

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



June 2016, Issue 5

Dear Friends,

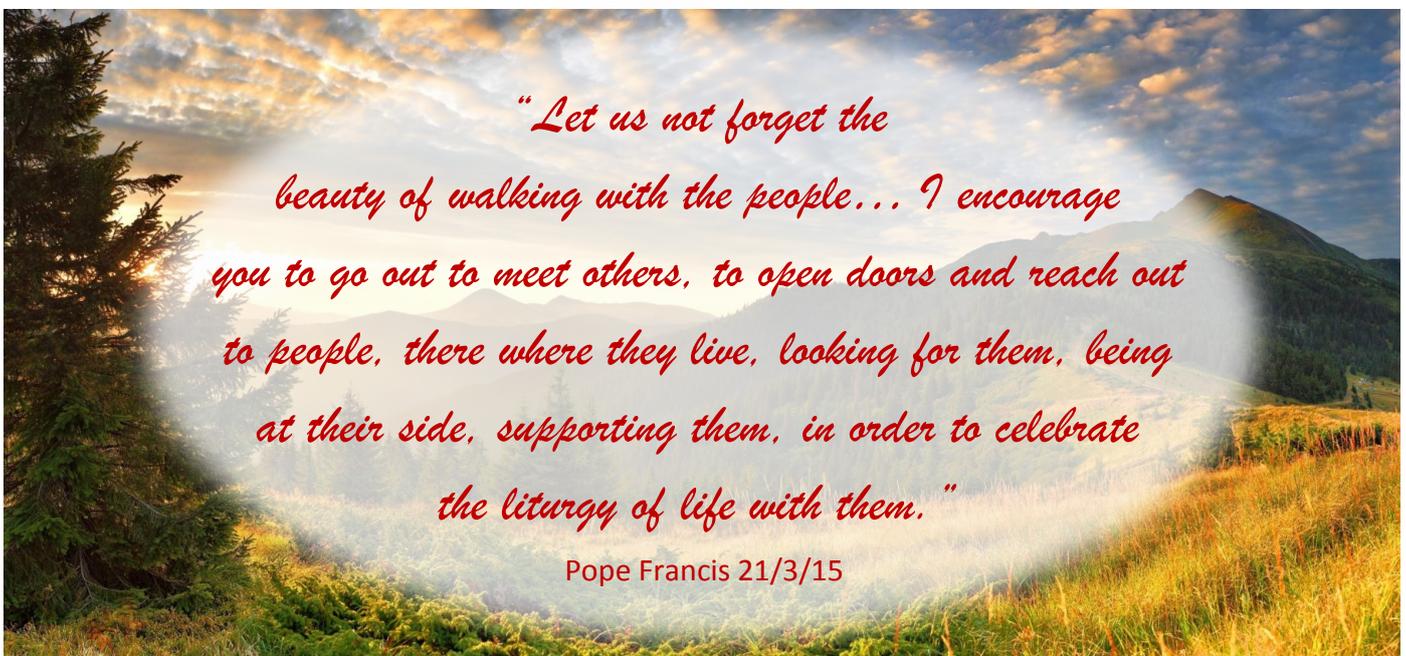
Greetings and welcome to Issue 5 of our Newsletter which gives a glimpse into the "liturgy of life" being celebrated in our IBVM provinces around the world. There are stories of walking with the people, being at their side, reaching out to them. There are stories of new beginnings, opening doors and meeting others. We invite you to step into these stories, be with them and sense the togetherness.

We remember Sr Eileen Randles, founding chairperson of Mary Ward International and pray she is now celebrating in the liturgy of heaven.

We thank you for your support and prayers and ask you to particularly pray for those working in difficult situations.

Blessings and good wishes,

The Editorial Committee (Brigid Tunney ibvm, Sabrina Edwards ibvm and Elouise Hahn)



*Partnership for
Development & Mission*



Sr. Eileen Randles

1937 - 2015



It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Eileen last December.

When Mary Ward International began in 2002, Eileen was appointed as Chairperson. With a keen mind, the wisdom of experience, her love for the Institute and her passionate support for mission, she made a considerable contribution to the understanding of the role and the workings of MWI in the early days.

