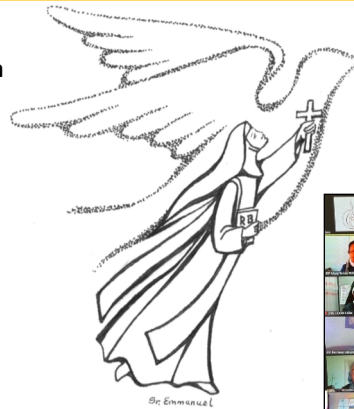




ISSUE 17
Feast of St. Scholastica
February, 2022



Feast of St. Scholastica
p 2



CIB Formation Day
pp 3-5



Benedictine Sisters of Christu Jyothi
CIB Region 19
p 6

Contents:



From the desk of
Sr. Lynn McKenzie,
CIB Moderator
p 1

A Message from the CIB Moderator

In this newsletter you will find a succinct and clear statement about our CIB Formation Day held on 12 January 2022 which was submitted by Sister Scholastika Häring, a historian, canonist and nun of St. Scholastika Abbey in Dinklage, Germany. You will also see some photos from our formation day. Also there is a link to the video of Sister Scholastika as well as a link to her power point presentation. All is in English. (The translation by the interpreters is not able to be recorded on the video.) In addition, there is a short summary of the evaluations received from the participants in the 12 January formation day.

Being together, even online, has been very enriching and inspiring for me, and, it seems, for most of us. Even though I think most of us would prefer to be together in person, the Zoom platform offers us a good alternative. And it seems we have now all become accustomed to navigating within Zoom.

Delegates and substitutes should PLEASE SAVE THE DATE OF 23 MAY 2022 beginning at 12 noon Rome time until 3 p.m. On that date via Zoom, we will continue our process begun in September 2021 of looking at the possibility of restructuring CIB in the future. Then in September, delegates and substitutes please plan to arrive in Rome no later than 7 September 2022. We will begin our Conference of Delegates meeting on 8 September, and we will meet through 11 September, with departures on 12 September 2022. We will be meeting at and will have overnight accommodations at Casa Spirito Santo, the guest house of the Tutzing Benedictine Generalate in Rome. We thank them in advance for making special arrangements for us.

The delegates are all encouraged to share this newsletter with all monasteries in your region. It is important that as we continue to look to the future of CIB and who we want to be that we have the participation of all Benedictine women as far as possible. The CIB is for ALL Benedictine women, no matter the governance structure they have. Being in communion does not mean that there is uniformity. Rather, we find richness in the diversity we share.

During the September meeting, we will have elections of moderator, assistant moderator and administrative council members. Marist Brother Emili Turú Rofes will be with us the last two days to facilitate our election discernment process. Brother Emili is executive secretary of the Union of Superiors General (USG) in Rome and the Director of Faith and Praxis for Global Leadership and he has much experience facilitating general chapters of religious communities. His experience will be invaluable to us in our own election discernment process.

Please keep your enthusiasm high for this ongoing work of THINKING BIG and THINKING LONG TERM about the future of CIB. You will recall this was the challenge to us in September from Sister Pat Murray, ibvm, the executive secretary of the UISG in Rome, and repeated by Sister Scholastika Häring in January. What a joy it is for us to be together, encouraging one another in our monastic vocation!

Lynn McKenzie, OSB (Region 9, USA)



I am indebted to Sister Emmanuel Pieper, OSB of St. Walburg Monastery in Covington, Kentucky, USA for this lovely image of St. Scholastica at the end of her life. As seen by the Rule of Benedict she holds in her hand, she is a woman of the Rule of monastic life. She understands clearly though that the Rule is not to be legalistically lived, but rather according to its spirit. A well-known American scholar of the Rule and St Gregory the Great's Dialogues, Terence Kardong, OSB, now of happy memory, who was a monk of Assumption Abbey in Richardton, North Dakota, USA, commented with understanding about the famous story of the last visit of Saints Benedict and Scholastica's. Kardong wrote, "After a long period of progress in personal and legislative discipline, Benedict had reached a stage where he needed a lesson in love. The Rule had taken him as far as it could, and now he needed to give himself over to love." And it was his sister, Scholastica, who was to help the man of God in this important lesson of love. Kardong continues in his commentary on the famous story of the holy twins in the Dialogues:

[M]oral legalism can find itself at loggerheads with the Gospel itself. When [St Gregory] quotes First John that "God is love," he is pointing to the bedrock ethos on which the entire Christian enterprise rests. And he is also providing us with a helpful principle for monastic life. After all, the final purpose of monasticism is not discipline, it is divine contemplation. Scholastica did not urge Benedict to forget about his rules so they could indulge in dissipation. She was intent on sharing the happiness of the vision of God that both of them so ardently longed for.

