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Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales  
The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants

APRIL  
2024



## From the International President's Desk

Let us welcome and rejoice in the Risen Lord. We can be glad that, with the Risen Christ, we can be assured that: when darkness overwhelms us, His dawn beckons. When fear paralyzes us, His touch will release us. When grief torments us, the peace of the Risen Christ enfolds us. When sad memories haunt us, His presence may heal us. We are living in the world where we see injustice prevailing in our societies and the violation of human rights is rife. Under all these circumstances we can rejoice in knowing that we can call on our risen Christ to ignite us. When apathy stagnates us, may the Lord's challenge renew us. When courage leaves us, may the Lord's spirit inspire us. When despair grips us, may our hope in Christ restore us.

I am aware that members of CICIAMS globally have experienced different challenges in the recent years. I am however encouraged by knowing that our organization is anchored by our faith in the Risen Christ. We shall overcome these challenges. The organization will not perish. Yes, we have financial challenges, yes we have been affected by illness and we have lost our relatives. I am, however, encouraged that the Lord is always with us.

I am always encouraged by the scripture in Psalm 61:2, *"from the end of the earth I will call you, when my heart is overwhelmed and weak, lead me to the rock that is higher than I (a rock that is too high to reach without your help)."* I hope you too can be encouraged by this verse. As we are preparing for the much anticipated congress in Kenya, yet facing financial challenges and being gripped by doubt, let us not be dismayed. Let us trust that the Lord will make a way for us. In order to get God's perspective, we need to spend quiet time with God --- going higher. Hike past ingratitude. Climb above doubt and discouragement. It is when we try to seek higher expectations and higher hopes that we can begin to get a new perspective.,

These challenges should represent good stress; as a demand we can readily cope with. Our prayers are with our colleagues in Kenya as they prepare for the congress. May all go well. Be assured that we are coming from all regions. See Christ in Every Person.

**BLESSINGS TO ALL THIS EASTER SEASON:** This flower is called Peristeria Elata, it's an orchid from Brazil, which carries the dove of Peace and only blossoms during Holy Week. They say, it should be sent from person to person sending the blessings of the Holy Spirit and Divine Providence to them. Blessings to everyone this Easter season! Amen

Shared by Geraldine McSweeney  
CICIAMS International President, 2016-2020



## Springtime and CICIAMS

by Fr. Ken Sleyman, MM, PhD, RN  
CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant



*Fr. Ken Sleyman, MM, RN  
CICIAMS International  
Ecclesiastical Assistant*

My dear fellow nurses, midwives and medical specialist members of CICIAMS happy Spring and a little belated Happy Easter to all of you. Spring and Easter express the same message that life is about constant renewal and a new beginning to become better people. We members of CICIAMS through our private lives and professional lives try to live this message by imitation of our brother and savior Jesus Christ.

The Bible reads like a patient chart of the human being. The Bible tells us that the etiology of our human pathology was selfishness and non-compliance to the Word of God, as seen in the lives of Adam and Eve. But the Bible also outlines a treatment plan for our cure by selflessness or love in compliance with the Word of God. Nurses, midwives and medical specialist members of CICIAMS have been called to be God's care-givers to our fellow human beings through instilling in them a sense of human dignity and value in themselves by showing them love. Jesus came to Earth 2000 years ago to revive our sense of purpose in life to love God, self and one another. Every word and action nurses, midwives and medical specialists can do to the improvement of the quality of life of the patients and mothers entrusted to our care contributes to the on-going mission of Jesus to save the world.

The mistake of Adam and Eve was a type of pride believing that they could save themselves by going against God. They were wrong. Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions all rooted in the Bible agree that we do not save ourselves, we save one another. This inter-dependency is our strength and reflects our common trust in God the Father to save us. Jesus demonstrated the cure of our human illness by dying into the arms of God the Father. It is our privilege as nurses, midwives and medical specialists as sons and daughters of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus to daily relive the scene on Calvary by holding in our own hands the suffering bodies of our patients and revive them through our own love. This is the dream of Jesus: "when you do an act of kindness to the least of my brothers or sisters you do it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

