



Catalogus, 2014

The third edition of the Catalogus was published for the 2014 Symposium. It lists the names of approximately 14,000 Benedictine Nuns and Sisters throughout the world. If you would like to purchase a copy you can find an order form on the CIB Website: www.benedictines-cib.org The Catalogus is being sold for €50 plus shipping.



PHOTOS, SPEAKERS AND HIGHLIGHTS

www.benedictines-cib.org/meetings/2014Rome/2014_SymposiumRome.html

Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum



2014 Symposium Participants by Regions

I S. Aquinata Bockmann, S. Elisabetta Butten, S. Stella Maris Enriquez, S. Teresa Formacil, S. Lucia Lucarelli, S. Anna Maria Mulazzani, M. Laura Natali, M. Gian Paola Pederzoli, M. Michela Porcellato, S. Noemi Scarpa, S. Germana Scetti, S. M. Ester Stucchi, II S. Maria del Mar Albajar, S. Maria do Carmo Barata de Tovar, M. Maria Blanca Blanco Coiradas, M. Maria del Rosario Del Camino Fernandez-Miranda, S. Marie Almudena Vilarino Perianez-Joven, III S. Marie Madeleine Caseau, S. Marie Jean Cherel, M. Mireille Knepfler, S. Marie-Caroline LeCouffe, S. Bertille-Pacome Lesur, IV S. Benedict Brown, S. Scholastica Jacob, A. Andrea Savage, S. Kathy Yeeles, V S. Marie-David Breuls, S. Therese-Marie Dupagne, S. Martha Verstraeten, VI S. Antje Eichorn-Eugen, S. Caterina Gorgen, S. Scholastika Haring, S. M. Michaela Haslauer, S. Kornelia Kreidler, A. Maria Regina Kuhn, S. Franziska Lukas, S. Anezka Najmanova, S. Felicitas Seisenberger, S. Bernharda Wichmann, S. Agnes Wolko, VII S. Blandyna Michniewicz, M. M Weronika Sowulewska, S. Blanka Szymanska, M. M Martyna Wysocka, IX S. Juliann Babcock, S. Susan Barber, S. Sandra Brunenn, S. Patricia Crowley, S. Virginia Evard, S. Judith Ann Heble, S. Susan Hutchens, S. Mary Luke Jones, S. Joella Kidwell, S. Lynn McKenzie, S. Dawn Annette Mills, S. Colleen Quinlivan, S. Jill Marie Reuber, S. Anne Shepard, S. Isabelle Lise Thouin, S. Ramona Varela, S. Mary Jane Vergotz, S. Andrea Westkamp, S. Kathleen White, X S. Carmen M. Davila, S. Mary Ruth Santana, XI M. Martha Lucia Ribeiro Teixeira, S. Maria Pereira Rodrigues, M. Vania Maria Toscano, XIII S. Eucharía Jeong, S. M. Samuel Kim, XIV M. Maria Araceli Escurzon, S. Mary Emmanuel Espera, S. Mary John Mananzan, M. Ma. Columba Salinas, XVI S. Clare Condon, S. Gertrud George, Mary Robinson, S. Maureen Woodhouse, XVII S. Ditrica Mgeni, S. Theonestina Maternus Nambunga, S. Rosann Ocken, S. Angela Wausi Ndunda, XVII S. Elisabeth Sama, M. Marie Esperance Sarr, S. Marie Brigitte Shima Mulangi, XVIII S. Scholastica Mpanza, S. M Theodora Ntuli, XIX S. Metilda George, S. Heloise de Silva, S. Emma Joseph, S. Jyothi Kalliyathuparambil, M.A. Nirmala Narikunnel, AIM, S. Gisela Happ, S. M. Placid Dolores, Co-opted, S. Angela Strobel, S. Hannah Van Quakebeke, M. Teresa Paula Perdigo. Sant'Anselmo: Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, Prior Elias Lorenzo and F. Methodius Voelkel. **Staff/Guests.** S. Lumen Gloria Dungca, S. Immaculate Blinova, Gerlinde Buechinger-Schmid, S. Maire Hickey, Mrs¹ Patrice Lia, Mr James Lia, P. Patrice Mahieu, Dr. Maria Pina Scanu, S. Celina Rasa Galinyte, S. Chiara Sviderska, M. Juozapa Valerija Straksyte.



Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum
Listen...with the ear of your heart (RB Prol. 1)
 7th International CIB Symposium, Rome
 10-17 September, 2014

Symposium 2014

LISTEN...with the ear of your heart

RB Prol. 1.

