

JPIC – SOUTH AFRICA

MARY WARD WOMAN IN THE FIELD CLEMENCIAH NYAKAMBI PAUL IBVM



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'UN Update' is the monthly
newsletter of the IBVM UN
NGO office in New York.

It may be viewed on
www.loretosisters.org.za



Clemenciah IBVM has spearheaded the Loreto Neema Self-Help Project since its early beginnings in 2006.

A drop in the ocean

The HIV pandemic is a complex reality in the society and more so in Kenya where Nairobi, the capital city has been counted as having the greatest number of people living with HIV positive state and even the new cases. Small contributions many not seem much in such conditions or as it is a drop in the ocean may not seem to matter and yet that drop makes a difference. That is the thought which ran in the minds of the Loreto Sisters in the Eastern Africa Province as they initiated Loreto Neema Project.

The situation in the society in relation to the reality of HIV and its magnitude made the Loreto Sisters to initiate Loreto Neema project as their little contribution to the scourge among our people. Hence the inception of Loreto Neema in 2006 serving people from Mukuru / Mathare slums. Also as a response to MDG especially on women, people living with HIV and work toward the eradication of poverty, and living the directions of the sisters' General

Chapter mandate of '98 – “to stand with the people at the edge of the society especially women and children”. Loreto Neema project focuses on the holistic empowerment of people living with HIV and other vulnerable adults/youth, in the areas of economic empowerment (training in vocational skills, training in Basic Business education, carrying out assessment aiming at providing loans to improve the small scale businesses), personal growth (spiritual growth, support group system, and Home visit to enable us become aware of the needs of our Partners and find ways of responding to these needs) to enable them live positively and in a responsible way.

Loreto Neema has been a successful story because many people have found a home in the project. There are those who have been helped to stabilize in the living positively with the HIV reality. A number have gained from the vocational training and have been able to access jobs at the market. Support for small scale businesses has led to a great difference in the life of many in the two slums. The fruits are visible in terms of the improved standard of living as many are able to earn their own basic needs instead of involvement in begging in order to survive.

Clemenciah Nyakambi Paul IBVM



Clemenciah IBVM with four Neema staff during Mary Ward celebrations earlier in the year.

‘UNDER HIS WINGS’

On Thursday, 3 October a group of Grade 7 Loreto Primary School Strand and Beth Forbes the Grade 2B teacher, visited Pearl Stryder’s home in Sir Lowry’s Pass Village. Pearl Stryders runs a charity feeding programme called Under His Wings, which relies entirely on donations. As this charity is one of the focuses of the school’s outreach program, a visit was paid to drop off soup and porridge ingredients the school had collected and for the Grade 7 learners to experience firsthand this wonderful work of love.

Pearl feeds 400 children from her home every day, twice a day. To make things a little more manageable, she feeds the children in three separate groups. First the high school children, followed by the primary school children, and finally the preschool children and babies. The little ones have to wait until 08:30 for their food because the older children need to be fed before they go to school. This whole process is repeated after school when a nutritious lunch is then served. Pearl took time to show the Grade 7’s around her home, and most importantly showed the kitchen where the magic happens. Most of the children in the village don’t have supper and rely totally on her breakfast and lunch to keep their tummies full. Great care is taken to provide the children daily with enough healthy, tasty food.

The Grade 7’s were given the opportunity to help, hands on, in feeding the preschool children. The children line up without being told and take their vitamins before they eat. The vitamins are donated by a German couple. The children then sit down quietly and wait patiently to be given their bowl

of porridge. The Grade 7’s organised themselves and formed a production line to get the food out to the little ones as quickly as possible. As some of the babies needed help as they couldn’t feed themselves, the Grade 7’s were more than happy to assist.

After their porridge, the children put their bowls in a plastic basin of soapy water and lined up for fruit.

The Grade 7’s interacted beautifully with these young children and embraced the opportunity to give back with open arms.



Left to right:- Cameron Kerspuy, Timothy-John Viana, Liam Luiters, Mariam Talip lending a helping hand at ‘Under His Wings’



Tia van Wyk was more than happy to feed one of the little ones.

SLEEPING BAG OUTREACH

Members of St Peter’s Parish, the Mary Ward Open Circle Association and children and teachers from Loreto Primary School Strand spent a productive morning on Saturday, 11 May 2013 making sleeping bags for the homeless.

