



(Left to Right) M. Martha Lúcia Ribeiro Teixeira; S. Metilda George; M. M. Araceli A. Escurzon; A. P. Notker Wolf; S. Judith Ann Heble; S. Franziska Lukas and M. Thérèse-Marie Dupagne.

CIB ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN BELGIUM

The CIB Administrative Council met at Monastère Notre-Dame D'Hurtebise, Belgium from January 8 to 10, 2015. S. Thérèse-Marie Dupagne, CIB Assistant Moderator, and her sisters welcomed the Council and Abbot Primate Notker Wolf to their community with a spirit of Benedictine hospitality. Their kindness and their interest in the work of the CIB helped us to feel at home despite the cold and icy winter weather. We especially enjoyed sampling their world famous Belgian chocolates and waffles.

The Agenda for the Meeting included an orientation for new members, review and discussion of the current CIB Membership List, 2015-2018 Calendar, 2014-2018 Goals, financial reports, 2015 Conference Meeting in France, and other business items. The Abbot Primate provided recent information about the Synod of Presidents and an update on plans for the 2016 Congress of Abbots at Sant'Anselmo. He also shared a personal reflection on the regeneration of our communities. He encouraged us to live a life of joy and enthusiasm about the message of Jesus and the Liturgy. A.P. Notker cited Pope Francis who brings joy, hope and a new direction. He concluded his reflection with two questions: where is the joy of our community and where is the source of our enthusiasm?

CIB GOALS 2014-2018

GOAL I: PROMOTION OF SOLIDARITY

We will be in solidarity with Benedictine *moniales* and *sorores* all over the world. In solidarity with weaker communities, we will promote mutual help through greater bonding, sharing of personnel, and spiritual and material support.

GOAL II: REVERENCE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE AND CREATION

A. We will recognize the sacredness and dignity of all peoples especially in war-torn countries where Benedictine communities are located, where moral crises are deeply felt, where migrants and refugees look for shelter, and where violence and all forms of abuse take place.

B. We will promote reverence for God’s creation in the world and encourage eco-friendly practices.

C. We will commit ourselves to promote peace wherever we are.



GATHERING WITH RELIANCE PROGRAM



The CIB Administrative Council joined the Hurtebise community and their Reliance program participants for a discussion and dinner. Reliance includes a group of lay women and men who are connected to the monastery through the Rule of St. Benedict and Benedictine Spirituality. They meet regularly to share their mutual desire to deepen their spiritual life.

VISIT TO ABBAYE PAIX NOTRE DAME IN LIÈGE BELGIUM

R. M. Madeleine Boland, Abbess invited the CIB Administrative Council to spend an afternoon with her community in Liège. The Abbaye Paix Notre Dame located in the town center was founded in 1627. We prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, toured the monastery, spent 8me together sharing the history of our monasteries and reflected on how the monastic life is lived in our various cultures. The visit concluded with an afternoon reception hosted by the sisters. We all enjoyed the refreshments especially the delicious, homemade pastries. We would like to express our thanks to the community at Liège for a wonderful visit.



VISIT TO MONASTERE DE L'ALLIANCE, RIXENSART BELGIUM



(Left-Right) S. Marie-Claire van der Elst, S. Judith Ann Heble and S. Françoise-Noël Fleurbayx.

S. Judith Ann Heble, S. Thérèse-Marie Dupagne, and S. Metilda George visited the Monastere De'Alliance prior to the start of Administrative Council Meeting. S. Françoise-Noël Fleurbayx, Prioress, welcomed them to the monastery. They went to spend some time with S. Marie-Claire van der Elst who served as a CIB translator until 2010. As a French translator she was always able to capture the essence of the materials both in

written and oral form. S. Judith Ann and S. Marie-Claire enjoyed sharing stories of the early years of the CIB and the changes that occurred over the years. S. Metilda recalled the 2014 CIB Symposium where she first met S. Marie-Claire. The CIB is grateful to S. Marie-Claire

2015 CIB CALENDAR FRANCE Meeting of the CIB Conference

September 8	Arrival of CIB Administrative Council
September 9-10	Meeting of the CIB Administrative Council
September 10	Arrival of CIB Conference Delegates
September 11, 16, 18	Meetings of the CIB Conference
September 23	Departures

Delegates: If you did not receive the email with the 2015 Conference Meeting materials, please contact S. Mary Jane at smaryjane@mtstbenedict.org

CIB WEBSITE

For current information about the CIB and the 2014 Symposium
CLICK ON: www.benedictines-cib.org
To order the New 2014 Catalogus
CLICK ON: www.benedictines-cib.org/Catalogus_ORDER_FORM.pdf