realizing that all is gift I try to live each day in cheerfulness, serenity and gratitude.

Truly, *I am just beginning.*

Mary Madigan