May we always be women of love, always eager to share this love of God with others, and always long for the God who calls us and urges us on in this school of the Lord's service.

I am grateful to Sr. Emmanuel for sharing her artistic image of St. Scholastica. This year, at the age of 93, drawing from a lifetime of recognized artistic endeavor, she drew this image for the occasion of the 100th anniversary of my monastic congregation, known as the Federation of St. Scholastica. We will be happily celebrating this centennial at our General Chapter in June 2022, while gathered at the monastery of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas, USA. At the end of the General Chapter, we will be holding a **Centennial Celebration Colloquium, "Benedictine Life: A Vision Unfolding."** You are invited to attend this colloquium virtually, if you wish. Good speakers on our way of life are planned for the colloquium. For more information and to register, visit www.scholastica-celebration.org.

STATEMENT FROM
SR. SCHOLASTIKA HÄRING, DINKLAGE,
REGARDING HER PRESENTATION

I was very pleased to be invited back to the CIB Formation Day in January after the inspiring meeting in September and to contribute to the journey the CIB is on, based on my research into the history of the CIB and my knowledge of canon law.

I did this in three steps:

1. The first step was to focus on what the CIB is and why it has become the way it is. The aim here was to look at the nature, the purpose, the means and the structure. In this way, the basis for looking into the future should become clear. It should be noted that the development towards the CIB has taken place within the Benedictine Confederation and that the CIB succeeds in uniting communities with a very different juridical constitution:

- monasteries *sui iuris* of *moniales* / *sorores* joined together in
 - monastic congregations
 - or federations and
- religious congregations
- monasteries *sui iuris* which are part of one of the monk's congregations
- monasteries/communities in special situations

2. In a second step, I explained various canonical terms, realities: *moniales*, *sorores*, monastery *sui iuris*, monastic congregation, religious congregation, federation, confederation. At the end, I summarised it like this:

“It is noteworthy that we can say relatively precisely what constitutes a monastic congregation and what constitutes a religious congregation; in the case of a Federation, and even more so in the case of a Confederation, it is much more difficult, because very different things can be included.

Nevertheless, I would like to point out the following, which seems to be relevant for any kind of union / association – to use a neutral term.

- It must always be clarified who belongs to it;
- There is always a superior organ in which all are represented in some way.
- There is a leadership – which may look different and may include different bodies;
- There may be room for other superordinate bodies.
- The task and purpose of the different organs must be clarified
- The purpose of the union should be known.”

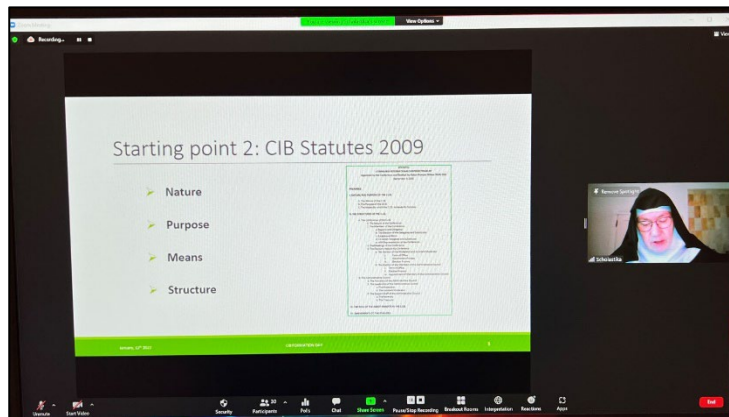
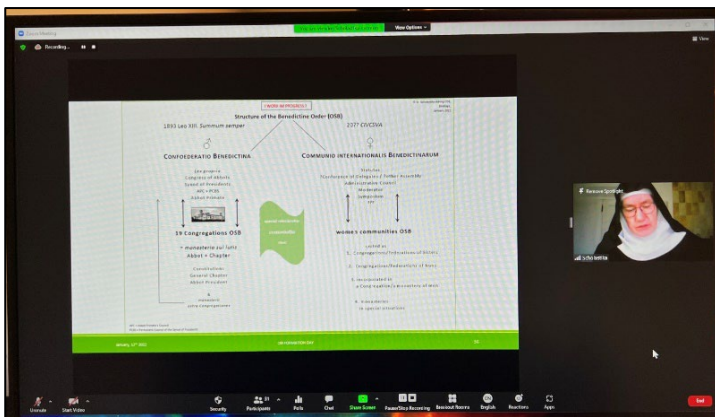
3. In a third step we looked together at the purpose and the means of the CIB and questions that arise now, in 2022 with regard to these. Following my input with questions, ideas, proposals ... a group sharing took place. Before that, I recalled - as I had several times before - what Sr Pat Murray had said in September: think big, think long term. Looking then at the structure of the Benedictine Order I tried to clarify with atgraph, what could be the change, if the CIB looks for and gets a canonical approval independent from the Benedictine Confederation, but nevertheless in relationship to it.

