

IPA Matters

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Message from Ann Marie Quinn PBVM, IPA Executive Director

Our world is surely in a state of flux... We can even see it caught in a whirlwind of change. How can good be harvested from war and want, disaster and displacement, flood, and fire? The face of human suffering confronts us daily, in local and global contexts.

As IPA we are called (7th IPA Assembly) to 'practise non-violence of mind and heart as we listen in to the chaos and feel the pain of our time'. How can we find the still points from which to live in this way, to somehow offer hope, as we try our best to resist being overwhelmed?

In this issue of IPA Matters, there is ample evidence that we are experiencing our share of change and challenge. There are accounts of partings and new beginnings, congratulations and crises, as well as the immediate consequences of the pandemic, such as the essential rescheduling of our 8th IPA Assembly. Through it all, we seek grounding in our founding stories – Gospel faith and Presentation heritage, as well as emerging wisdom which refreshes our sense of who we are in the cosmic scheme.

Whether October means autumnal colours and impending hibernation, or spring blossoms promising summer flowers, all around our Catholic world it is the month of Mary. Pope Francis reflects: "The times we are living in are the times of Mary". (Pope Francis Address to the Pontifical



Theological Faculty "Marianum", 24th October 2020).

As we move through October, we draw strength from Mary who, *"in the beauty of following the Gospel and in her service to the common good of humanity and the planet, always teaches us to listen to these voices, and she herself becomes the voice of the voiceless in order 'to give birth to a new world, where all of us are brothers and sisters, where there is room for all those whom our societies discard.'"* (Encyclical Letter, 'Fratelli tutti', 278)

Blessings
Ann Marie

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Words of Appreciation

Mary Therese Kruger's service as IPA Programme Action Leader drew to a close on the 15th of August 2021. This position – at the crossroads of local and global action - is pivotal to the effectiveness of IPA.

Through her 'IPA Justice Contact Update', Mary T generated pathways of communication between IPA members and Presentation People all around the world.

She also actively collaborated with our IPA NGO Representative at the UN and the IPA Spirituality and Charism Committee, in line with the purpose of her position. We thank her sincerely for her service and wish her every blessing for the future.



Screenshot when the IPA Team gathered for a ritual to honour our journey together in the service of IPA over the past two years.

Also, on the 30th of September Srs Dorothy Scesny (Conference), Maria Lazzaro (Society) and Terry Abraham (Union) completed their two-year period of service as the IPA Spirituality and Charism Committee. We wish them well and thank them sincerely for

their pioneering work during the last two years in service of the vision and direction of the 7th IPA Assembly. Grounding the work of IPA as a faith-based organisation in the riches of our founding and emerging stories is vital to the mission we serve.

Congratulations – Sr Joyce Meyer PBVM

It was with joy that we learned in August that Joyce Meyer (Aberdeen Presentations) – an active promoter of IPA from its inception in 1988 to the present time - was one of three sisters selected by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in the US (LCWR) for a Lifetime Achievement Award, the first such award for LCWR.

Always interested in international service, Joyce spent five years in the 1980s working with the Presentation Sisters in Zambia.



She served as secretary for the Zambia Association of Sisterhoods. Eager to develop local sisters, she made sure a Zambian sister replaced her when she returned to Aberdeen, South Dakota,

Joyce is a member of the Board

of Directors of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation that provides grants for sisters' projects worldwide. She is also a founder of Global Sisters Report (GSR), where she serves as a liaison for international sisters. In an interview with GSR, Sr Joyce said: *"I never expected that I'd be given an award for something I have such joy in doing. My years working with these sisters have been pure pleasure, a pure privilege."* Congratulations Joyce! Read more [here](#).

IPA Research Fellow Appointment

We are delighted to welcome Ella Rayment as IPA Research Fellow. Ella will pursue a six-month research project focussed on various aspects of the elimination of violence against women and children, such as systemic gender stereotyping and processes of transformation.

Ella has completed her master's



in international social development at the University of East Anglia. She is currently an intern with the NGO UN Commission on Social Development.

Ella will begin the research project for IPA on 1st October,

working in collaboration with our IPA NGO Representative, Dr Despoina Afroditi Milaki. It is intended that this research project will contribute greatly to progressing our advocacy on the elimination of violence against women and children (our IPA UN Advocacy Focus) in global context.

8th IPA Assembly Rescheduled



St John's, Newfoundland

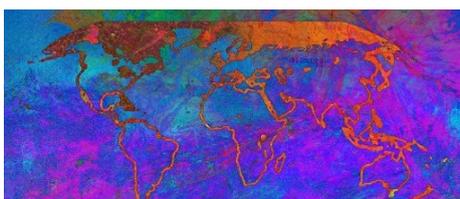
After much consultation, owing to the COVID-19 global pandemic, a decision has been taken to reschedule the 8th IPA Assembly to 18th – 23rd June 2023.

