

JFL words in response to IBVM petition for fusion – 23 August 2022

Noelle and all our IBVM sisters here in Nemi, standing for the worldwide Institute

I stand here with you as the representative of the CJ General Congregation, which is at this moment and for the days of its duration, the highest authority in our congregation.

All of us here and all who are with us today via livestream have walked – or perhaps rowed - with all of you on a long journey down the river in front of us, whose story you have told so creatively and movingly, a river whose origin is shared and whose history has so much that is shared, not least during the past few years. This river, charting our history, poses one question to us all – What, in our time, are the Holy Spirit and Mary Ward asking of us, inviting us to?

As we receive your petition, we pledge ourselves to receiving and discerning it in the context of our shared charism of the Just Soul – with freedom to refer it to God, with justice to all of you and to the mission, with sincerity and integrity, knowing that this will bring all of us to the felicity of our shared “estate” as daughters of Mary Ward. In doing so we will honour the generosity and sacrifice your petition has asked of all of you and pledge ourselves to whatever generosity and sacrifice the Holy Spirit and Mary Ward ask of us in responding to it.

Jesus say Amen.