Newsletter September 07 Issue 4



Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum

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Catalogus 2006

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Editorial: <u>Sister Judith Ann Heble</u>, elected 2006 as Moderator of the International Conference of Benedictine Women (CIB) sees a good flow of communication between Benedictine Women throughout the world as having priority importance. For the first time she moderated a Meeting of the CIB Conference Sept. 3 - 11, 2007 in Manila, where she used her skills as an educationalist to further sharing on important Benedictine topics and encouraged ideas for the development of internet possibilities.. This edition of the Newsletter brings some of the fruits of that meeting. Sr. Monica Lewis OSB

Sister Judith Ann Heble, the new Moderator of the CIB, speaks of her experiences.

Much has changed since my first international experience. Over the years, I have witnessed the connections among us growing and deepening as friendships formed across the continents.



Holding the meetings of the CIB Conference every other year in our different Regions has had a significant impact on promoting mutual support and exchange of ideas and experiences. I believe this has truly fostered the development of women's monasticism. Each experience of another's land and story has enriched and stretched all of us and sharpened our vision of monastic life urging us to be more inclusive. It is my hope that this kind of exchange among us continues to bind us in love and unity. Our oneness in the spirit of St. Benedict can be a visible sign to all, of the gift that monastic life is to the Church and world. Do we have a word for the world? We certainly do, especially when we stand together in mutual love and support! We are so many good women!

The CIB is always searching for practical ways to enhance communication among the Regions. The possibilities the internet offers are endless. Hopefully, the newer members sent from each Region to the Symposium will create ways to keep our contacts with one another alive and supportive. The more we know of each other, the more we can stand in solidarity with one another.

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Profile of the Benedictines in Region 14

Sister Angelica Leviste, Former Delegate to the CIB and Prioress of St. Scholastica Priory Manila from 1996 - 2004, presented the CIB Conference with a profile of the Benedictine Women in her Region, which unlike some other Regions comprises just one country - but a country spread over 7100 islands!

Organised in the AWBP, (Association of Women Benedictines in the Philippines) they show an impressive amount of mutual understanding and respect, solidarity and co-operation, such as offering courses in monastic spirituality for all generations.

Statistics of the Benedictines in the Region are to be seen in the box below. Sister Angelica described the activity of the Benedictines in the Philippines as "women of mission." Seeking God is the major goal of all the Benedictine nuns and sisters. They serve the people in a variety of ways: prayer ministry, educational endeavours of a wide variety, health care, spirituality, socio-pastoral apostolate, special focus groups, ecological advocacy, immersion programs and peace activities. Women, children and the poor are special focus groups in these ministries. Sister Angelica summarized the activity of the Benedictine women in the Philippines in the form of "Three S's": Serve others, Save the earth, Seek peace and pursue it.

I was very impressed by the many and varied ways the Benedictines respond to the needs of the people of the Philippines. There is no doubt that the poor and oppressed, especially women and children, are the focus of the ministries of the Benedictine sisters and nuns. The Philippine people look to the religious to meet their needs and the Benedictines have responded in varied ways for over 100 years, truly as "women of mission."

(Summary of the Presentation of Sister Angelica Leviste by Sr. Kathryn Huber, Ferdinand, USA.)



THE PHILIPPINE CHURCH

Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, Manila

(A summary of the talk given to the CIB Conference, Tagaytay, September 5, 2007)

The Philippines is the only Christian country in the Far East. And yet there prevails a situation of injustice, exploitation and corruption in Philippine society.



This is due in part to the history of the Church which came in the context of Spanish colonization. This fact set the tone for future developments identifying the Church with power and force. The element of coercion could not be eradicated in spite of the genuine zeal of the early missionaries to attract the people to the values of Christianity. The option of the missionary mode of implantation of a radically new belief, instead of building on the old in the manner of Ricci and Nobili may be a reason for the people never really giving up their beliefs, leaving these intact on the very deep level of their being. Invoking preaching the Gospel as the legitimation of the continued Spanish dominance in the islands made the Church and the missionaries in spite of their good intentions and personal integrity, ideological agents of the political power of their time. In subsequent periods, it would prove difficult for the Church to shake off this role even after it officially adopted to be a Church of the Poor in its Second Plenary Council in 1990. Vatican II brought progressive thought into the Church and revived the prophetic aspect which had been present at some moments in its history.