Holy Week and Easter contain so many examples for us CICIAMS members to improve our power of love. Holy Thursday shows Jesus washing his disciple's feet and after that he explains his love for them in giving bread and wine to nourish them as gifts of himself. On Good Friday in the Stations of the Cross we see Mary the mother of Jesus standing on the route to Calvary encouraging him. Also, we encounter Veronica bravely coming forward to wipe the sweat and blood off the face of Jesus. And we meet the women of Jerusalem sitting by the route supporting and praising Jesus for his passion to save humanity. Simon of Cyrene used his strength to help Jesus to carry his Cross to Calvary to save us. On Calvary again we meet Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and St. John the disciple standing at the foot of the Cross to comfort Jesus by their presence. After he had died Jesus' colleagues Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus used their religious and political influence with Pontius Pilate to take Jesus' broken body down from the Cross and prepare it for burial. On Easter morning Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, and Joanna went to the tomb of Jesus to anoint his body with spices. Also, Peter and St. John ran to the tomb, albeit empty to look for their friend Jesus. For me as a nurse and as a priest I see all these brave and loving friends of Jesus in the Passion story as his care-givers. All these Catholic ancestors of us from the 1<sup>st</sup> century show us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the many ways we too can help our own patients' suffering and loneliness by our acts of kindness and by our presence.

Finally, I want to talk a little bit about "priesthood." In our Catholic religion there are two versions of priesthood: the ordained priesthood; and the common priesthood. All of us through Baptism and Confirmation are part of the common priesthood. These forms of priesthood are discussed in the Catholic Catechism (CCC 1141 and 1268) and in the Document of Lumen Gentium (10) from the Vatican II documents. I chose to be an ordained priest from my nursing experiences in the common priesthood working with suffering people in the USA and South Korea who taught me the power of love for God, their families, friends, nurses, doctors and for themselves. My goal was to also be a source of Jesus' presence for others through being able to administer the 7 Sacraments. Unfortunately, nowadays I must limit myself to ordained priesthood work. But still when I consecrate the wine and touch the bread on the altar, my heart brings me back to reality and I do imagine I am

touching the suffering body of my brother Jesus like I did in the hospital. As nurses, midwives, and other medical specialists in CICIAMS we serve God in the common priesthood using our lives as a sacrifice to Him by helping the suffering bodies of other human beings who are the image and likeness of God our Father in Heaven and the face of Jesus our brother. We in CICIAMS are “like living stones built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifice acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). My brother and sister members of CICIAMS thank you for your sacrifices and efforts in the trenches of suffering and for those of you who suffer yourselves and sacrifice prayers for all of us to continue the work of our Society for the greater glory of God. I pray that this new Spring 2024 will blossom in you with renewed love and joy for the work entrusted to your hands. God bless you all and thank you for your loyalty to CICIAMS.

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## CICIAMS 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Region Congress

Executive Board (EB) and CICIAMS General Council Meeting (GCM)

**Enhancing Nursing and Midwifery Education for**

**Improved Health Care Services in the Spirit of Laudato Si and Synodality**

info@catholicnurseskenya.org; www.catholicnurseskenya.org

### Schedule:

5 August 2024 – Executive Board Meeting (EB), 1000-1700

6 August 2024 – General Council Meeting (GCM), 1000-1700

7 August 2024 – CICIAMS 7th African Regional Congress Opening Ceremony, Keynote Address and 1-2 papers (CICIAMS EB elections last session 7 August).

8 & 9 August 2024 – Presentations

10 August 2024 – Departure or Excursion

### Executive Board Meeting 5 August 2024, 1000-1700:

The CICIAMS Executive Board Meeting includes the 14 elected members of the Executive Board and the International Ecclesiastical Assistant.

### General Council Meeting 6 August 2024, 1000-1700:

The CICIAMS GCM is the supreme governing body of CICIAMS and consists of the full Executive Board and the Presidents of national associations/guilds or their representatives (Art. 8). GCM are held every two years at the World Congress and at one of the Region Congresses. The Member Associations are represented at the GCM by the association/guild presidents or their delegates. The president may be accompanied by one or several members of their Association. A total of four (4) will have a right to speak. Other members are welcomed to attend the GCM as observers with no right to speak. The members of the Executive Board who are not designated as official delegates of their Associations assist at the General Council as observers with the right to speak but do not have a vote.

Full Member Associations in good standing, with current paid annual subscription, have voting rights. Any Member Association with membership exceeding one thousand are entitled to a second vote.

