



Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum

www.benedictines-cib.org

March, 2013

CIB Administrative Council Meeting

January - 2013, Bedford England

Journeys

The CIB Administrative Council members held their meeting at Turvey Abbey in Bedford, England from January 15-23, 2013. Mother Zoë Davis, a CIB Council member, hosted our meeting. The hospitality of the community was profound. We were blessed to be able to celebrate all of the liturgies with the community. We were impressed with the beautiful artwork around the monastery.

Prior to the meeting in Turvey, Sister Mary Jane Vergotz, the Secretary, and I spent a few days touring London. We stayed with the Benedictine Sisters at Tyburn whose Convent houses many of the relics of the Tyburn Martyrs. We had the opportunity to meet with the community and to share with them the workings of the CIB.

The Sisters at Turvey drove us to Worcestershire to visit Mucknell Abbey, an Anglican Benedictine Monastery of seven monks and five sisters. The community was very welcoming and listened most attentively to our sharing regarding the CIB. Abbot Stuart Burns was a guest at the recent Abbots' Congress. Many of us had the opportunity to meet him in Rome. It was timely that this visit took place during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Through the kindness of Mother Zoë, some of the Council members took advantage of a trip to the Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban, the oldest place of continuous Christian worship and pilgrimage in Britain.

To close our time in England, we made our way south to Brighton to the St. Benedict's Generalate, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Grace and Compassion. Sister Kathy Yeeles, the Prioress General, had been a guest at our 2010 Symposium. In addition, Mother Metilda George, a member of the CIB Administrative Council from Tamil Nadu, India, is a member of this Congregation. We joined the community for Vespers followed by a delicious meal. The Grace and Compassion Sisters have a number of other houses in England as well as in India, Africa and Sri Lanka. The Sisters' ministry is to provide care to elderly residents.

January is not a good time to be in England. We had a good taste of cold weather and much snow in some areas. So much, that it limited our ability to visit some of the monasteries north of London. Sister Magdalena Shetunyenga, Council member from Namibia, got to see snow for the first time in her life!



Turvey Abbey



MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CONT.

Our meeting days at Turvey Abbey were quite busy. In addition to the regular business of the CIB Administrative Council, we spent a good deal of time planning the meeting of the CIB Conference in Brazil – developing the agenda and organizing the processes that will be used with the Delegates. These processes will focus on preparations for the 2014 Symposium: “Listen with the Ear of Your Heart”. I think that you will find our time together in Brazil a meaningful and reflective experience.

Since we will have the opportunity to meet with a group of Abbesses/Prioresses from Brazil, we also developed a process to be used with them. We want to hear of the challenges that Region 11 (Brazil) faces as they attempt to live an authentic monastic life.

By early March, you will be receiving a “letter of invitation” from me regarding our meeting in Brazil. Specific details for that experience will be included.

If you have not already received your monastery’s data from the *Catalogus*, you will soon be receiving that from Sister Mariangela Yator who is coordinating the data collecting for the third edition of the *Catalogus* of women’s communities throughout the world. We hope to have this completed in time to be distributed at the 2014 Symposium. As a Delegate, your assistance will be needed to help us acquire any new data from all of the communities in your Region. Updating the *Catalogus* is a huge task and requires much time on the part of those preparing the material. We hope to have all of the data collected and sent to Sister Felicitas Seisenberger of the Venio community in Munich by October 1, 2013, as she will then prepare the layout for the printer.

As we celebrate the Sacred Triduum, let us hold one another in prayer.

Sister Judith Ann Heble, O.S.B.



Row 1: M. M. Magdalena Shetunyenga, S. Metilda George & M. Thérèse-Marie Dupagne

Row 2: S. Judith Ann Heble and S. Mary John Mananzan

Row 3: M. Zoë Davis and S. Mary Jane Vergotz

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New CIB Delegates elected in 2012 who were unable to attend the 2012 Conference Meeting and those elected in 2013 will be introduced at the September, 2013 Conference Meeting in Brazil. In Region 3, M. Marie-Caroline Lecouffe has replaced M. Fabienne Hyon as Delegate. In Region 9, S. Patricia Crowley has replaced S. Christine Vladimiroff. In Region 13, M. M. Leo Son has replaced M. Lumen Choi. We are grateful to our former Delegates for their service to the CIB and look forward to meeting the new Delegates in September.



