

Welcome, Benvenute!

My name is Sister Lynn McKenzie from USA and it has been my privilege for the last 4 years to serve as your CIB Moderator.

First, a big thank you to Mother Maoro Sye and all the Sisters of this monastery of the generalate of the Tutzing Benedictine Sisters! Everyone here has been most welcoming and gracious.

Also, thank you to all of you for taking the time and being very thoughtful in your responses for the picture directory to the questions about attributes needed for leadership and challenges for leadership and sending them in. That is now represented in the lovely picture directory prepared by Mary Luke Jones and her sister assistant, Ann Patrice, in Indiana.

I bring you greetings from Judith Ann Heble, immediate past moderator of CIB – she has many happy memories of her service in this international organization of women Benedictines, and she misses us.

How good it is when sisters dwell as one. We are all here together – whether physically present at the Casa here in Rome or virtually via Zoom. Thank you for being here.

We are here together for our annual meeting and we have much to accomplish in a short time. While we had hoped we together might be able to see something of Rome, there is no time in our schedule, apart from the evenings. The Aurelia bus station is close by and you could take it to the San Pietro (St Peter's) stop just one train stop away from here, if you like. Perhaps you could get some nighttime photos of San Pietro and get some gelato. For those who don't want to travel by train, I understand there is a nearby gelato shop that you can walk to from here.

This is the first time we are having a HYBRID meeting – we will have to be patient with one another. Sister Michelle, our tech manager for this meeting, in the back of the room and online, will be doing her best to handle making sure translators are connected both through Zoom and through the in person meeting here at the Casa in Rome.

Special guests: Scholastika Haring, who we will here later this morning; helpers Sr Michelle Sinkhorn, CIB tech manager, 3 translators – Monica Alonso Ammann, Marie Cecile Dassonneville, and Sister Maria Clemens Laguardia; and Sister Mary Luke Jones, executive secretary for CIB

I would like to introduce the members of the CIB Administrative Council – Franziska Lukas, assistant moderator; Myrese Dupagne, Maria del Mar Albajar i Viñas “Mar”, and Maria Teresa “Tere” Razo (via Zoom). Sadly, all of these CIB Administrative Council members are not able to be present here in Rome due to

threat of COVID or other illness, except for Mar & Me! Sadly Sr. Caritas Swai of Tanzania is unable to be with us. She was elected to the Council at our 2018 meeting as were Franziska and Myrese. Mar & Tere were both appointed by the CIB Moderator and elected members of the council, as provided in our CIB Handbook.

We want to hear what you know about congregations and federations being formed in your regions. Perhaps you could include this in your region reports.

For those of you on screen, you will not be participating in prayers because we will be with the Tutzing OSB sisters here in Rome in their chapel.

There is a schedule (we had already sent you the times of beginning each day in morning and afternoon), but this one includes a brief word about the order of topics we will be discussing during these days. To review, this morning I will be giving you a brief report about the activities of the CIB since the 2018 Symposium, much of which you know as you participated in some or all of these meetings. But this is by way of review. It also allows you to see the report I gave about the CIB to the abbot primate and Synod of Abbot Presidents last week in Subiaco. Then Sr Scholastika will give us a reminder of what she has talked with us about in the last year, especially last January. Then we will have an opportunity to discuss

these matters. In the afternoon today we will have our region reports (no longer than 7 minutes each) given by the Delegate of each region. This is an opportunity to learn how CIB is operating in each of our 19 regions. We might have to postpone one or 2 of the reports until tomorrow morning.

On Friday, Abbot Primate Gregory Polan will join us and will preside at Mass at 7 a.m., stay with us for breakfast, and then give us a report from the Confederation. We appreciate very much his being with us. After that we will have an opportunity to ask him questions, and after he leaves, we will also have further opportunity to discuss among ourselves anything of note in his report. Then we will have the postponed region reports that we didn't get to on Thursday afternoon.

Then on Friday afternoon we will have several matters to attend to, including a short CIB finance report, an AIM International report from Sister Christine Conrath, the executive secretary of AIM International, and some other various topics, including about our Catalogus and a discussion of future meetings of CIB.

Lynn McKenzie, OSB, Moderator