Later, when the international office ceased and each province set up its own MWI office, Eileen continued in the role of Chairperson of MWI Ireland. She remained the one constant through various personnel changes and was a wonderful support to newly appointed MWI Ireland directors over the years. She attended the Irish Missionary Union and Misesan Cara meetings with enthusiasm and engaged in discussions. One Misesan Cara staff member remarked, "I was struck by her confidence in her thoughts and wisdom but she was also very respectful". We witnessed that at the MWI Toronto meeting in 2014 to which she contributed greatly.

The mission of the Institute was always close to Eileen's heart. She appreciated the opportunity to visit Kenya and see the work the sisters were doing there. She did her part for the mission in Peru, putting up photographs and helping to "encourage" the

parishioners of Foxrock church to give generously in their annual collection for Peru. She was proud of their generosity.

From the beginning, the Irish province mission to Rumbek, South Sudan was important to her. In her last days, Eileen requested that, instead of flowers at her funeral, donations might be given to the mission in Rumbek. Even in her going, she was thinking of the needs of others and of the mission.

"Happily gone on ahead", may Eileen rest in peace and enjoy "the timeless NOW of Eternity".

The timeless NOW of Eternity

*Death is not an end,
But a continuing,
For new-venue living.*

*A going and a coming,
With God, to God,
All faith fulfilling.*

*No longer waivering, wondering,
But secure, at peace,
Happily gone on ahead.*

*Re-joining, awaiting,
Horizon scanning*

In the timeless NOW of Eternity.

Written by Sr Eileen, July 2015
while on retreat at Ballyvaloo
Retreat Centre

In loving memory...

Words: *Brigid Tunney IBVM*

SOUTHERN AFRICA

We are happy to introduce Sr Lenah Mambo IBVM who has been missioned from the Eastern Africa Province to Lukulu, Zambia. Sr Lenah's main ministry will be teaching Biology, Environmental Science and Religious Studies at St Columba's Secondary School. We acknowledge the generosity of the Eastern Africa Province in sending Lenah and value her presence with us in Zambia.



Community School Activity Day

Through the ministry of Elizabeth Donnan IBVM, Loreto Lukulu has an ongoing commitment to supporting local community schools. These primary schools set up by local communities themselves, often under trees or mud and thatch structures, provide basic education for children who have no access to Government schools because of distance. The schools function generally with untrained volunteer teachers and no resources, although a number now have a trained Government employed teacher. Over the years the Sisters have provided basic teaching aids, books, blackboards and furniture and have built a number of permanent classrooms at different locations. Periodically the Sisters hold a children's activity day at one of these schools to encourage the children and to enable them to experience creative and fun learning.

One of these activity days was recently held at Chimbanda Community School near Lukulu. Sr Elizabeth worked closely with teachers to undertake creative activities in the classroom. These included colouring in pictures, dot-to-dot, lacing cards, weaving and making masks and mobiles. It is worth noting that these children have never seen crayons or colour-in



The children wearing their masks

pictures before.

All of the activities are undertaken with minimal resources, mainly recyclable materials so that the



teachers are encouraged to generate some creativity themselves in the future from this experience.

While half of the children were occupied inside making their masks, colouring pictures and lacing cards, the others were outside with Sr Lenah Mambo, Sr Pat Hanvey and two volunteer teachers playing simple games and having fun. Again these games are based on minimal resources to encourage the teachers to do similar activities with the children on their own in the future. All ball games and a simple obstacle race which is made up of plastic hoops for the



children to jump through or scramble under are a big hit with the children. It is amazing how much fun can be generated with so little.

As always the day ended with drinks and biscuits for the children and everyone went home happy.

EASTERN AFRICA

The Eastern Africa province is doing well as we continue to develop and work for Gods people. We have a few challenges of security but God has been good lately. We have completed phase one of the St Teresa's hostels and the girls have appreciated it so much. Thank you to the Spanish that supported us so much. Thanks also to the Australian province for supporting St Teresa's hostels.



The community there is never short of challenges and so have requested for a dispensary. The area is extremely poor and has a real shortage of all social amenities like water, hospitals, schools etc. It has poor infrastructure as it is a slum. We have therefore consulted with different stakeholders and have decided to build a dispensary especially to care for the poor slum dwellers and our students in the St Teresa's school. The project is only at the early stages. We have got land donated by Loreto Eastern African province.

An architect has offered to do drawings at a very subsidised cost and work on all approvals from the government. Any assistance including prayers (as we agreed to pray for each other) is welcome.

Concurrently, we have started a school in Mwanza Tanzania. Those whom know Tanzania will agree with me that there is a great need for education as children lack basic learning and equipment and facilities in the existing schools. The classes are overcrowded with some having over 100 children. I thank all of you for keeping the dream of Mary Ward alive.