These two poles of political legitimizers of power and prophetic resistance have prevailed throughout its history, but the first pole seems to remain the dominant force.

As the Church enters into the new millennium, it faces the following challenges:

- 1) **Poverty and Injustice.** For the Church to be effective pastorally, it must examine itself on its actions that are truly in solidarity with the struggles of the poor and oppressed and what it has actually done to empower them
- 2) Women and the Church -The Church has to awaken to its patriarchal and hierarchical nature It should denounce the different forms of oppression of women and work for their empowerment and grant them full participation in the ministry of the Church.
- 3) Laity and Youth- It should give the lay and the youth real participation in the decision making in the Church.
- 4) Indigenous Peoples The Church has to actively support the process of law on their behalf, and be on their side so that their ancestral domains, their cultures, rights and the integrity of their environment be defended, preserved, and promoted
- 5) Ecumenism and Inter-religious Dialogue-Genuine inter-religious dialogue with the Muslims and ecumenical collaboration on issues should be engaged in.
- **6) Pastoral Care for Displaced Filipinos** –Church resources should be put at the service of Filipino internal refugees, migrant workers and other displaced groups.
- 7) **Preservation of the Environment-** The Church must make a prophetic stand against all policies that destroy the environment like large-scale logging and mining.
- 8) The Peace Process- In the internal political conflict between the government and the armed resistance groups, the Church should continue to offer its mediating help. It should insist that there can be no lasting peace without justice.

Praying together



Token that our meeting is centred on Christ is the CIB candle which had its central place during the meeting.

Around this candle we stood each morning in prayer. The common lectio before the morning session - prepared by Sr. Zoë Davis - reminded us of the ladder on which Jacob in a dream saw angels descending and ascending. Benedict calls this ladder "our life on earth, and if we humble our heart God raises it up to heaven." (RB 7:6-8).

We read the passage in Genesis 28: "Taking one of the stones of that place, he made it his pillowNext morning he took the stone he had used for his pillow and set it up as a pillar, pouring oil over it."

Using small stones we had brought with us, we expressed our wish that "Yahweh be in this place", and in parting, each of us took a stone brought by someone else, reminding us that the house of God is made of many different kinds of stones linked together with the cement of love.

Lord, you have called us together from east and west. Lead us into your peace. Make us aware of your presence. Guard us and guide us as we seek to serve you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen



NO MAN IS AN ISLAND - We are both, blessed and blessing in this world.

"The Philippines is a country with 7100 islands, on the borders of two continents...... 880 of the 7100 islands are inhabited by almost 90 Million people speaking over 170 different languages and dialects....."

Reading this description I was reminded of the book by Thomas Merton "No Man is an Island (1955)". The theme of the book is not the herd instinct, but rather the truth of the Gospel preached by Jesus Christ, which tells us that we are all members of one body. Merton invites us to see the whole of the present generation, the society of today with the questions of today, and to see ourselves as a part of this. "I am a part of the whole human race, a member of the human race.......a member of the Body of Christ."

I had to think of this during Lauds this morning when we were singing the Our Father. I could sense an intense atmosphere in which I felt invited to let all that was mine flow into this "OUR", filling that early morning time of prayer with meaning and joy. I knew deep down that during the time we were singing Lauds in Manila, for my sisters in Germany it had just turned midnight and they were sleeping. And I am sure that M. Theodora from South Africa and M Vera Lucia from Brazil and Sr. Clare from Australia had similar thoughts about their sisters at home.

In such moments of global consciousness we experience our hearts growing wide. Much the same happened while we were sitting in a small group of five discussing hospitality, one of the words which we Benedictines can offer to our world. At my table there were M. Vera Lúcia from Brasilien, M. Dolores from Korea, Sr. Josephine from Mexiko, Sr. Cecilia from USA and myself from Germany. I became acutely conscious of the fundamental unity of values each of our communities tries to live. At first sight one sees the differences but under the surface we are one although probably our cultures will never meet. And when five people from five very different countries share their ideas on such a topic, automatically quite new perspectives open up. And we experience, what we as a group formulated, that "we are both blessed and blessing in this world"

Johanna Domek OSB

Sharing with one another

Looking at the **PROFILE** of Benedictines in different Regions

M. Henriette Kalmogo OSB, Delegate to Region 17, French-speaking Africa,

Because M. Henriette was unable to come, she sent in answers formulated in her Region to questions on their profile.