**Venue:** Kenya School of Monetary Studies (accommodates 100), will add surrounding hotels.

**Host:** The Catholic Nurses Guild of Kenya

**Abstract submission email:** abstract2024@gmail.com

**For More Information or assistance:** The Catholic Nurses Guild of Kenya

Ms. Roseanne Nyabera (Convener) (+254) 0722 754 505 [alooroseanne@gmail.com](mailto:alooroseanne@gmail.com)

Dr. Anne Wawire Kabimba (+254) 0725 411 421 [annekabimba@gmail.com](mailto:annekabimba@gmail.com)

Grace Thirikwa, CNAK President [thirikwa.atienograce@gmail.com](mailto:thirikwa.atienograce@gmail.com)



**For Registration and Accommodation details:** Visit the CNAK website: [www.catholicnurseskenya.org](http://www.catholicnurseskenya.org)



Wednesday, May 1 2024, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. EDT  
Email us for the link to hear Dr. Moira McQueen speak about the implications of *Humanae Vitae* and *Donum Vitae* for Catholic nurses. This event is open to Catholic nurses worldwide through [the Family Committee of our parent association, CICIAMS](#).  
Our goal is to align professional practice with faith through prayer, education, service, and participation in public discourse. Please join us as a member through our website.



**CONTACT:** NACN-Canada PO Box 19525, Manulife PO, 55 Bloor St. W., Toronto ON M4W 3T9.  
**EMAIL:** [nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com](mailto:nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com) **WEB:** <https://catholicnurses.ca/>

## Humanae Vitae and Donum Vitae: Implications for Catholic Nurses



Fra Angelico, San Marco: Annunciation

**Wednesday, May 1 2024**  
**7:00 pm to 8:30 pm EDT**

**Moira McQueen, LL.B, M.Div., Ph.D**

**Executive Director, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute**

**For Zoom link: Email [nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com](mailto:nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com)**  
Sponsored by the National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada <https://catholicnurses.ca/>



**\*\*\*Email NOW\*\*\*** NACN-Canada for the link to hear  
Dr. Moira McQueen: [nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com](mailto:nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com)  
**Share with all members**

### Vatican Links

**Humane Vitae** (On Human Life), Pope  
St. Paul VI, 1968

[https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html)

**Donum Vitae** (The Gift of Life),  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
(CDF), 1987

[https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_19870222\\_r\\_espect-for-human-life\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19870222_r_espect-for-human-life_en.html)

### Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women (ENDOW)

8 week study on *Humane Vitae* designed for busy women. Read together the original document and discuss in a caring and sharing group.

Of Human Life



<https://www.endowgroups.org/store/adult-study-guides/>

### The New Charter for Health Care Workers

was updated and published in Italian by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health



Care Workers was published in 2017. On behalf of the Council, the United States National Catholic Bioethics Center translated the guideline into English and has made it available FREE of charge online at:  
<https://www.ncbcenter.org/store/newcharter>

# From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Europe Region

Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives / Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Pielęgniarek I Położnych Polskich (KSPiPP)



Polish Catholic Nurses who were in Wiązowna last year (June) for the unveiling of a statue of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, as a little girl. Bl. Hanna was baptized in St. Adalbert Catholic Church in Wiązowna and she used to go to the village as a youngster to stay with her grandparents in their summer villa.



Fr. Lech Dorobczyński, OFM, parish priest of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Warsaw with the monument of little Hanna in a park in Wiązowna, the town where Bl. Hanna was baptized at St. Adalbert Catholic Church on June 23, 1903.



Formation House of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska in Wiązowna, viewed during construction in October 2023. A young energetic parish priest is overseeing the construction.  
<https://www.parafiawiazowna.com/bl-hanna-chrzanowska>



House where Blessed Hanna was born on Senatorska Street in Warsaw. The parish priest placed the plaque and also brought Hanna's relics to the Church of St. Anthony of Padua on Senatorska Street 31/33, Warsaw.



Felician sisters' hospice in Warsaw, with both sisters and volunteers



Submitted by Helena Matoga, MA, RN  
 Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Canonization of Bl. Hanna Chrzanowska, RN

### St Catherine Labouré and care of the elderly

by Dr. Gosia Brykczyńska, PhD, RN, President, CICIAMS Europe Region



Dr. Gosia Brykczyńska,  
PhD, RN, OCV  
CICIAMS President,  
Europe Region

St Catherine Labouré, was a Daughter of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. She was born in 1806, and lived during turbulent times in France. As a young girl she had a dream in which St Vincent de Paul, said to her *My daughter, it's good to care for the sick...* She never forgot the dream or the words of the saint.

