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**COLLATED EMERGING THEMES  
FROM PROVINCE /REGION CONGREGATIONS**

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**GC 2022**

● The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever ●



# THE GOD OF JESUS AT THE CENTRE

Return to the God of Jesus. How do we encounter and give expression to such a God? We are being called to rekindle the fire within us, and to deepen our relationship with God.

## Suggestions:

- We continue to make prayer a priority in our lives, live the Gospel values by being faithful to our Ignatian/Mary Ward Spirituality and offer wholistic formation for our diverse ministries.
- Reflecting and discerning in the context of sharing and praying together (Loreto and Laity) to rekindle and deepen our relationship with the God of Jesus. We could set aside time each month for this.
- That a member of the Generalate, with a committee, takes the responsibility of planning for the Institute members, the "on-going" formation inspiring all to place Jesus at the centre of our lives and mission, through diverse means, including social media.
- Trusting in God, enabling transformation from within (at personal and Institute level), listening deeply to one another and to the world, especially those forced to live in poverty; recognizing the wisdom of the aged and the energy of the young.
- To find **the God of Jesus** who will enable us to move where the need is greatest, as Jesus did, and show the face of love, compassion and forgiveness in our relationship with others and creation.



The universal environmental concern is challenging us with a new call to address climate change, to live sustainably, to better understand our connectedness with all of creation and to respond to its needs.

**Suggestions:**

- Sharpen the focus on care for our common home by: At an Institute level commit to collective action to care for our environment, which includes emphasis on personal responsibility and collective action, working with multitude agencies in our congregation and beyond, responding to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth – our common home.
- Supporting *Laudato S'i* groups and others in this area.
- have regular evaluation on our way of living sustainably
- having a close look at our daily lives encouraging positive actions
- giving professional guidance, logistics and financial support
- that we continue to commit ourselves to our seven-year plan.
- that we study and promote Pope Francis' vision of 'integral ecology'. Conversion to sustainable living at personal, community and Institute levels (theology of enough).
- Thinking and feeling (sentipensar) about the Beauty of God and all creatures through re - visiting the Principle and Foundation.



- Becoming artisans of the Care of Our Common Home by learning from each other as creatures, and by allowing ourselves to be inspired and guided by *Laudato Sí, Querida Amazonía*, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN NGO.
- Our planet is threatened in many ways especially marginalised peoples and climate. It is vital that we care for it. Much is already being done and more is needed. A way forward could be to devote a year when all from the youngest to the oldest would focus on this theme. The whole Institute/Congregation could continue to be encouraged to be creative in its study of *Laudato Si* and find ways to concretise the recommendations.
- Advocacy on behalf of women, so that their voice may be heard in decision making about issues such as climate change and poverty - advocating from schools, municipalities, parishes, soup kitchens etc.
- Support existing groups working for social justice and for the initiatives of Pope Francis such as *Laudato Si*' Action Platform and Synodality.
- Support organizations responding to these areas of need by donating time and funds, and by raising awareness.
- As Mary Ward followers, we are called to listen and discern the signs and needs of our time: care of our common home and our broken brothers and sisters: voiceless women, the poor, refugees, those trafficked, and those affected by violence.
- How to balance sustainability in terms of income earning for sisters with responding to needs within ministries that do not attract income or salaries?
- Recognise and accept that we are part of our world – not greater than. cf. Covid, climate change



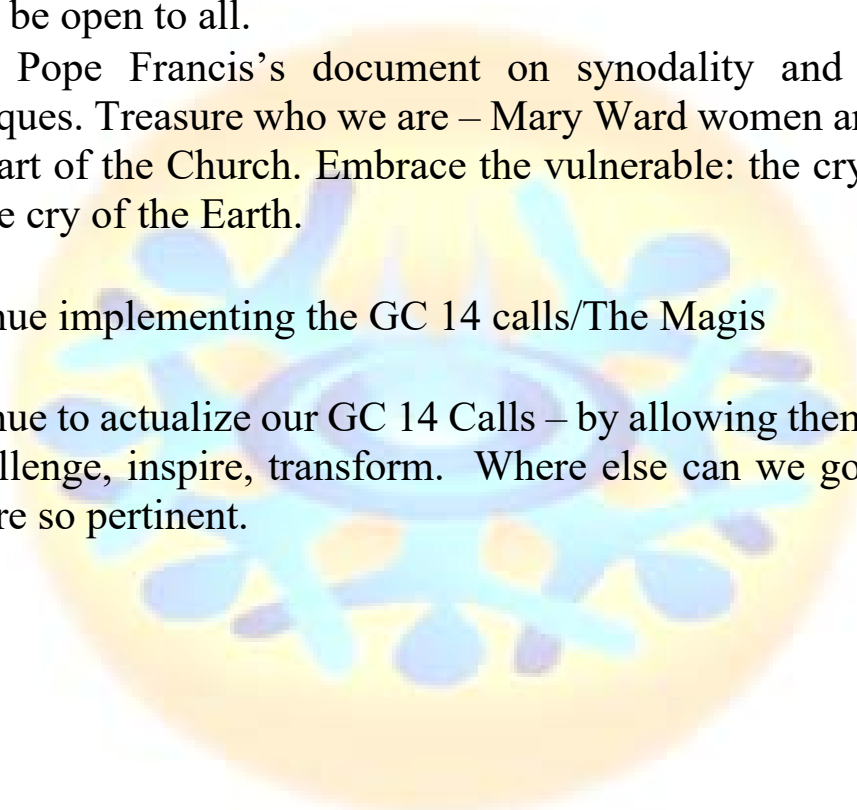
# MISSION / NEEDS CONGRUOUS TO OUR TIMES / GC 14 CALLS