***May God keep us strong in
his vineyard***



AUSTRALIA & SOUTH EAST ASIA

Our Message of HOPE!

This year MWIA has been able to support 15 projects in 7 countries, where our Sisters are working to empower women and children to receive the education and skills needed to transform their lives.

In December 2015, MWIA Executive Officer, Kim Nass embarked on her first visit to India where she was able to see in action the Mary Ward International offices in Kolkata and Darjeeling and conduct monitoring and evaluation of our projects in the West Bengal region. Kim's experiences were moving, uplifting, heartbreaking, colourful and hopeful. India is a very special place and Kim has shared her experience in the latest edition of our bi-annual [Sustain Magazine](#) which you can access electronically via the mwia.org.au website.



In Kim's words:

*I would like to share Rita's brave and inspiring story with you, I believe her story is special and gives people hope. Upon visiting the **Collective Voices Project in the Himalayan foothills** of West Bengal I met a beautiful woman called Rita who proudly introduced herself to*



me. Rita explained how she used to believe she was no longer human, subjected to daily abuse at the hands of her husband. She thought this happened to everyone. Her life took a turn when she was asked to join a local

community Women's Group as part of the Collective Voices Project. Through education and support Rita learnt that domestic violence should not be tolerated, and with caring support, was empowered to transform her life. Rita now feels safe and understands she has the same rights as anyone else in the world. Rita is on a mission to educate other women in her village to know, promote and enact their rights in four key areas: Education, Protection, Health and Nutrition.

Loreto Pre-Primary School, Timor-Leste

The Loreto Australia & South East Asia Province in conjunction with MWIA is building the first Loreto Pre-Primary School and Community Centre in the remote area of Gari-uai at the request of the local people and Bishop. It is hoped the school will be completed within the coming months. Currently an interim Pre-Primary School is operating and offers three classes to 70 young children.



CANADA

Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development

The annual United Nations excursion is popular among Toronto Catholic High School students and teachers. The motivation four years ago was to support the IBVM NGO at the UN by having students see, on-site, how the UN functions. The guided tour of UN Headquarters, visits to Government Missions and input sessions on structure, programmes and related bodies are very informational. Students gained deep appreciation for the UN, for multi-lateralism and the need of nations to work together for the common good.



The whole group at the UN with the Canadian Ambassador

Sessions familiarized students with issues the IBVM UN NGO representative follows at the UN. They are amazed at what IBVM does on the ground to address these issues. (Having Sr Imelda Poole IBVM from Albania re Human Trafficking was a bonus. They gained insight into the power of civil society by hearing like-minded NGOs describe working together to bring grass-roots voices and experience to the conversation with Governments at the UN.



The Canadian Ambassador being thanked by student

The experience is a tool for Education for Global Citizenship, one aim of Mary Ward Centre. Students studied the UN Sustainable Development Goals (previously the MDGs). They saw the world and the Church come together in the UN document *“Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”* and Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter *“Laudato Si! On Care for Our Common Home”*. This was rendered more cogent as they stood in the General Assembly where the Pope spoke and where Heads of State committed to implementing the SDGs last September.

Hearing a Loretto Abbey student at a Model UN session at the University of Toronto quote Sr Marren Akiti, IBVM in her argument for tackling the problem of birth registration in Kenya brought it all together and convinced us of the value of the UN excursion as a tool for Mary Ward International.



Cecilia and I with Imelda and Mary-Eileen Donovan

ENGLAND

June 2016... Voters, Parties, Leaders

Loreto Preparatory School, Altrincham

The school was invited to paint a banner for the G7 Conference which took place in Japan at the end of May. This was a perfect opportunity to show Loreto to the world, and promote our values, through the leaders at the Summit.

The cotton sheet was divided into 7 squares, each one representing one of our values and each one painted by one of our classes. The result was outstanding and the girls were excited and honoured to be invited to contribute, in a small way, to this hugely important meeting.



Head-teacher Helen Norwood added: "Mary Ward's values are timeless and we feel represent the best hope for humanity. We believe that the world leaders, whatever their faith, will empathise with our young children's work and hopefully be inspired to work for the common good."

Extended Leadership Meeting Llandudno 2016

This year the English province was privileged to host the ELM in Llandudno, North Wales.