Reflections by the Moderator

What a wonderful experience I had at the 2014 Symposium. Some of you I have met many times. I truly enjoyed renewing acquaintances with you. I was so happy to meet so many new participants. There seemed to be a wonderful spirit among the participants. Everyone seemed to be engaged and enjoying the experience. The 7th International Symposium for Benedictine women was held from September 10-17, 2014, at Sant'Anselmo in Rome.

We had three approaches to the topic:

Listening to God.

Listening was examined from the perspective of the Old and New Testaments. The presenter for this session was Dr. Maria Pina Scanu a Scripture professor at Sant'Anselmo.

Listening in the Rule of St. Benedict.

This session focused focus on St. Benedict's challenge to develop the art of listening with the ear of our hearts. Sister Aquinata Böckmann was the presenter on this topic.

Listening to the signs of the times.

To what is this time and our place in the world and Church calling us? How might we respond as monastic women? Sister Mary John Mananzan was the presenter.

Sister Scholastika Häring of Dinklage, Germany, gave a presentation on the development of the CIB and the implications of Canon Law. This is work that she is doing on her dissertation for a Canon Law degree. It will be most valuable resource for years to come.

2014 - Rome



2014 Symposium Speakers



Dr. Maria Pina



S. Aquinata Böckmann



S. Mary John Mananzan

On September 9th and again on September 18, 2014, the CIB Conference drafted and unanimously approved the following goals for the next four years:

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.

CIB LEADERSHIP

On September 18, 2014, the CIB Conference held elections for a Moderator, Assistant Moderator and Administrative Council. Mother Thérèse-Marie Dupagne of Belgium was re-elected Assistant Moderator, and Mother Metilda George of India was re-elected to the Administrative Council. Mother Franziska Lukas of Dinklage, Germany was also elected to the Administrative Council. I was re-elected to another four-year term as Moderator. Our Statutes state that up to two more may be appointed to the Council. Mother Araceli Escurzon of the Philippines and Mother Martha Lúcia Ribeiro Teixeira of Brazil willingly accepted being appointed to the Administrative Council. We will hold our first meeting in January in Belgium.

2010-2014
Administrative Council
Members



S. Mary Jane Vergotz, Secretary
M. Therese-Marie Dupange, re-elected
Assistant Moderator
S. Judith Ann Heble, re-elected Moderator
S. Mary John Mananzan, term expired
S. Metilda George, returns elected Member

2014-2018
New
Administrative Council
Members



M. Franziska Lucas, elected



M. Martha Lucia Ribeiro Teixeira
appointed



M. Maria Araceli Escurzon
appointed

VATICAN INTERVENTION

April 29, 2014, some communities of *moniales* received a letter and questionnaire from the Vatican to those “who live the wholly contemplative and cloistered life.” It was issued to coincide with Pope Francis’ declaration of a YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE, which will begin on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014 and end on February 2, 2016. The year is designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Decree *Perfectate Caritatis*, issued in 1965. Along with prayer and reflection during this YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE, there is also the revision and development of some important documents related to consecrated life, specifically the 1950 document, *SPONSA CHRISTI*. The Holy Father gave the *Congregatio pro Institutis Vitae Consecratae et Societatibus Vitae Apostolicae* a mandate to continue the development of a new Instruction on the Contemplative Life and on the Enclosure of Nuns that will update or replace the legislation presently in force, issued by the Congregation in the Instruction *Verbi Sponsa*, May 13, 1999.

Needless to say there were a number of concerns expressed by the Benedictine *moniales* and *sorores*. The CIB took the time to deal with what would be the most effective way Benedictine women should respond to the questionnaire while respecting the different expressions of enclosure.

Sister Scholastika Häring was most helpful in outlining the issues of the topic of enclosure to both the CIB Conference and all of the participants attending the Symposium. On September 13, 2014, three *moniales* and one *sorores* went to the Vatican and met with Monsignor Pepe Orazio of the Sacred Congregation to express their concerns and to offer the necessary clarifications regarding Benedictine enclosure as distinct from that lived by members of other contemplative Orders. Since not all of the communities of *moniales*

received the letter and questionnaire from the Vatican, they asked for an extension to the deadline for submitting their responses.

On September 18, 2014, the CIB Conference unanimously agreed to send a statement on behalf of the CIB to the Congregation outlining the clarifications of who we are as Benedictine women, both *moniales* and *sorores* and recommending that the Congregation consider sponsoring some type of forum so that all of the major orders could provide input on and clarification of their respective charisms before legislation is updated and put into effect for all. The Abbot Primate gave his approval to our statement.