In order to join the congregation of the Daughters of Charity she needed to be literate, but due to family pressures and the early death of her mother she was never sent to school. While Catherine managed to quickly learn to read she had almost no formal education but this was given to her during her postulancy in Châtillon, where her superior said of her: *she is a good village girl, as St Vincent likes them to be.* She left Burgundy for Paris to start her novitiate, in April 1830 where she lived in the motherhouse at Rue du Bac for the next two years. It is there while still a novice, that she had a series of visions, including one in November 1830, when she conversed with the Blessed Virgin Mary and was given the mission of spreading the devotion of the miraculous medal.

Only Sister Catherine's confessor knew about the visions and the true identity of the Sister of the miraculous medal. All activities surrounding the miraculous medal were done without anyone knowing who actually received the visions. Meanwhile, on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1931 she left the seminary (novitiate) and was sent to Reuilly (a suburb of Paris) where she was to work in a retirement home with the frail elderly,



Incorrupt body of St. Catherine Labouré

for the next forty years. She worked in the Enghein Hospice - as it was called - and almost immediately set about caring for the sick, as a severe epidemic of cholera broke out in 1832.

In the Enghein Hospice, she started her service to the elderly by working in the kitchen and looking after the chickens while also tending to the kitchen garden - work familiar to her from her farming days in Burgundy. She was also responsible for giving the old men and residents their meals and making sure there was always enough food. Initially she also looked after the residents' washing, ironing and even mending their clothes; but soon her winning way with the residents meant she was asked to also nurse them.

It was known in the home that Sister Catherine would always stay with those who were dying, praying with them until they died; she would combine her prayers with attention to their physical needs. The elderly residents and the local children appreciated her caring ways, and even though some of the sisters tended to be harsh with her, the residents and local children adored her. Eventually Sister Catherine was given charge of running the whole home. The total care of the frail elderly became her responsibility. While her dedicated care of the elderly was noticed and appreciated by the sisters and the residents, it was not until the very end of her life that they found out that she had conversed with the Blessed Virgin Mary. She died on New Year's Eve 1876.

After her beatification in 1933 her incorrupt body was transferred from Reuilly to the sisters' chapel on Rue du Bac. There, one can see the chair where Our Blessed Lady sat as she talked with Catherine and one can pray at St Catherine's shrine.

I have been going on pilgrimage to the chapel of the Daughters of Charity in Paris for many years, and the more I pray there the more I enter into the mystery of St Catherine's humility and quiet dedication to caring for the elderly. No wonder René Laurentin (the noted French biographer of St Bernadette and Marian scholar) called her the saint of silence. I pray that she will teach us nurses how to care generously for the elderly, and inspire us to be mindful of their needs. May she inspire a new generation of nurses and carers to work with joy and compassion with the elderly, especially those who are residents in care homes and hospices.



Chair in which the Blessed Virgin Mary sat when speaking with St. Catherine Labouré



Teresa Lynch,  
President ACNEW

## The False Promises of Assisted Suicide

by Teresa Lynch, President,  
Association of Catholic Nurses for England and Wales (ACNEW)

All attempts for a change in the law to allow assisted suicide in the UK have failed. Despite opinion polls appearing to show widespread support for assisted suicide to be legalised, Parliamentarians report having been inundated by communications from those who are totally opposed to a change in UK law. This was revealed by the overwhelming defeat of the Marris Bill on Assisted Suicide in 2015 and the defeat of the Meacher Bill in 2021.

Further attempts for a change in the law, both in Scotland and England may also fail if the public watch carefully what is happening in places where assisted suicide has been legalised.

Based on reports from states and countries where it is legal, there are many reasons why assisted suicide is based on false promises and impacts on the ethics of care.

### Autonomy

This is a complex concept which can be interpreted by some as a means of granting patients the right to decide for themselves when and how they die. Consequences of exercising this right to autonomy do not necessarily benefit patients and can compromise the conscience of health professionals whose vocation is to care, not to help their patients kill themselves.

It is becoming increasingly known that in countries where assisted suicide or euthanasia are now legal, people who want to exercise their autonomy are vulnerable, can suffer, and experience significant problems getting good care.