As African Benedictines we are at the centre of our milieu and of our region. (Exerpt)

- 1° We are women, consecrated to God through the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity and obedience made before God and founded on the teaching and the example of Jesus Christ.
- 2° We are a sign, one that can and should attract all the members of the church and encourage them to courageously fulfil their Christian duties and vocation.
- 3° We give witness:
 - a)We are witnesses in our surroundings through the way that monastic life shines out and reaches others:
 - through the simple and earnest life that we lead
 - through our participation in the life of the surroundings, showing solidarity and sharing with others
 - We are Benedictines who love prayer
 - putting the work of God before anything else.
 - faithful to the monastic life according to the rule of St. Benedict, and faithful to a life in community where love for one another is strived after.
 - b) We are witnesses in our surroundings through our contribution towards the development of the region:
 - First of all there is the struggle against illiteracy of girls and their mothers by building a school for girls and a centre of adult education to teach adults to read.
 - There is also the fight against alcoholism and drunkenness by way of Christian formation
 - Building up the self-confidence of women, helping them to take over for themselves by building up small means of income
 - Setting up the association for women agricultural workers called AMAGRICO.
 - Teaching women about how to cultivate the land
 - Christian formation for our pupils
 - Small guest-house, centre of spiritual resources
 - giving courses with spiritual themes
 - Encouraging women through a group called « Femmes seulles avec Jésus Christ » (single mothers, widows, divorced) to live their life without a partner in joy, hope and love of God.







The Missionary Benedictine sisters of Manila - a meditation room on "ecology farm" (above and right) and working in the slums (left).

Sharing with one another





Profile of a Benedictine monastery in Brazil

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN WHO TRY TO LIVE THE BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY OF THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT DAY.

- Looking at the Old Testament we are *anawin*, Yahweh's poor, like Sarah, Hannah, Judith, Noemi, Ruth, Myriam were. Looking at the New Testament we are the *publican* in process of conversion. Looking at Acts 2, 42, we try to live the primitive Jerusalem community's spirit: sharing our possessions (especially spiritual ones), praying, working, showing hospitality, and living fraternal life, in the love of Christ. That is Monastic Life, i.e., Christian Life lived with intensity.
- We are Nuns = monakos, so we are on a journey towards becoming one with ourselves and one with God.
- We are Benedictines, so our mission is to "say the goodness", that is, to bless.

Do we have a Word for the World?

We have something to say about a world view centred on Christ

Centered on Christ

Prefer nothing whatever to Christ for, as Cyprian says, he has preferred nothing to us. Our lives must show that the love of Christ comes before all else - has priority.

Like all Christians, we need to consciously allow Christ to be our center. In reality our lives must express it, show it, demonstrate it; for:

- Mt. 25 tells us that it is what we do to the least;
- Mk. 9 reminds us to give a drink of water in Jesus name:
- RB 53 calls us to receive all as Christ.

Being centered on Christ is the foundation for the other four "words": peace, unity in diversity, stability and hospitality. These words find their expression in being centered on Christ.

Our world is filled with fear, insecurity and mistrust. We are not alone. Jesus Christ is our security. Christ crucified is the image for the suffering of the world in which to find comfort and peace. It is the Risen Christ in which we all can find hope.

Being centered on Christ is that Christ is in all and we in Christ.

We have something to say about rejoicing in diversity

Diversity

We not only accept diversity, we seek to rejoice and to celebrate it.

We believe that God is in every face. Therefore, we strive to accept the differences in our own communities and come to realize and to know our own hidden prejudices.

Differences actually enrich us and help us to grow. Difference is difficult to accept in the everyday. Daily we make a choice to be open and to welcome differences. We come to unity in Christ through bringing our different gifts into the service of the reign of God.



Sharing with others





Do we have a Word for the World?

We have something to say about stability

Stability

In a world where constant change and movement is driven by economic pressure, that is considered "normal", and is seen as an expression of "freedom", we offer stability as **"grounded movement"**; we offer a 'workshop' ie. an environment for the living of the long term values of:

- fidelity
- consistency
- continuity
- commitment

Rooted in Christ we try to live creatively the tension between groundedness and movement.

Only through our way of life, rooted in Christ and love of place, are we able to offer hospitality, to witness to our engagement for peace and to welcome diversity.

We have something to say about honouring and respecting everyone, being inclusive, showing hospitality.