The venue will remain unchanged. The Assembly will be hosted by the Presentation Sisters Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada in St John's.



Care of the Earth: One of the Greatest Challenges of our Time

We are in the middle of a climate and biodiversity crisis. Our greenhouse gas emissions are putting our planet and billions of people at immediate risk. In August, when the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** published its report, it became clear beyond doubt that human activity has warmed the atmosphere, oceans and the earth. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, said it was a “code red for humanity”. The IPCC says “strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide are required urgently to limit the damage to the planet.” You can read the IPCC report [here](#).



In response to the report, the **Catholic Climate Covenant** said: “The faith community has a major role to play. Grounded in a faith that urges us to be co-creators with God, we must redouble our efforts to educate one another, advocate for policies that protect creation, and make environmental sustainability the heart of our institutions, communities and families”.

In November, the largest gathering of



world leaders, the **UN Climate Conference, COP26**, is scheduled to take place in Glasgow, Scotland. Read more [here](#).

One of the goals in our **IPA Strategy 2020-2022** is to honour and advance the rights of the earth. Our first commitment from the seventh IPA Assembly calls us to ‘Respond to the cry of the Earth and to people made poor by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’. As Presentation People, acting globally and locally in partnership with others, our priority is to create awareness in our global community about the current, critical challenges to the Earth, and to join in advocating at all levels for urgent Climate Action.

Laudato Si' Action Platform

At this kairos moment, we are responding to the call for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbours, and the Earth itself. Through the Laudato Si' Action Platform, we are walking the “path to renewal” together (LS 202, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Read more [here](#)).

A Faith Challenge to COP26...

Fr Seán McDonagh, a Columban Missionary Priest and ecologist, addressed the Scottish Laity Network on ‘A Faith Challenge to Cop26’. Speaking about biodiversity he said: “The oak is responsible for



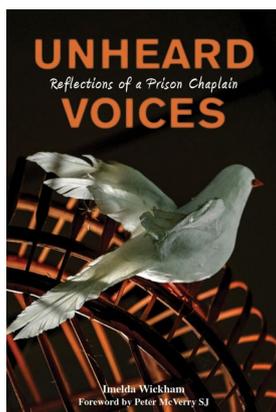
about 300 other species, which live because of the oak - from the birds to the insects... as a species [the oak] is wonderful in biodiversity.”

Unheard Voices

For any of us [IPA members and Presentation People], “Working for justice is not an optional extra but a constitutive element of who we are.”

Sr Imelda Wickham PBVM, North East Province, Ireland

Congratulations to Sr Imelda who has recently published a widely acclaimed reflection on her experience as a prison chaplain in Ireland. In ‘Unheard Voices: Reflections of a Prison Chaplain’, Sr Imelda provides her insight,



gained over 20 years, into life behind bars in one Irish penal institution.

Sr Imelda is an advocate for a Restorative Justice System

and in her book, she presents the argument that true justice lies in healing for all parties involved in criminal behaviour; she questions the effectiveness of our criminal justice system and the use of prisons to deal with addictions, mental health issues and homelessness. Her book also features the voices of prisoners and their reflections on the reality of life within a prison cell. We congratulate Sr Imelda - her commitment and courage have set a headline in the integration of ground-level service and ground-breaking advocacy. Read the publisher’s overview [here](#).

Mission in Thailand

In their joint update about their mission work in the Chiang Mai Diocese in Thailand, as part of our Philippines unit, Presentation Sisters Frances Hayes and Jancy Selvaraj write that despite the global pandemic they, “continue to rediscover the dynamism of Nano Nagle’s charism, unfolding for tribal migrants in northern Thailand so that they will have a future full of hope.”

They share that the mission there works with 21 villages and conducts regular visits and awareness programs in six of those villages. They work mainly with the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of the Betharram community – together their ministries include visitation, health care, religious instruction,



A village in the parish of Fang, in the Chiang Mai Diocese in Thailand, where the Presentation Sisters’ mission community operates (courtesy of Sr Frances Hayes).

programs on drug prevention and human trafficking, and enabling the people to gain Thai citizenship and access their rights. Their focus is the UN Sustainable Development Goals to empower the people to bring about the changes needed in health,



Jancy Selvaraj PBVM

education and gender equality. They also focus on the rights and opportunities for women and children, such as equitable education, and board/lodging and transport for children so they can access the mainstream school. Read the full update [here](#).

Madonna of Hope



Where is Hope?

Sr Heather Burke, Presentation Sister and artist, has painted a Madonna and Child in the context of Papua New Guinea culture and has called her work Madonna of Hope.

Read more about Sr Heather and Madonna of Hope [here.](#)

Save the Date!

IPA Webinar – Tuesday, 23rd November 2021
More information to follow...

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