

Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum

www.benedictines-cib.org

Bulletin #11

CIB ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN SPAIN



(Front L to R) S. Judith Ann Heble, M.M. Araceli Escurzon, M. Franziska Lukas, M. Metilda George. (Back L to R) M. Thérèse-Marie Dupagne, S. Mary Jane Vergotz, M. Martha Lúcia Ribeiro Teixeira, A.P. Notker Wolf.

The CIB Administrative Council met at Saint Benedict Monastery in Montserrat, Spain from January 20 to 22, 2016. M. Maria del Mar Albajar, Abbess and her sisters welcomed the Council and Abbot Primate Notker Wolf to their community. M. Maria del Mar is very familiar with the CIB as she served as a translator at the CIB Symposia in 2010 and 2014 prior to her election as Abbess. As we joined the community at prayer, the Eucharist, tours of the ceramic workshop and sharing sessions we felt a sense of solidarity. We are grateful to them for their sincere expression of Benedictine hospitality throughout our stay.

The meeting agenda included a review and discussion of the 2015 Conference Meeting in France, financial reports, the current CIB Membership list, 2016-2018 Calendar, 2014-2018 Goals, statutes regarding the elections held at the Conference and new Delegate orientation. The Council also worked on preparation for the 2016 Conference Meeting in Assisi and the Congress of Abbots and plans for the 2018 CIB Symposium. A questionnaire will be sent to the Delegates to share their thoughts and ideas about our Conference Meetings.

Abbot Primate Notker Wolf joined us for his final meeting as Abbot Primate. He continued to encourage us to further our work in solidarity with the Benedictine Women throughout the world. His presence provided an opportunity to thank him for his encouragement and support over the years he has served as the Abbot Primate. *Ad multos annos!*

VISIT TO SANT MARIA de MONTSERRAT ABBEY

On January 21 the Administrative Council was greeted by Fr. Ignazi M. Fossas, Prior of Santa Maria de Montserrat Abbey. Fr. Ignazi served as our tour guide and historian as we walked through the Abbey, the Basilica and its outdoor areas. He shared his knowledge of the history of the Abbey and the 12th century figure of the Black Madonna, patron saint of Catalonia, enthroned on the high altar in the basilica. We prayed Vespers with the monks and were introduced to voices of the boys' choir from their "Escolania de Montserrat". The choir along with the monks sang the Salve Regina, in a newly composed setting for this occasion. We are grateful to Fr. Ignazi for sharing not only his historical knowledge but also the contemporary expression of monastic life at Santa Maria de Montserrat Abbey.



Santa Maria de Montserrat Abbey Fr. Ignasi M. Fossas, Prior, with the Administrative Council & Secretary



(L to R) M. Assumpció Pifarré I Clapés, M. Gertrudis Nin i Barbany, Fr. Lluís Planas, S. Coloma Boada i Catasús, M. Esperança Atarés i Solans and M. Maria del Mar Albajar.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND SPANISH ABBESSES DISCUSS THE TOPIC OF CONGREGATIONS

During the 2015 CIB Conference Meeting in France, both the Abbot Primate and Abbot Richard Yeo urged us to communicate to our regions the importance to communities of planning to form congregations. As we arranged for our meeting at Montserrat, M. Maria del Mar Albajar asked S. Judith Ann to consider a meeting with some local Abbesses to discuss the process of establishing a Congregation. On January 22, 2016 the CIB Administrative Council met with M. Assumpció Pifarré I Clapés of Girona, M. Gertrudis Nin i Barbany and M. Esperança Atarés i Solans of Barcelona, M. Maria del Mar Albajar and Sr. Coloma Boada i Catasús of Montserrat, and Fr. Lluís Planas, assistant. The focus of the meeting was to share experiences, ideas, thoughts and questions about the process of forming a Congregation. The Administrative Council Members who belong to a Congregation or Federation shared their processes of establishing a Congregation or Federation and the benefits of membership. The group responded to each other's questions, thoughts and concerns. This meeting provided an opportunity for those present to promote and experience solidarity across the CIB Regions.

SANT CECILIA MONTSERRAT and the INSTITUTE of ART-SEAN SCULLY

Benedictine Monasteries are noted for their love and appreciation of art in its various forms. Art often serves as a meditation. Our visit to Sant Cecilia Church and the Institute of Art featuring the artist, Sean Scully, was an experience of art and beauty. We learned of the history of Sant Cecilia dating back to C.900 up to the present. Since 2005 Sean Scully played an important role as creator of paintings that adorn the Church. The Church is imbued with his own personal style. For further information go to: www.santaceciliamontserrat.com



Tour of Sant Cecilia

CIB CALENDAR

2016 August/September Assisi and Rome, Italy

Aug. 30 – Arrival of CIB Administrative Council, Assisi

**Aug. 31 – Meeting of CIB Administrative Council
Arrival of CIB Conference, Assisi**

Sept. 1, 2, 3 – Meetings of CIB Conference

Sept. 4 – Free Day

Sept. 5 – Depart for Rome

Sept. 6 – 9:00 a.m. – Congress of Abbots begins.

Sept.16 – 1:00 p.m. – Congress of Abbots ends. Departures.

**TBD - Meeting of the CIB Administrative Council
with Abbot Primate.**

2017 September 5-20 South Korea

**** Exact dates of the meetings of the CIB Administrative Council and Conference will be sent to you as soon as plans are in final form.**

2018 January TBD
Meeting of CIB Administrative Council

2018 September Rome

(Subject to adjustment)

Sept. 3 – Arrival of the CIB Administrative Council

**Sept. 4 – CIB Administrative Council Meeting
Arrival of CIB Delegates
First arrival of Symposium Participants**

**Sept. 5 – CIB Conference Meeting
Arrival of Participants
Optional Trip to Monte Cassino**

Sept. 6-13 – 2018 CIB Symposium

**Sept. 14 – Departure of Non-Conference participants
CIB Conference Meeting
CIB Administrative Council Meeting**

**Sept. 15 – Departure of CIB Administrative Council
and Conference**

TBD = To Be Determined

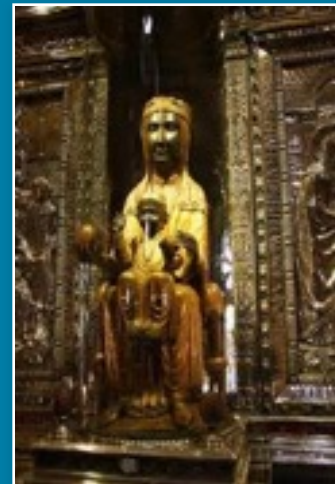
Saint Benedict Monastery Montserrat



M. Maria del Mar, second from the left, took the Council on a personal tour of the monastery.



Meeting with Sisters of the Monserrat Community



Santa Maria de Montserrat Black Madonna