Hospitality

As invited guests in the 'house of God' we in turn extend a hospitality that comes from our own grateful hearts. We are the earthly context of the "Gate of Heaven", open to all, where the stranger becomes a friend and the sign of God's reign becomes visible.

Overcoming barriers within community and within the world, we offer hospitality as an opportunity for conversion in a spirit of joy. We are open to receiving the gift that the stranger offers. We are open to all that life offers us. We are both blessed and blessing in the world.

We have something to say about living together in a process of peace

Peace

Through forgiveness and through dialogue, we come to peace in ourselves.

By giving space in ourselves to listen to God and to others, we become peaceful persons, for a woman of God is a woman of peace. An overemphasis on wealth, power and pleasure disturb peace. As Benedictines, our monasteries seek to be 'Houses of peace - Domus pacis'. If there is no justice, peace is difficult to achieve. We endeavour to face conflict in a constructive way, so as to bring peace to ourselves and to others. However we acknowledge there are times when we have to work in situations where there is no justice, and yet we strive for peace. We need genuine constructive solutions so that peace is for all.

Impressions of the meeting

M. Fabienne Hyon, OSB



Arriving in Manila I was not thrown out by the heat, by the stormy traffic, by all the little stalls for selling wares along the roadside. This was all very similar to what I had met in Cotonou, when visiting our community in Benin (West Africa). What surprised me much more were the armed guards at the entrance to all the shops and institutions. The country seems to be marked by great insecurity, surely the consequence of the big gap between rich and poor in Phillippine society. Another thing that struck me: the means of transport is also very special: there are no busses in town, but instead there are so called "jeepneys", a kind of jeep with sitting room for about fifteen people. And another thing one notices straight away when arriving from France is that, even in the city, people greet you in the street as a sister "Good morning sister!"

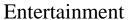
But, to say the truth, the most striking impression of the visit was the way our sisters in Manila stood at the same time side by side both with the young girls of the Philippine high society and with the poorest of the poor at « Smokey Mountain » where thousands of families gather a living by scrounging from the garbage whatever might bring a few pennies. There we saw that the sisters were very much integrated, caring first of all for the women and the children, the most neglected, teaching both children and adults. In this cloud of mosquitoes, in the black mud, in the « streets », where it was just possible for two to pass, they are present amongst the people, amongst these countess children. On the one hand one feels unable to say anything in the face of such a hard existence, on the other hand, the presence of the sisters of Manila in the slums makes us question ourselves about our own solidarity with the poorest members of our own society.

As for the CIB meeting, one of the most striking things for me was to meet sisters from all over the world and to experience them truly as sisters. If one can say that Benedictine life in France is a unity, despite the differences of tradition, this is also very true of the CIB Conference. I experienced here - as I had often heard from others - similarities in experience, despite very big differences in adaptation to the local culture in the different countries and congregations.

The other interesting experience for me was having to express myself in a language other than my own. It was a good chance to understand better what my sisters from Africa and Asia go through when they attend our general chapters where we use French, which is not their mother tongue. So I discovered what it means not to understand everything, to have difficulty in finding the right words to express myself, to experience the patience shown by the one or other to give me time to find the words I needed, and to appreciate it when someone kindly took the effort to speak slowly and distinctly.

The meeting was an experience of an organisation still finding its feet. The CIB is still very young and it is necessary to search together for what can be helpful to build up a network between all Benedictine women, searching together for the right means of responding to the needs of our world. In fact there is only one way of responding. As Benedictines we are experimenters in living union in diversity. That is the basis of common life in each of our communities. It was a great joy to be able to expand and deepen that experience.





















From the diary of M. Thérèse Marie Dupagne: This afternoon the bus took us to the Priory House of the Missionary Benedictines. We had just descended from the bus when we were overwhelmed by people greeting us and decorating us with a broach of a child in uniform. The door to the entrance hall opened... a class was waiting for us lined up on the stairs. There they sang for us very beautifully, conducted by their music teacher. We went up the stairs in order to reach the air-conditioned room where we were to continue our meeting. All along the corridors some of the younger children from the school lined the way greeting us with flags and calling "Welcome sisters". Many were dressed in smart sailors' uniforms......