These sleeping bags are highly functional and effective as they not only provide

warmth but are also waterproof. They are ideal for the cold, wet Cape winters. Teams worked together around a table to make a sleeping bag. Each sleeping bag takes approximately 10 minutes to make using newspapers. The outer covering of the sleeping bag is plastic, designed and donated by Rotary. A total of 27 sleeping bags were made and distributed to those in need.



Mary Ward Open Circle Associate, Kathy Ryan, assisting Grade 6 and 7 Loreto Strand children to make sleeping bags.

TRUCKERS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The ‘Truckers against Human Trafficking’ Campaign was launched earlier this year by the ‘Counter Trafficking in Persons’ (CTIP) office. This office is the joint project of the Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life (LCCL(SA)) and the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference (SACBC).

The aim of the campaign is

- to educate, equip, empower and mobilise members of the trucking/taxi industry to combat sex trafficking on the African continent;
- be able to spot traffickers and report them.
- Get South African trucking-industries to make information and training on human trafficking a part of the orientation of all truck drivers.

Survivors of human trafficking relate that it was especially in the transport phase of their captivity that the hope was still there for some rescue intervention to take place.

WORLDWIDE

I had the privilege of attending the 2nd Education Loreto Conference (Ward Works Worldwide) in Sydney Australia from 20-26 June 2013 as one of the representatives of the South African Province. Delegates from Peru, England, Ireland, Kenya, South Africa, Mauritius, Nepal, India and Australia also attended.

The pre-conference visits to schools is always a highlight for me. I visited Loreto Kirribilli, Loreto Normanhurst, The Good Shepherd and Loyola Secondary School. The striking feature of all the schools that I visited was the sense of togetherness, the common spirit and that education is not merely about academics. It is also about faith, confidence and values – a holistic education.

Sr. Marian Moriarty (our Superior General) reminded the delegates in her keynote address of the importance of the Loreto Educational Guidelines of Kolkata. She emphasized that the heart of Loreto Schools is the learners and that in today's world of the internet you can download almost anything except values. Values need to be taught and more important modelled in our Loreto Schools.

Furthermore, we need to create in our schools a sense of belonging, identity and love. We need to find time to build deepness, peace, stillness and engagement. All the delegates were challenged to be like our foundress Mary Ward – a person of conviction who was willing to take on the injustices of the world. Mary Ward used her voice, hands and feet to serve God. Loreto Schools are called to do the same.

The Conference itself had an excellent mixture of presentations, practical workshops, time to network as well as time for personal reflection. At the end of each day we were asked to reflect on the following three questions:

What do I see, hear and feel that gives me hope?

What do I see, hear and feel that challenges me?

What do I see, hear and feel the Spirit is suggesting as the next step?

It was during these reflection times that the following came to mind.

We are part of a worldwide network of approximately 176 schools, one in every continent in the world, and that we need to tap more into this wonderful resource.



Photo above.

Conference participants from IBVM and CJ schools. South Africa had two representatives at the conference:- Marcello Pallozzi, principal of Loreto Queenswood and Vanessa Oertle, principal of Loreto Strand.

The Conference strengthened my commitment to Mary Ward's vision and helped me build new connections within our worldwide family. We need to celebrate what is Right in the World. That, although technology is the future, there is still a place for traditional teaching. We need to find the balance between technology and traditional teaching.

There is a common thread (which is Mary Ward's charism) that permeates through each Loreto School worldwide, despite our background.

Despite social justice issues that are tackled by each school in a forthright manner, we still need to ensure that we are at the forefront in addressing social justice issues.

"A circle of friends" was made and hopefully we will continue to build on these relationships that started in Australia.

A sense of gratitude. Gratitude to our Loreto Sisters and Loreto School Queenswood's Board of Governors in allowing me the opportunity of being part of the Conference. But more importantly, gratitude at being the Principal of Loreto School Queenswood and serving the Lord in all that we do.

To drive the Loreto Education Guidelines at Kolkata in a more meaningful and consistent way.

Ad Majorem Deo Gloriam

To the Greater Glory of God

Lead us on, Mary Ward! Lead us! Lead us on, Mary Ward! Lead us!