“... there is no doubt that structures reflect values as well as method.”

Joan Chittister

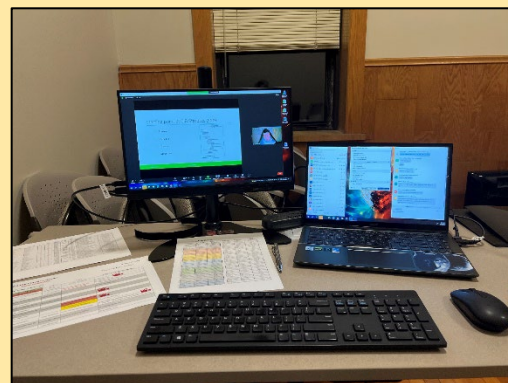
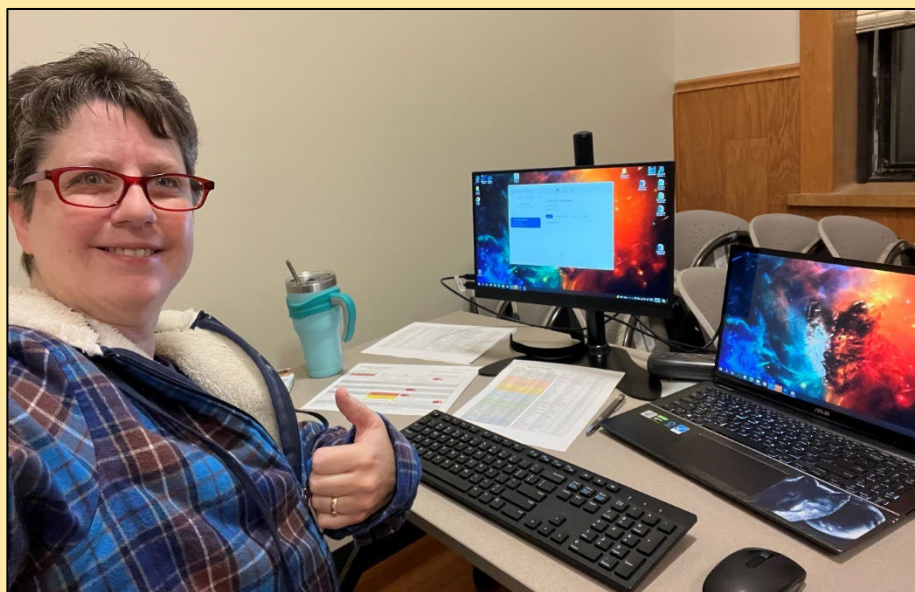


[Click to watch video of Sr. Scholastika's presentation to the CIB Conference of Delegates, held via Zoom on 12 January 2022.](#)



[Click to view the Power Point presentation
by Sr. Scholastika seen in the video above.](#)

[Haga clic para ver la presentación de Power Point presentation
por Sr. Scholastika vista en el video de arriba.](#)



Sister Michelle Sinkhorn, OSB
IT Manager
Monastery Immaculate Conception,
Ferdinand, Indiana, USA





Summary of Evaluations of CIB Formation Day, 12 January 2022

We had 21 responses – all found the Formation Day helpful and good.

A good suggestion was to find a way to make this ongoing formation available to all abbesses/prioresses in each region. (One way to do this would be by sending out the link to the video.) All gave high marks to Sister Scholastika's presentation and found it to be of sufficient length. There were suggestions of many Benedictine women who could serve on a committee to do the research and thinking through of proposals for a future structure of the CIB.

Participants were asked to suggest persons who are "clear thinkers, have an interest in the future of the CIB, have an interest in canon law or at least in structures to allow room for growth." We had a good response in this regard.

More to come later.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the
Benedictine Sisters of Christu Jyothi (Christ the Light)
Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India!

They are now part of CIB Region 19. After a petition from them and after review and evaluation of their way of life and their constitutions, Abbot Primate Gregory Polan sent them their letter of acceptance this month.

We are grateful and happy to welcome the Benedictine Sisters of Christu Jyothi to our worldwide sisterhood in our monastic way of life.



Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum
Moderator
Sr. Lynn McKenzie, OSB
916 Convent Road NE
Cullman Alabama 35055 USA
lynnmckenzieosb@gmail.com