We are being called to explore synodality, respecting difference and discerning together in faith where the Spirit is leading us. We are being called to place our tents among the broken, to embrace the vulnerable and to heed the needs of women. There is a call to move beyond our boundaries, to explore ‘the Magis’. We are being called to deepen our understanding of the GC14 Calls – to give them newer meaning in the context of today.

## **Suggestions:**

- Foster new means of connection and shared mission across the Mary Ward Network by: Encouraging and resourcing our IBVM and CJ communication teams at Province/Region and Institute level, JPIC and UN personnel
- to develop new modes of engagement across members and the wider Mary Ward network so that we continue to move beyond our boundaries and mindsets and respond where the need is greatest.
- To expand our availability for mission in one additional area according to people, place and context.

- In the spirit of the Magis and synodality rekindle the courage to move in all provinces/regions, empower members with appropriate skills and embrace digital evangelization.
- that the new General Leadership team initiate a three-year communal discernment to produce a formal plan for future mission.
- Synodality/New Mindset
- We are called to explore synodality, walking together to expand our tent to be open to all.
- Study Pope Francis's document on synodality and practice its techniques. Treasure who we are – Mary Ward women and women at the heart of the Church. Embrace the vulnerable: the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth.
- Continue implementing the GC 14 calls/The Magis
- Continue to actualize our GC 14 Calls – by allowing them to continue to challenge, inspire, transform. Where else can we go with them? they are so pertinent.





## WOMEN AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH/ FORMATION/ SYNODALITY.

As followers of Mary Ward what does it mean to be women at the heart of the Church? Amongst our newer members there is a call to be educated and trained in issues of the church and society. There is a call to look at the structures we need to hold onto and those we need to let go. We are being called to synodality - deep listening, real dialogue, and open sharing. There is a sense that a deeper listening invites us to speak what we hear; to let go of things that are no longer nourishing; to develop newer mindsets as women today. We are called to listen to the voices from the fringes and the cry of our earth.

### **Suggestions:**

- Using our voice as church, supporting organizations and people working to give women a voice by appointing an international (formation) team or (teams) to develop culturally relevant new approaches to inspire, animate, challenge, and empower women.
- To include in our ongoing formation/spiritual formation a focus for healthy living across the life course.
- Form and empower sisters and women through training in theology, canon law, scripture in order to meaningfully engage with the local and wider church.



- to respond to the request of our newer members for education and ongoing formation in Theology and Spirituality
- To promote and facilitate the theological education of women at appropriate levels so that they can respond to the sacramental needs at local level and reach out pastorally to the excluded and ostracised.
- First, explore what it means to be women at the heart of the Church?
- Then, ensure: that inclusive language becomes natural in all our ministries and daily lives and that women be empowered in Church and society
- Claiming our Mary Wardian identity as women in the world in which we live and in so doing, explore how we can contribute to the Church to make it more relevant as well as other issues of our day.
- Continue to focus on these themes especially in Formation, Initial and Ongoing through discernment and deepening our relationship with the God of Jesus. We remember Mary Ward wanted us to respond to the needs congruous to our times
- Sustainable on-going training/obtain licentiate and training sisters for Pastoral, Theology, Counselling, Spirituality and Synodality
- And their suitable missioning to use their skills to their maximum potential.
- "Promote just and peaceful situations for women within the Church and in every situation of discrimination by: the enrichment of our spirituality, constructive dialogue and alliances with like-minded organizations".
- To include in our ongoing formation/spiritual formation a focus for healthy living across the life course.





We are being called to welcome and respect difference, to let go of judgement, to adjust to the new. What processes will help to voice our fears, our anxiety and our questions? What are the implications of Mary Ward's desire 'May we all be one'?

### **Suggestions:**

- In the next three months:-
  - Create a time line at the province level for:  
Encouragement meetings/ sharing of CJs and IBVMs
  - Create a cluster of communities of IBVM and CJ
- Prioritize financial support
- Short holidays to IBVM/ CJ community
- Expertise is resources to be exchanged
- To dialogue more deeply about the gifts of cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity.

"Review structures so that they empower members of the Institute and facilitate the leadership of the laity in their contribution to the development and expression of our charism".



## **PRAYER FOR GENERAL CONGREGATION**

Good and gracious God,  
enfolding our Covid stricken,  
yet precious world.

Pour out your renewing, recreating,  
energising Spirit upon us.

Place us with Christ,  
that we may be open to the cries  
of our sisters and brothers in need  
and alive to the fragile beauty of creation.

Draw us into an ever-deeper  
union of minds and hearts  
as we move towards  
our General Congregation 2022.

Energise us to walk with Mary Ward,  
as living witnesses of your faithful love,  
singing forever the mercies of the Lord.

Mary Ward pray for us  
and give us your spirit.

Amen



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