Nestled in the shadow of the Great Orme mountain on one side, the sea on both sides and the Snowdonia mountain range in the distance, the group worked diligently in warm sunshine, on behalf of the whole Institute. Apart from the formal meetings there were informal gatherings, including afternoon tea with the Llandudno community and a day on which the whole province was invited to come and meet the group.

At the end of the first week the group spent two days at the Bar Convent in York, where they visited the recently opened Heritage Centre tracing the history of the Institute in its new and technologically brilliant format. They also celebrated Mass together in the chapel of Our Lady of Mount Grace in Osmotherly, where Mary Ward herself prayed for the future of the Institute. The celebrant was Kevin Murphy, recently ordained and a former senior Tutor at the Sixth Form

College in Manchester.

The visitors were joined by several members of the cj community and appreciated the guidance and expertise of Sisters Ann Stafford and Patricia Harriss.

The picture below shows the group gathered around Mary Ward's tombstone in the Anglican church in Osbaldwick after an inspiring talk by Rev Andrew Clements, the vicar there.



Extended Leadership team plus Ann Stafford CJ and Kathryn Keigher IBVM - Osbaldwick May 2016

In the province we were delighted with and very much appreciated the opportunities afforded to us to meet the Generalate Team and the Province Leaders in various informal settings, allowing time for parties, strengthening our companionship and renewing our desire to continue the work of Mary Ward amidst the challenges of the world in which we live.

IRELAND

Loreto Development in Tallaght, Dublin

Loreto Development, Springfield, Tallaght was founded in 1993 by Teresa Mc Cullagh IBVM to provide Community Education and Training for the local people. Many and varied training courses have been provided. In more recent years, with the large influx of non-nationals into the area particularly members of the Roma community, the need for English classes became clear.



Presentation of Certificates May 2016

In October 2013 our first English class began. Child care was provided for the Roma mothers who had young children and wanted to attend class.

Demand for English classes grew steadily and many more nationalities now attend from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Latvia, Jordan, Kuwait, Somalia, Ethiopia and others. The classes are provided at three levels and are mostly taught by Loreto Sisters living in the area. One group has been studying for their driver theory test. Support is also given to anyone who needs help with filling of forms etc. The social interaction among the students has had the very positive impact of helping people to integrate into the wider community.

Prison Ministry in England

Sr Mary O Kane has been working as a prison chaplain in Wetherby prison for the last 16 years. She works with young offenders, 15 - 18 yr. olds, many of them doing life sentences. Many of those released from prison reoffend again. Recognizing the need for support for released offenders, Mary and her colleagues are designing a mentoring and after care programme to help ex-offenders reintegrate in to their community.

Rumbek Primary School in South Sudan

On Friday 15th April our new Primary school building was officially opened by the Minister for Education. The whole community gathered for the occasion.

There are now 535 girls and boys in the school and 150 older children in afternoon school.



Pupils make their way to class after assembly

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mathiang, head of the Diocese. A meal was provided for everyone and the children entertained with dance, singing and poetry. The flags were raised by a troop of pupils sporting their new uniforms. Everyone received a fruit tree to take home and plant. These were grown and provided by the girls in the secondary school. At the end of the day, the heavens opened and all got soaked. This is considered a great blessing!

We are to receive another great blessing in July. Sr Penina Omanyia is joining us from the Eastern Africa Province. Welcome Penina!

Sincere thanks to all for your generous support.

Meditation Centre in Carlow

In February 2015 the Irish Province opened a Meditation centre in Carlow town. The centre is open to all and offers guided prayer and meditation to people of all faiths and none. Visitors are also welcome to chat over a cuppa and to avail of the spiritual library service.



The Meditation room at the Carlow centre

Eileen Linehan IBVM hopes that in the near future, we will be in a position to offer day retreats and spiritual direction.

MAURITIUS

From mud to Stars

The Loreto Institute (Mauritius) since 2006 has been helping a poor region in the centre of the island next to our Capital, Port Louis, namely Bois Marchand. The NGO, Bois Marchand Women Association (BMWA) was created and is managed by the resident of Bois Marchand with support of the Loreto Institute. BMWA has approximately 30 members meeting, learning and working in pastry and sewing projects.

Bois Marchand, well known for its cemetery, like other poor regions, is deeply marked by acute social problems; poverty, drugs and unemployment.

The members of BMWA have chosen the lotus as their symbol, to show that though the lotus may spread from mud, it grows up to the stars, brings flowers and is symbol of purity.