*Marcello Pallozzi,
Principal of Loreto Queenswood*

IBVM JPIC Team meets annually with JPIC school representatives



Above - 2013 meeting with Loreto Strand.
 Back:- Pat IBVM, Vanessa Oertle,
 Elizabeth IBVM, Rosaleen IBVM,
 Front:- Deirdre IBVM, Connie Gilbert.



Above – 2013 meeting in Pretoria
 Back:- Pat IBVM, Vanessa Cornelia (past pupil of Loreto Kolkata) and Violet Nyirenda both teachers at Loreto Skinner St.
 Front:- Tessa Eales from Loreto Queenswood and Elizabeth IBVM



Kit Catterson, Project Officer for Mary Ward International Australia visited Lukulu, Zambia. One of the projects supported by MWIA is the teacher training of volunteer community school teachers. Pictured with Kit are Sepiso Kachana, Morgan Mbuyu and Peter Kamboyi who completed their training in 2012 and were deployed by the government to rural schools in the Lukulu District in October 2013.

UN DAY OF THE GIRL – OCTOBER 11. 2013



To celebrate “Day of the Girl’ in Lukulu, the Loreto Sisters invited girls from the two local High Schools to their home to watch a video of the 16 year old Malala Yousafzai speaking at the UN. The students were greatly inspired by the power of this one girl to effect change at a global level and adopted the words of Malala as their own ‘one child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.’ The following day the girls returned for activities based on the UN and Human Rights, especially as related to the girl child.



On UN Day of the Girl, girls from Loreto Primary School Strand could wear a ‘touch of pink’ with their school uniform in honour of all those young women who are activists for justice amongst women. A special Mass was celebrated by Fr Martin Pender.

JPIC – SOUTH AFRICA

MARY WARD WORKER IN THE FIELD STUART SHILLINGLAW



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MWI meeting in Toronto
The world we want- Lukulu
International year of family farming.



If you have not voted in the 'My world' UN global survey to set the post 2015 development agenda then there is still time. We are invited to vote for six out of a possible sixteen changes that would make the most difference to our world.
www.myworld2015.org

My teaching career started at St. Barnabas College in Johannesburg which was the first non-racial school in that city. This was 1977 when the country was very politically charged and being in such a school was considered to be foolhardy by white South Africans. The Principal often spoke about a brave group of Catholic Sisters in Pretoria who defied the Government (in their Capital) and opened their Convent School gates to all races. This resulted in great hardships to the Convent – in being refused Government subsidy and not being allowed to use the Town Hall anymore. Little did I know that in thirty years time I would be the Principal of that great Convent School? I was not aware at the time that these were Loreto Sisters who were following the teachings of Mary Ward who was prepared to stand up against the establishments of Government or Church for Justice, Freedom and Truth. I am humbled to be part of an Order that tries to live out the Principles of Jesus Christ.

My appointment to the school occurred in such a remarkable way that I can only believe that God's hand was in the appointment. The application was returned to my post box on the Friday and the application closing date was the Monday. I said to my wife that this application was not meant to be but a voice inside said "get to PNA and send the application by speed post". The interview did not go that well either as it was clear that the panel would prefer a Catholic Principal. I was amazed to actually be offered the position. This position has been a blessing ever since. I have learned about Mary Ward and the brave things she did to free woman and allow them to gain good educations. As Mary Ward quoted "I hope in God, it will be seen that women, in time, will do much."

This is shown in the educational field as the top achieving schools are the girls' schools and the top individuals are mainly

girl students. This is the reason that I prefer girls' schools as the students are more focused and dedicated to achieving good results.

What makes me comfortable in the school is the fact that this is not an elitist school but rather for the developing middle class. My only wish is that we could financially support more students from lower income families. One of the most significant achievements in the last two years was to convince the finance committee to partially support four students who would normally not be able to afford our fees. With the help of Kathy Wisselo (ex-school secretary) we were able to find a donor to fully support a student through her high school career. I know that this is what Mary Ward would want from our school – to afford underprivileged girls the opportunity to achieve excellent educations.

The outreach programme of the school has grown over the years and more of the staff have become passionate about helping those in great need. The school has increased the number of institutions who receive support from the school and we are blessed by the generosity of the parents in supporting these facilities. The students have had more direct contact with some of these institutions so that they can experience the suffering of others less fortunate than them.

