



CIB News Bulletin #5

Meeting of the Administrative Council Jan. 12-14, 2009

Mosteiro S-Escolástica, Roriz, Portugal

Sister Judith Ann Heble, M. Theodora Ntuli, Sister Clare Condon, M. Teresa Paula Simões Dias Perdigão and M. Benita Vadakkepuradal met in Roriz, Portugal, at the invitation of M. Teresa Paula, for a CIB Administrative Council meeting January 12-14, 2009. There were three full days of meetings. Portugal was having unusually prolonged cold weather and it even snowed for the first time in 40 years as some of us arrived. The community's hospitality, though, was very warm and they did all they could to make us feel at home (and productive!). The Council covered a number of agenda items including:

- 1) **CIB Secretary:** Sister Mary Rardin, OSB from Mount St. Scholastica monastery in Atchison, Kansas, USA was introduced to the Council by S. Judith Ann as the new Secretary for the CIB.
- 2) **Profile of Benedictine life in Portugal:** Sister Maria do Carmo of the Roriz community gave a PowerPoint overview of Benedictine life in Portugal. Despite the fact that the Portuguese government banished and dispersed all religious orders twice in the past 2 centuries, the Benedictines, along with other orders, have continued to reestablish and grow.
- 3) **Finances:** The council reviewed and accepted the financial report for 2008. The 2009 budget was revised and increased based on changes noted in the 2008 report. Also, please remember that the **subscriptions for 2009** are due by **July 1, 2009**. (See CIB Important Information sheet attached for details on banks and air flights.)
- 4) **Statutes:** Sister Judith Ann sent out a copy of the revised Statutes with her letter in December, 2008. This copy of the Statutes incorporated the changes made from the



S. Mary Rardin



S. Judith Ann, S. Clare, S. Marie-Benoit, M. Teresa Paula, M. Theodora, and M. Benita

- September, 2008 meeting. S. Judith Ann wishes to remind everyone that you have until May 15, 2009 to submit any substantial changes to her (email: jheble@shmlisle.org). The final revision of the Statutes will be voted on at the September meeting in Croatia.
- 5) **Croatia Conference:** The dates of the Conference meeting in Zadar, Croatia are Sept 2-13, 2009 and will end by mid-afternoon on the 13th. M. Anastazija of Samostan Benediktinki Sv.Marije in Zadar will be coordinating the accommodations. You need to arrange to fly into the

airport at Zadar. Please book your air travel as soon as possible as it will be less expensive now than if you wait until later. If you need a letter for a visa, please email S. Mary Rardin, mrardin@gmail.com. Be sure to include the following, required information:

- Your name as shown exactly on your passport
- Passport number
- Your address (in order to have the letter mailed to you)

If anyone requires financial support from the Solidarity Fund in order to attend the Conference, please contact the CIB treasurer, Sister Diane Cook, as soon as possible - dianeosb@peoplepc.com .

- 6) **Planning for the 2010 Symposium:** The Council continued planning for the September 6-17, 2010 Symposium in Rome at Sant' Anselmo. The title of the Symposium is "Benedictine Women: Witnesses of Hope" with the overall theme being "Hope." Invitations for each region will be given out at the Conference in Croatia, indicating the number of sisters invited from each region.

The keynote speakers are Sister Maricarmen Bracomontes, OSB from Mexico and Mère Prieure Thérèse-Marie Dupagne, OSB from Belgium. The Symposium coordinator will be Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB from the USA and the facilitators will be Sisters Jill McCorquodale and Patty Fawkner, SGS from Australia. The coordinator, facilitators, and liturgists will be meeting with S. Judith Ann and S. Mary Rardin for further planning February 13-14, 2009 in Lisle, Illinois, USA.

- 7) **Website:** The Council met with Sister Benedict Brown (Turvey Abbey, England) who is in charge of developing the new CIB website, Sister Marie-Benoit (Montserrat, Spain) who is Secretary of the CERL, and Sister Mary Rardin who also has website development experience and computing skills. Everyone reviewed the old website, reviewed the few pages on the new website, www.benedictines-cib.org , and discussed plans for further development. The hope is to have information for the Conference in Croatia on the website by the end of February, along with more information over the following months.

- 8) **Visits:** One evening the Administrative Council was invited to the nearby men's monastery, Mosteiro Singeverga, to meet Abbot Luis and Father Lino for a tour of the monastery and to pray Vespers with the monks. The day after the meetings, the Council and others traveled to Santiago de Compostela, Spain to the Monasterio de San Palayo to meet Abbess Blanca Blanco Coiradas and her very kind and hospitable community. M. Blanca is the substitute delegate of Region 2. On Friday, Jan 16, M. Teresa Paula took everyone to visit the shrine at Fatima.



F. Lino, S. Judith Ann, M. Blanca, M. Theodora, and M. Teresa Paula at the Monasterio de San Palayo talking with the community there.