If you would like a copy of what was sent to the Vatican, please contact Sister Mary Jane Vergotz, Secretary of the CIB and she will send it to you. srmaryjane@mtstbenedict.org

WITH GRATITUDE

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity I have been privileged to have to serve in the CIB. I have found this a most rewarding while challenging experience. Let us hold one another in prayer.



S. Judith Ann Heble and
Abbot Primate Nötker Wolf

Sister Judith Ann Heble, OSB-CIB Moderator

Each One *HEARD* Them *SPEAKING* in her own *LANGUAGE*

To participate in a CIB Symposium as a translator is an engagement that goes far beyond the congress in Rome. For all those who are interested in this experience I would like to give a short report.



Translators: S. Maria del Mar Albajar, S. Antje Eichhorn and S. Andrea Westkamp

The first phase of the translation work starts as early as spring and it is always interesting and inspiring as something new begins. I enjoyed the contact with Sr. Mary Jane who as secretary of the CIB organized the work with the many texts and their translation into the five languages used at the conference – and I admire her capacity never to lose the overview or her patient friendliness during all these weeks! Especially beautiful and rewarding was the translation of the talks given by Sr. Aquinata and by Sr. Mary John, who both handed in their manuscripts early in the year. I could deal with the texts in a relaxed way and integrate the translation work into my everyday schedule unhurriedly. Doing a translation without pressure of time is a kind of *lectio divina*: one dwells on the text, observing its different aspects, the message it conveys and the way in which it is expressed. The theme of listening with the ear of one's heart is certainly worth dwelling on for such an extended time of *lectio*, and as a translator you are then looking forward to the talk itself, which through the personality of the speaker and her way of giving it always gains some extra and new nuances.

In the last weeks before the symposium, the time pressure mounts and the feeling of doing *lectio* declines – translation turns rather into another piece of work that has to be done. Here it is very important that there is a good and reliable collaboration between all those who are in contact with each other in this stage – and in

this year again I found my experience in this respect throughout encouraging.

In Rome then, it is fascinating to get to know the authors of the texts I have translated: what do they look like, what is the sound of their voice, how do they present their text? And in general, the diversity of the sisters from all continents is living proof of the colourfulness and richness of our charism, the scope of which one tends to forget occasionally, trapped in the narrowness of one's everyday routine. Another important aspect for me in Rome is the joy of being useful and helpful for others with my knowledge of languages. In my normal everyday life, languages are mostly only a game, an intellectual puzzle, a stimulus during *lectio* – and in Rome, languages find their place again in the field of communication, which is their native home. Wonderful!

The symposium 2014 was the fifth symposium that I took part in. While being enthusiastic about all the translation work that is already going on, I keep asking myself if there are not more sisters who know different languages and would be interested in doing written translations in preparation of the symposium or who would like to come to Rome and join in the translation work going on there. I think in our shaping the global network of the CIB, a strengthened focus on how to communicate across language borders could be a topic which might lead us a step forward, especially in regard to an active participation of sisters with little or non-existent knowledge of English. I believe that in this field, we could strengthen skills existing in our own ranks which would not be profitable for the CIB alone, but far beyond.

*S. Antje Eichhorn OSB,
Abtei St. Scholastika in Dinklage*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

REQUEST from S. Mary Jane Vergotz, CIB Secretary

The CIB needs additional translators for written copy of our materials. Our primary language is English so we need French, German, Italian and Spanish translators. For further information please contact me by email at: smaryjane@mtstbenedict.org

Walt Disney was right....

"it's a small world after all."

S. Mary Luke Jones
2014 CIB Symposium
Planning Coordinator

The CIB symposium in Rome gave me the opportunity to participate in something entirely new. Over the years, I've traveled to several lands but never been in a position to be with Benedictine women from so many different countries, speaking so many different languages. The monks of Sant' Anselmo and the translators worked hard to help us communicate using headphones dialed to English, Italian, German, French or Spanish.

I was in awe of those talented souls who spoke 2 or 3 languages and their patience with those of us only speaking one. It made me rue the days I did not pay better attention in high school Spanish class.

I am also in awe of the works of mercy performed by Benedictine moniales and sorores all over the world. It's obvious that our planet needs us and those who support our ministries with financial help and their gifts of time and talent.



S. Mary Luke Jones

It struck me, too, that praying the Divine Office and celebrating mass has very little to do with understanding the words spoken. The peace, tranquility and sacredness of voices raised to God in unison create an understanding beyond words.

