



## CASA LORETO

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Dear Friends

August has arrived and with it the Roman summer is reaching its peak of heat and sunshine.

Within the next 12 months there are 5 appointments of regional and province leaders to be made: Peru, England, USA, Spain and Australia. This has raised questions and, in some cases, anxieties for some province members. For us as Institute Leadership we have reflected on our reality, on the concerns of the many members who have communicated with us. We have had various consultations about our situation and about possibilities. We have looked carefully at Call 5 from GC 14 and at the actions associated with it:

### CALL 5

*Create the oneness that moves us across boundaries*

### Actions

- a. *In the light of being one global body, initiate an Institute review process on our cross-cultural reality and our experience of equity.*
- b. *Initiate a process for Institute-wide education in participative leadership*
- c. *Develop guidelines and formation/training for members, associates and co-workers so that we minister in a co-equal way*
- d. *At Institute level establish ministry networks, twinning and/or other means of connecting*
- e. *Evaluate different governance structures and leadership models.*

It seems to us that this is an appropriate time to pause and to take time to reflect together on our governance structures and our leadership models. This involves taking steps to enable this reflection to take place, and to plan properly for any changes that may be necessary.

In the coming months the consultations for new leadership will continue as planned and appointments will be made. A request has been made to CICLSAL (Congregation for Religious) to change the terms of office of the newly appointed leaders from 6 to 3 years *where it is deemed appropriate*. This will allow us to have an Institute wide reflective process over the next 3 years involving all members of the Institute and reflecting on various aspects of our province lives and structures. Some of these may include:

- Governance Needs in your province
- A Spirituality for Aging
- The resources available within each province for effective leadership
- Needs for leadership training and formation
- Structures that support ministries within provinces
- Various possibilities of new leadership structures
- Governance that enables and supports mission

We will proceed with this reflection as an international and Ignatian institute, keeping true to the spirit of Mary Ward. The reality and future of religious life is and will be very different from what we knew in the past. We are a generation living in a liminal time; ours is the responsibility to hold the treasure and at the same time to create the space for the new. It is important that we put in place structures that will enable opportunities for that new form of religious life to emerge, and to allow all of us, especially our newer and younger members, to engage fully in mission.

In the coming months we will appoint a steering committee to lead and direct us in these reflections. We will do everything we can to make sure that the process is inclusive of all, and that there is opportunity for all voices to be heard.

### **Morocco**

We are happy to tell you that **Maria Lopez** (Spanish Province) and **Lisiane Magdeleine** (Mauritius) have both been missioned to Morocco and will go to Asilah on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Others are discerning about joining them later in the year. Please pray for this mission, and for all ours who are living and working in areas of concern, war or grave deprivation. It is good to remember that as IBVM in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we continue to strive to meet the needs of our times and to go where the need is greatest.

As we journey together in this process and reflection on leadership let us pray for the spirit of openness and freedom.

Wishing each and every one every blessing

With love

*Noelle*  
*Brenda*

*Macarena*

*St. Juliana*

*Lisiane*