When I met Sr Denise IBVM and a group of women learning artisanal sewing, my first impression was the aura of these women. They were all smiling and happy to be there. Sr Denise IBVM, like other IBVM Sisters who worked in the centre, through donations has secured an area where the women, some of them single mothers, may bring along their children. After their training, the women are starting to earn a small income through orders for different products ranging from pillowcases to aprons or curtains.

A win-win situation is felt by members where some, like Adriana, single unemployed mother, with a university degree in textile management, brings her child, meets other women, and shares her knowledge with them. Same for Marie-Neige, 47 years old, who shares freely what she learnt to others. "What has been given freely, especially by Sr Myriam IBVM (RIP + 2015) must be given freely to others".

One important thing I have noted is that they all have hopes and dreams for a better future.

A recurrent dream is that one day, they have enough money to buy their own sewing machines, so that they can work from their place and bring along a new source of income to support their family.

Another dream is that women and families of Bois Marchand can strive to have a better future and contribute to a better world.



Some members of BMWA – 2016



PERU

We were delighted to have begun the activities of the Jicamarca Women's Training and Development Centre in April with two workshops: Dress making and Handcrafts. The dress making workshop, researched by Jaquelin Alcarraz delivers set-up by José Valqui, of the office of MWI; it has 17 participants and we can see their progress every week. The handcrafts workshop for ceramic jewelry has 16 participants.



Sr Mary Elizabeth Kirke along with Viviana Herrera were involved in the civil society action in regard to the Paris Agreement on Climate change. They contacted many people, extending the invitation to take part as far as the CJ network in Brazil and Argentina. They visited Fey Alegría Mary Ward, Jicamarca, to explain the importance of the Paris Agreement to the senior students and to ask them to sign a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



All were willing to do so; as were the Sunday evening congregation in Lampa de Oro and some of our friends in Amazonas and Lima. 700 signatures were collected and presented to the Minister Dr. Aelin Pérez Ramírez

who received them on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. We were very glad to see on television that our President went to New York to sign on 22 April. We wish to sincerely thank all those who took part in this campaign. ¡Viva la Tierra!



In March, the Project "Prevention of Trafficking of Children and Adolescents" was launched in Lamud, Amazonas, in the Secondary Schools of Luya and Lamud. The Project aims to provide college principals, teachers and parents with information about people trafficking. The project will have two phases: the first is a pilot phase to be delivered in three colleges in the province of Luya-Lamud. Depending on results, the project may be extended, in the second phase, to the whole region.



SOUTH ASIA

A New Chapter Begins

Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, the second Development Centre in the Province of South Asia, was registered as a Non Profit Organisation in June 2014. The Centre was conceived to look after the many projects started by Sr. Cyril Mooney (ibvm) in Loreto Day School Sealdah. In the beginning the school premises served as the office of the center but gradually as the scope of work widened the center needed more space to accommodate its activities. Thus, the center found its new home at Loreto Convent Entally.



Kolkata Mary Ward Social Center (KMWSC) celebrated its stepping into new office space on 14th May 2016 in the presence of nearly 200 friends and well wishers. The joyous occasion was blessed by the presence of his grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza and the Province leader of Loreto South Asia Sr Anita Braganza. The event started with the auspicious blowing of the conch shell followed by a beautiful prayer dance by the Loreto candidates. A small dance by the little child beneficiaries of KMWSC won the hearts of all.



The official inauguration was completed by unveiling of the curtains covering the 20 feet long sign board of the organization. The short prayer conducted by his

grace Archbishop Thomas, Sr Anita Braganza and Sr Monica Suchiang followed by the blessing of the house by the Archbishop marked the beginning of a new chapter in the annals of KMWSC history. A warm vote of thanks by the Director of KMWSC, Sr. Monica Suchiang left no person unremembered who have been pillars of KMWSC's success. Undoubtedly KMWSC will continue to touch and transform lives of the people in need from its new home. KMWSC solicits blessings and love from the known and unknown as it embarks in this journey.



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SPAIN

Fundacion Mary Ward – International Volunteer Programme

Our volunteer programme is a very important part of the awareness work we do among our partners, friends and students. The volunteers have the opportunity to work in some of the projects that we carry out together with the Mary Ward International Network. In our experience volunteering has proved to be a great way to engage in and contribute to projects. It helps to raise peoples' awareness and to make them feel part of a global citizenship.