A heart-warming experience is to see how confidently the girls read during Mass and at assemblies. The girls are very sincere about their Christianity, whether Catholic or Protestant. We have very active Prayer Groups and YFC who are fully involved in the life of the school.

One of the most amazing features of the staff is the sincere care shown to each staff member. This is truly a family who shows love for every member and will go

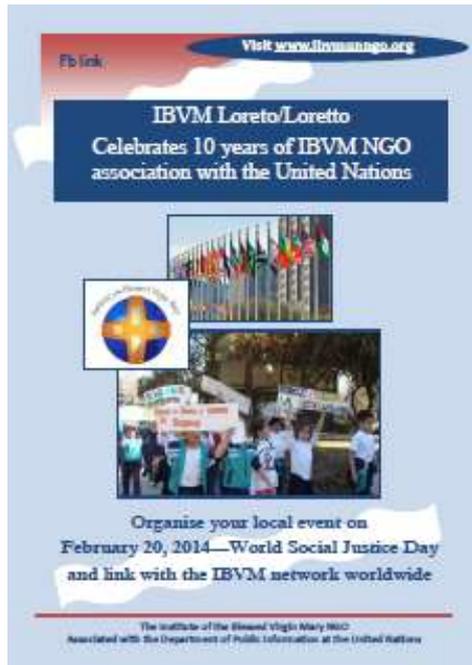
to great lengths to help each other. New staff often remark about the different atmosphere that exists in the staffroom where they feel part of a big caring family. The school is truly blessed to have such a staff compliment and I hope that this feature will continue forever more.

It has been a privilege for me to be associated with this school and the teachings of Mary Ward. The memories will be with me forever and I am pleased that this will be the school that I will retire from. I wish the school a very bright future and I hope that one day a LORETO GIRL will be the STATE PRESIDENT – just imagine a leader with principles of sincerity, truth, and justice. These values are instilled into our girls and when they leave we hope they will use them to make a difference in the world.

Stuart Shillinglaw, Principal of Loreto Convent School, Skinner St., Pretoria

else can people go to have these conversations? Perhaps by being there we as IBVM can influence the UN to do what it was intended to do; foster a common effort to give every person on earth the right to live in freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live with dignity’

Cecilia O’Dwyer IBVM, current representative at the IBVM NGO at UN



The Grade 4 class held a demonstration and protest to voice the plight of the poor. Banners with the words “I want to work! No food for my family!” and “Our children are hungry!” were made to portray the first Millennium goal of eradicating poverty and hunger.

The Grade 1 class presented the second Millennium Goal – to achieve universal primary education by comparing education to a loving home. A photograph of Mary Ward was placed in the centre of a large cardboard cut-out of a house. Loreto Primary School was compared to a large loving family living in a home with Mary Ward and her values at the heart of the home.

Banners with the words “Save the Rhino!” and “Conserve Water!” were presented by the Grade 2 class to portray the seventh Millennium Goal: Improving environmental sustainability.

The remainder of the goals were presented in the form of role-play or by means of power point presentation. It was made clear that not only governments of countries had a major responsibility of working towards achieving the Millennium Goals, but that it was also the responsibility of each individual to fervently do God’s work in order that these goals may be realized.



Celebrating 10 years of the IBVM NGO at the United Nations

Following are two short reflections on our IBVM presence at the United Nations

‘Our presence as an NGO at the United Nations is a sign and a symbol of our corporate desire to work collaboratively with others to highlight both the needs of those who are voiceless and marginalized and the issues that threaten planet earth’

Mary Wright IBVM, 2006 JPIC Handbook

‘The UN is not perfect but it is the only place where the world is obliged to listen to the concerns of all states. Where

To celebrate ten years of IBVM presence at the UN we were invited to organize a local event on World Social Justice Day to link with the IBVM network worldwide. Following are reports of two such events that were initiated in the Southern Africa region during February.

Loreto Strand organized an assembly where each grade simply and creatively portrayed one of the MDGs.



Loreto Strand assembly



The ten members of the Society gathered for the AGM of IBVM, Zambia

The annual general meeting in Lukulu of the Society of ‘Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Zambia’ made its prayer focus the ten years celebration of the IBVM NGO at the United Nations. United Nations involvement in Africa and Zambia and Lukulu in particular were noted.