This evening after Vespers the bus took us to the <u>PWU, Philippine Women's University</u>. This institution was founded to prepare women to take up leading positions in a spirit of service. It also aims at promoting Philippine culture. A colourful evening awaits us. <u>« Bayanihan Dance Company »</u> is a dance group which wishes to preserve Philippine culture and its traditional dances...... at the side a dozen <u>musicians with traditional instruments</u> (gongs, xylophone, mandolins etc.) present us with exciting music..... The dances are varied..... even the cocoa nut becomes a source of inspiration in one dance the dancers have cocoa nut shells on their breast, backs, waists and legs and using cocoa nut shells in their hands they clap on all these with great dexterity with a devilish rhythm.....

A letter from Abbess Vera Lucia Parreiras Horta OSB

Manila Meeting. September, 1st to the 11th, 2007.



Dear Sisters!

We just finished the beautiful experience of another CIB Conference Meeting in the Philippines. I am very thankful for the vision of having every other year our meeting in a new Benedictine place all over the world. It is always the same and always so new, the old Rule giving life again and again and spelling the Gospel in different cultures. The Newsletter will give you some highlights of our experience there! Now it is my turn to say some words to you, for the unexpected event of my giving up the charge in the administrative council and as assistant moderator.

Some of you are aware that I went to Rome last year with the clear decision that my time in CIB was over after twelve years as a Delegate of my Region. The call to serve the CIB in the Administrative Council was a surprise that, together with my substitute, M. Martha Lúcia, we considered an appeal of God to respond to and so did I. To be elected Assistant Moderator was an honour and a sign of trust in the monastic life of South America.

Unfortunately, in spite of my efforts to respond to the appeal, local commitments in my community made me review the word given and take another direction. Considering that the Moderator should count on her assistant at any time, I wrote to Sr. Judith Ann and put my charge in her hands. I will always be grateful for her warm understanding and support received from her. She encouraged me to go the meeting in Manila, where I could say farewell to the Administrative Council and the Conference and even take part in the Council while there. I am very grateful for the loving kindness of each one there and I am content that I could attend that meeting and move on in a very smooth way. I am also very content to see the continuous development of CIB, the involvement of new members and I believe in the stream opened: it will go on for the good of all of us, either directly there at the meetings, or at the grassroots.

Looking back to the first years, the so called Commission of the Abbot Primate and our present organization, I see an enormous way done since my first abbess, M. Luzia Ribeiro de Oliveira, Belo Horizonte, in the years 80' and afterwards by my Prioress in Salvador, M. Joana Calmon Villas-Bôas, were delegates of our region until I was elected in 1995. The first time- 1993 - that nuns and sisters sat together to share their vision on our Profession will be never forgotten. More and more we could understand the multifaceted ways of incarnating Benedictine Values and it was even possible to do a Coloquium on one of the most hot topics: enclosure! That was the year 2000. The following year, 2001, in Nairobi, CIB was born as a body with a total recognition in 2004 by the Congress of Abbots.

As a delegate during the past 13 years, I could see the profile of Benedictine women take shape and be shared in wider circles and I am sure it will go on. In order to provide a wider direct involvement of other superiors in the CIB, I am calling for elections of a new delegate next year in April. You will soon hear about it. I will remain in touch with the further developments of this beautiful network and will keep each one and all in my heart. CIB's meeting are one of my most cherished memories and inspiring sources. CIB is the future to all! The challenges may be different around the world. But we are convinced that no one can live isolated in order to grow and spread the charism given to our communities within the Church in order to inspire men and women of faith and good will: "Let nothing be preferred to the love of Christ!" Let him be honoured and welcome in the various ways He Himself comes to our doors and knock each day!

Your sister in Christ,

M. Vera Lúcia Parreiras Horta OSB Abbess – Delegate for Region 11. Mosteiro do Salvador – Bahia – Brazil www.mosteirodosalvador.org.br

Sr. Chiara d'Urbano OSB, a Camaldolese Benedictine of the monastery San'Antonio on the Aventine in Rome, is now taking over from Sr. Monica Lewis as CIB secretary. For the last few years she has been studying psychology in Rome, and despite pending exams, took the time to come to the meeting in Manila. The experienced encouraged her in her decision to work for the CIB.