Being at the CIB symposium helped me realize just how small our world is. Thousands of miles separate us. Cultures determine us. Language divides us. But, Benedictine prayer, work and hospitality unites us across all time and all space. Regardless of miles, culture and language, we are sisters who strive for the same things...praying for peace, praying for others and serving God's people.

I witnessed something I've known all along but was very evident during the symposium. A smile, a hug, a kiss on both cheeks and a pat on the back are the same in every language. They bridge all gaps, tighten our bonds and make our big world much, much smaller.



Symposium Liturgists:
S. Juliann Babcock and S. Susan Barber



(Left to Right) S. Theonestina Nambunga, S. Carmen M. Davila, S. Hannah VanQuakebeke, A. AndreaSavage-Panelists

Pilgrimage to Subiaco

*Sister Patricia Crowley
Delegate, Region 9*

Having bonded with many of the 2014 CIB symposium attendees over the past 4 years, I treasured the experience of traveling with them through the beautiful rolling hills and tree-covered mountains south of Rome to Subiaco – the place where it all began. As we rounded curve after curve I wondered how in the world did Benedict, as a teenager, and with his nursemaid find his way from Rome to this mountain town to live in a cave near to but isolated from other hermits and how did he live there for three years? Thanks to Macarius, a fellow hermit, he received food in a basket lowered to him from a rock above.

In the church now standing above that cave (deemed as “sacro speco” by Gregory the Great) our group of some 104 Benedictine women from all over the world celebrated the Eucharist and renewed our vows, each in her own language. What a powerful moment! What a profound opportunity to touch into our Benedictine roots and our life commitment to that way of living the gospel call.

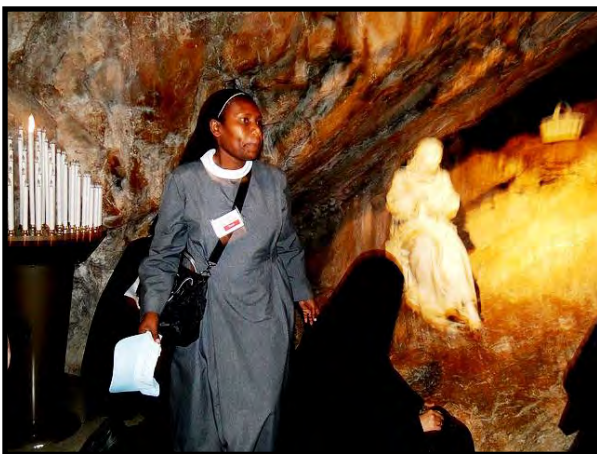
After Mass we went down the hill to the very first Benedictine monastery – how delightful that this oldest of monasteries of men is named after St. Scholastica!



A vibrant strong sculpture of her dominates the courtyard and draws one’s attention upon passing through the door. For hikers, bikers and explorers of the nearby hills, juxtaposed to the monastery is a comfortable guest house and restaurant.

We were treated to a many course Italian feast! Tucked into an outside courtyard is a library displaying amazing ancient texts. Many of us spent our final minutes in Subiaco admiring those pieces with a deepening awareness of how our Benedictine heritage traverses many, many centuries.

Several days later our group dispersed to all corners of the globe taking with us a clear memory of our day in Subiaco.





(Left to Right) S. Stella Maris Enriquez - staff, Mary Robison - staff with S. Clare Condon, S. Maire Hickey, former CIB Moderator with S. Colleen Quinlivan - staff, Patrice and James Lia - staff, S. Teresa Formacil, staff



Leaving for Subiaco



(Left to Right) M. Mariangela Yator, CIB Catalogus, (Top Center) S. Caterina Gorgen, finance with S. Felicitas Seisenberger, CIB Catalogus, (Bottom Center) Young Sisters, and S. Benedict Brown CIB Website



CIB CALENDAR

2015

September France

September 9 Arrival of CIB Administrative Council

September 10 Meeting of the CIB Administrative Council
Arrival of CIB Conference Delegates

September 12, 16, 19 Meeting of CIB Conference

September 23-24 Departure

2016

Tentative schedule - An extra day may be needed for a meeting of the Conference with the Synod of Presidents

August 30 Arrival of CIB Administrative Council

August 31 Meeting of CIB Administrative Council
Arrival of CIB Conference

September 1 -3 Meetings of CIB Conference

September 4 Free Day

September 5 Departure for Rome

September 6 9:00 AM Congress of Abbots Begins

September 16 1:00 PM Congress of Abbots Ends
Departures



S. Lumen Gloria Dungca and M. Araceli Escurzon - facilitators