WORLD WE WANT 2015



POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In 2000, world leaders promised to halve extreme poverty by 2015 with a global plan called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Thanks to millions of people taking action and a massive global effort, the number of people living in poverty has fallen to less than half of its 1990 level. Yet 1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty. Despite this, for the first time in history we do have the resources to end poverty and grow our world sustainably. It will take the work of all of us to make this happen and we must make our Governments listen and take action on the things that matter most to people everywhere! The World We Want is gathering the priorities of people from every corner of the world and building a collective vision that will be used directly by the United Nations and World Leaders to plan a new development agenda launching in 2015, one that is based on the aspirations of all citizens! www.worldwewant2015.org

The results of the ongoing 'My World' UN global survey on post 2105 development agenda are updated continuously and are presented through many different filters. Some filters used are gender, age, educational level and human development index. Data is presented for the world, continents, countries and regions. Below are two sets of results with no filters applied.

THE WORLD. 1,491,364 people worldwide had voted as of 10 March 2014

	200000	400000	600000	800000	1000000
A good education					1035900
Better healthcare				847729	
Better job opportunities				785360	
An honest and responsive government				764990	
Affordable and nutritious food			644344		
Access to clean water and sanitation			633482		
Protection against crime and violence			629628		
Equality between men and women		449467			
Freedom from discrimination and persecution		439362			
Support for people who can't work		435314			
Protecting forests, rivers and oceans		434137			
Better transport and roads		415105			
Phone and internet access	351461				
Political freedoms	354538				
Reliable energy at home	327227				
Action taken on climate change	264485				

South Africa 8,357 South Africans had voted as of 10 March 2014.

	1000	2000	3000	4000	5000
A good education					5919
Protection against crime and violence					5152
Better job opportunities				4664	
An honest and responsive government				4394	
Better healthcare				4301	
Access to clean water and sanitation			3976		
Affordable and nutritious food			3170		
Freedom from discrimination and persecution		2690			
Equality between men and women		2329			
Better transport and roads		2234			
Support for people who can't work		2209			
Protecting forests, rivers and oceans		2207			
Action taken on climate change	1757				
Phone and internet access	1545				
Reliable energy at home	1542				
Political freedoms	1140				

If you wish to find out current survey results for the world or any particular country check data.myworld2015.org Thematic consultations and national consultations as well as trends and outcome are reported in www.worldwewant2015.org

WORLD WE WANT

In February, some school girls from Sancta Maria Dormitory in Lukulu, Zambia had a workshop to look at the 'world we want'. Pictured below are some of the participants. The lists of development issues produced by each of the three groups were sent off to the representative at the IBVM UN NGO in New York and they received a positive response.

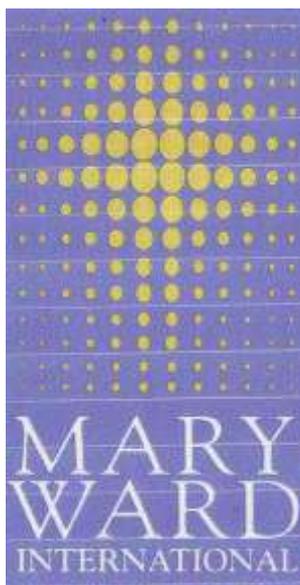
Input of development agenda



One group drawing up their list of the 'world we want'



Another group reporting back on the 'world we want'



A gathering of Mary Ward International representatives including 17 IBVM members and 11 co-workers from around the world was recently held at Loreto Abbey, Toronto to review the purpose and functioning of MWI worldwide and to plan for the future. Building on foundational keystones of our charism and in particular Mary Ward's 'Just Soul', the history of the MWI was reviewed and the concept of 'Development' was explored. Integral to the meeting was a consideration of how MWI functions in relationship to JPIC and the IBVM UN NGO. As a result of all the deliberations the need for partnership for development and mission was acknowledged and strengthened. Steps were taken to establish an effective network of communication and global coordination to make this partnership a lived global reality.

Pat Hanvey IBVM



MWI representatives from all IBVM provinces/regions met between 25 February and 4 March in Toronto.



- Family and small-scale farming are inextricably linked to world food security
- Family farming preserves traditional food products,
- Family farming represents an opportunity to boost local economies.