CIB News Bulletin #1 and 2 (combined version)

What you need to know about the latest developments in the CIB Annual Meeting of the CIB Conference Tagaytay - Manila, September 3 - 11, 2007

January 2007 there was a meeting of the Administrative Council. After that meeting CIB News Bulletin #1 was sent to all delegates. CIB News Bulletin #2 was sent round after the annual meeting of the CIB Conference, which was held at St. Scholastica's Spirituality Center in Tagaytay, 50 miles south of Manila, Philippines, from September 3 - 11, 2007. The Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, who have a large and active community in the Philippines, hosted the meeting. Two of them, Prioress Mary John Mananzan and Sr. Angelica Leviste, gave introductory talks, giving us a picture of the situation of the Church and the Benedictine presence in the Philippines. There was time for discussion in small groups on Benedictine topics, some business matters to be dealt with and some cultural events to introduce us to the world of our hosts. Here in summary form you will find information about CIB developments and decisions:

- M. Vera Lucia Parreiras Horta, Salvador, Brazil, has decided for personal reasons to resign as delegate to her region.
- M. Zoë Davis has agreed to take the place of M. Vera Lucia as Assistant Moderator.
- M. Benita Vadakkepurakal has been asked to take the place of M. Vera Lucia on the Council.
- The Conference confirmed the co-opting of the new Prioress General of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, M.Angela Strobel, as member of the Conference.
- The Conference also confirmed the co-opting of M. Teresa Paula Dias Perdigão as full member of the Conference, after her having been elected to the Administrative Council by the Conference, September 2007. Both M. Angela and M. Teresa Paula will nominate their own Substitute from their own Congregation.
- A working paper presenting suggestions for the revision of the Statutes has been distributed to all delegates in Manila. The Conference looked at these suggestions and authorised the Council to move towards making a draft of changes in most of the suggested places. That draft will need several revisions before it is ready for voting on.
- The finance Committee is now in place. Sr. Diane Cook, USA, is now CIB Treasurer, the other members of the Committee are Sister Kunigundis Amon, Italy, and Sister Clare Condon, who is the contact person to the Administrative Council. A Euro account has been opened in Germany. Responsible for this account is Sister Ulrike Soegtrop, Dinklage, Germany.
- The Administrative Council accepted the financial report and approved the budget 2008.
- The regions are reminded that their annual subscription is normally due by July 1.
- The costs of the Catalogus have not yet been covered, so all are asked to make an effort in promoting the sale of copies in their region. See order form at the end of this Bulletin.
- Sr. Chiara d'Urbano of San'Antonio, Aventine, Rome, has agreed to take over as secretary to the CIB Conference and to the Administrative Council replacing Sr. Monica Lewis. The preparation of the Symposium will in the future be treated as an extra project of the CIB with its own co-ordinator. Sr. Christine Vladimirof, now prioress of Erie, USA, will be taking over this task for Symposium 2010.
- The next Symposium is tentatively planned from September 7 16, 2010. A theme for the Symposium was discussed at the meeting in Manila, but the final decision will be made by the Administrative Council in January 2008.
- Sr. Judith Ann informed the Council that she has received many invitations to visit regions since her election as Moderator. She has only been able to take up one of these invitations and went to France from March 5 9, 2007, for the meeting of the French Abbesses and Prioresses in Pralines. There was general agreement that the sharing at the meeting was very profitable and enjoyable for everyone.
- The **WEBSITE** is moving to a new address soon: <u>www.benedictines-cib.org</u> (please note not as previously with .com !!!!) Sr. Zoë Davis of Turvey, England, is facilitating future developments of the website. She hopes to enlist the help of newer members who took part in Symposium 2006 to find a suitable webmaster for each Region. <u>information@turveyabbey.org.uk</u>

• Dates and locations have been fixed for meetings for the coming four years. Some of these dates still need final confirmation. But for your orientation the following tentative plans have been made:

Dates of Meetings 2008 - 2010

- Administrative Council meeting at San'Antonio, Rome, January 10, 11 and 12, 2008.
- The Abbots' Congress meets from September 18 27, 2008 in San'Anselmo. All CIB delegates are invited to the Abbots' Congress and that is an important opportunity to meet our brothers as a working group of women with our own profile. The CIB Conference is invited to meet at San'Antonio on the two days before the Congress, September 16 and 17, 2008.
- The Administrative Council is planning to meet outside Rome January 8, 9 and 10, 2009. The location has not been decided.
- The CIB Conference has been invited to Zadar in Croatia from September 2 13, 2009.
- The Administrative Council will be meeting again probably in Rome January 7, 8 and 9, 2010 to prepare the Symposium tentatively planned from September 7 16, 2010.

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You are also supporting the CIB financially. Thank you very much!