The volunteer programme offers two itineraries: the so-called 'intercultural solidarity experiences' and the 'long stay volunteer'. The intercultural experiences option is a short volunteering period, about two weeks, is performed in groups and accompanied by a monitor. The long stays (at least three months, depending on the needs of each project), are intended for people with training (health experts, teachers...) and respond to specific requests from countries that we support.

Training

We see pre-departure training as vital, regardless of a person's experience. Two weekend long sessions are organized, and attendance is mandatory. Volunteers are provided with knowledge about their destination, the possible difficulties to be faced.



Volunteer workshop, Madrid

In addition, we request commitment to FMW on return. Volunteers give talks in our schools about their experience, collaborate in our newsletters and, in some cases, have surprised us with an excellent video about their stay and what it meant for them.

Volunteer workshop, Madrid

The materials produced by them not only helps us to explain what the volunteer experience is but also have helped us to raise awareness among our members.

Awareness-raising

An example of this was the video and the stories brought by our volunteers who had been in Morocco last year. Just as we were editing their texts for our newsletter, the terrible attacks in Paris took place (Nov. 2015), in which 137 people were killed and another 415 injured. In reaction, an incipient wave of islamophobia hit Europe. Many unjustly blamed Muslims and Islam in general. In response, in FMW we could spread the words and the video of our volunteers, home from Morocco. Their words and images reminded us of how close we are to the Muslim women of Asilah, who are working to learn how to read and working for their children to go to school and to have a better life. They are just like us. It was a clear demonstration of how the mutual knowledge, intercultural exchange and first-hand experiences are necessary to build a society without hatred.

You can see the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnZdcO6n3c4>



Intercultural Solidarity Experience Asilah, Morocco July 2015

Intercultural Solidarity Experience Asilah, Morocco July 2015

Finally, we cannot forget how the first hand experience of a volunteer can serve to increase our fundraising. People are more likely to collaborate with someone they know and trust, and who can vouch for their money reaching its destination.

This year one of our long-stay volunteers, Mercedes García de Tejada, who has spent time in different schools in India, launched a fundraising campaign to buy Christmas gifts for girls of the Rainbow centres. The campaign was a great success and brought great joy to the recipients.

UNITED STATES

A Day in the Park for Chicago's Mary Ward Center

With the sun shining and the Chicago shore of Lake Michigan a beautiful blue, over 100 people gathered in Calumet Park on May 21 for our Mary Ward Center Annual Walkathon. We were joined again this year by MWC students and families. These are adult students, who have come to us to learn English at Mary Ward Center, and their families. The women and children from St. Martin de Porres House of Hope, a few miles west of MWC, also join in on the fun with IBVM Sisters, friends, staff, and Associates. An amazing day in the park!

After a relaxing walk through along the tree line walk and gorgeous waterfront, families enjoyed spending time together. IBVM Sisters and volunteers helped run the children's games. Soon after the raffle prize winners were announced and a hot dog lunch was enjoyed by everyone. The event concluded with the breaking of two beautiful piñatas, and candy for all of the children. The smiles on their faces tell it all!

We are truly grateful to so many donors who provided

raffle prizes for the adults and children of our families. The excitement and enthusiasm was contagious as names were called and prizes were given out. We are also so very thankful to the many volunteers; IBVM Sisters, Associates, and friends who helped make this event such a huge success, we could not do it without you!

(Written with permission to edit Mary Ann Solorio's article for Connections/Spring Summer 2016)



Mary Ward Center Chicago-Walkathon

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL



IBVM - LORET(T)O AROUND THE WORLD



The office of Mary Ward International supports IBVM sisters and their co-workers in many ministries throughout the world. For more information go to the www.ibvm.org website and click on the link to province contact details.

Contributions by:

Southern Africa: Pat Hanvey IBVM and Elizabeth Donnan IBVM

Eastern Africa: Margaret Chege IBVM

Australia and South East Asia: Kim Nass & Elouise Hahn

Canada: Evanne Hunter IBVM

England: Magdalen O'Neill IBVM, Bernie Boland IBVM, Jacinta Davenport & Kathryn Keigher IBVM

Ireland: Brigid Tunney IBVM

Mauritius: Stephane Luchmum & Therese Yaw IBVM

Peru: Viviana Herrera Sarmiento

South Asia: Sabrina Edwards IBVM

Spain: Aurora Moreno

United States: Anne Delaney

Mary Ward International apologies for any inconvenience caused if you have received this publication twice.

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