Snow at Turvey Abbey



FUNDRAISING IDEAS TO SUPPORT THE 2014 CIB SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEES

At the 2012 Conference Meeting in Valledacqua, the Delegates discussed ways to raise additional funds to cover some of the expenses for the 2014 Symposium. Since this event includes representatives and invited guests from throughout the world the Delegates identified some foundations and national groups who might provide funding for the Symposium. Suggestions included:

- Each Region could send a letter to their local Bishop requesting support. In some Regions the request could be for travel expenses. A sample letter is available from S. Mary Jane.
- M. Marianna Pinto, Region 10, offered to host a fundraising event at her Monastery.
- M. Fabienne Hyon , Region 3, M. Franziska Lukas, Region 6, and S. Rosann Ocken, Region 15 offered to contact foundations who support Catholic causes in their respective countries.
- M. Michela Porcellato, Region 1 offered to send a letter of request to the Italian Conference of Bishops.

All Delegates are asked to consider opportunities for financial support for the Symposium from foundations or groups within their Region. Please contact S. Judith Ann with your suggestions on how your Region can assist in this effort.

2014 CIB Symposium Planning Team



S. Lumen Gloria Dungca, Rome, Facilitator; S. Juliann Babcock, USA, Liturgist; S. Mary Jane Vergotz, USA, Secretary; S. Judith Ann Heble, USA, Moderator; S. Susan Barber, USA, Liturgist; S. Pauline Triviño, Philippines, Facilitator; S. Mary Luke Jones, USA, Coordinator.

The 2014 Symposium Planning Team had their initial meeting at Sacred Heart Monastery, Lisle, IL, USA from March 8-10, 2013. S. Judith Ann Heble, Moderator, presented an orientation to the CIB and the Symposium and facilitated the first stage of the Symposium Planning Process.

The theme of the 2014 CIB Symposium “Listening with the Ear of your Heart” RB, Prologue: 1, will be addressed by Maria Pina Scano, Scripture Instructor at Sant’ Anselmo, S. Aquinata Böckmann, Monastic Spirituality scholar, author and educator and S. Mary John Mananzan former Prioress of Saint Scholastica Priory, Manila. Mark your calendar for the September 2014 CIB Symposium at Sant’ Anselmo, Rome.



MEET THE CIB BEHIND THE SCENES



*S. Benedict Brown
CIB Webkeeper*

CIB Administrative Council Members finally met S. Benedict Brown, longtime CIB Webkeeper and member of the Priory of Our Lady of Peace, Turvey Abbey during their meeting in January. S. Benedict provided an update on the development and usage of the CIB Website (www.benedictines-cib.org) and offered suggestions for enhancing the website. The Council expressed their appreciation to S. Benedict for her dedication to developing the website and to her Prioress, S. Zoë Davis for offering her service to the CIB. S. Zoë also serves as a member of the Administrative Council.

2014 CATALOGUS Edition III

Plans are underway for the production of the updated version of the 2006 *Catalogus*. Beginning in January, 2013, letters were sent to various Abbeys and Monasteries according to CIB Regions. The letters are requesting updated information, for example, location, leadership, membership, and necrology 2006-2013. Newly elected Abbess Mariangela Yator of Assisi will continue to coordinate this phase of the project while S. Felicitas Seisenberger of the Venio Community will be responsible for the layout and the printing. A timely response to this letter will insure that the 2014 *Catalogus* will be available for distribution at the CIB Symposium in September 2014.



M. Mariangela Yator

Calendar

2013

January England

January 15-23

Meeting of the CIB Administrative Council

September Brazil

September 2

Arrival of CIB Administrative Council

September 3

Arrival of CIB Conference Delegates

Meeting of CIB Administrative Council

September 4,6,8

Meeting of the CIB Conference

September 5,7, 9-16

Monastery Visits

September 17

Departures

2014

January Rome

January 14-16

Meeting of the CIB Administrative Council & Symposium planners

September Sant'Anselmo, Rome

September 3-6

Arrival of Staff & Symposium Planning Committee

September 7

Arrival of CIB Administrative Council
First arrivals of Symposium participants

September 8

Meeting of CIB Administrative Council
Arrival of Symposium Participants

September 9

Meeting of CIB Conference
Optional Trip to Montecassino & Subiaco

September 10-17

CIB Symposium

September 18

Morning – Meeting of CIB Conference
Afternoon – Meeting of CIB Admin. Council

September 19

Departure of CIB Administrative Council and Conference