### Quality of life

The disabled lobby is generally very opposed to a change in the law. People need awareness that a consistent and sad reason for requests for assisted suicide is a fear of being a burden on both family members and carers.

### Safeguards and ‘the slippery slope’

Baroness Ilora Finlay, a Palliative care expert made an important contribution to the debate on the most recent, Meacher bill of 2021, stating that the bill: *won't solve suffering nor improve care*. The Baroness has previously commented on the Meacher Bill:

*The safeguards were effectively meaningless. What appear at first to be safeguards are nothing of the sort, but instead are vague and empty assurances that will provide, at best, only a symbolic function. They present an unworkable ideal which will be virtually impossible to codify, and which will be frequently and easily circumvented, misinterpreted, ignored, overlooked, and rejected before they are replaced or expanded, as has been witnessed in every other jurisdiction which imagined that assisted suicide or euthanasia could be contained.<sup>1</sup>*

### Dying patients will be allowed a peaceful death.

The Meacher Bill had taken no account of potential complications in the assisted suicide process. Lady Finlay had informed the House of Lords in 2021 about the problematic methods with legalised assisted suicide.

Oregon, where suicide is legal, and is often promoted as the successful example of assisted suicide, has reported the following complications:

- Over half of patients who underwent assisted suicide took more than three-quarters of an hour to die.
- In some cases, death took more than four days.
- The eight patients who reawakened after receiving their drugs did not repeat the experience.<sup>2</sup>

Such complications have inevitable psychological consequences for all involved and need acknowledgement. These findings show the fine line between assisted suicide and euthanasia which can become non-existent once suicide is legalised.

Baroness Finlay reminded the Lords in her speech in 2021 that the assisted suicide (Meacher Bill) did not focus on the need for bridging gaps in palliative care.

## Patients will be deprived of Palliative care.

Research from Canada reveals the negative impact that assisted suicide has had on Palliative care treatment. In their 2020 qualitative study, Matthews et al., found that assisted dying had adversely affected palliative care.<sup>3</sup> Both the patients and the palliative care providers found this distressing.<sup>4</sup>

## Hospice defunding for conscientious objection.

There is evidence of hospice de-funding *in Canada* of some hospices wishing to maintain ethical standards to prohibit use of legalised assisted suicide. Lady Finlay also reported troubling statistics in *Belgium*, where assisted suicide is legal and two-thirds of all dying people do not access specialist palliative care.<sup>5</sup>

## Assisted Suicide is not palliative care.

Patients who may never have considered ending their lives before, may feel pressure to do so if assisted suicide is legal and their doctor offers this as a ‘treatment’ option. Such a scenario would fundamentally alter the patient – carer relationship.

## Normalisation of Suicide

Suicide is so often a devastating event for families. It should be acknowledged that the highest rate of death for young and middle-aged men in the UK is from suicide.<sup>6</sup> The anticipated increase in suicide rates in the UK (currently 115 suicides per week), would demoralise the people involved and society as a whole.

## Expectations of Parliament and health professionals

Parliament’s overriding duty is to protect the public. Hard cases make for bad laws. Promotion of Palliative care is all our responsibility as part of our duty of care.

Emerging evidence from the Netherlands reports the huge emotional toll, such a changed role can have on those expected to carry out the law, acting as agents of the state.<sup>7</sup>

The desperate and determined proponents of assisted suicide, although they are small in number, appear to have a lack of awareness and sensitivity to the expected change in role for those who entered the caring professions to offer a non- defeatist, positive approach to patient needs and to protect their lives.

We must not engender or perpetuate fear in patients of being a burden regardless of the economic climate. Our role is to provide holistic care, nurturing, protecting, and promoting hope in our patients. We must not allow the perpetuation of the false promises of assisted suicide (which is against all the Abrahamic faith beliefs) at a most vulnerable time in patients’ lives.

## References

1. Caldwell, S. (2021). Bishops urge Catholics to act to stop Meacher Bill. *Catholic Herald*. 25 August.
2. Finlay, I. (2021) Assisted Dying Bill, 2nd reading, *Hansard*, 22 October. Available at: <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/lord/baroness-finlay-ofllandaff/debate/2021--22/lords/lords-chamber/assisted-dying-bill-hl>
3. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejm200002243420805>
4. <https://care.org.uk/cause/assisted-suicide/whats-wrong-with-the-assisted-dying-bill>
5. Mac Donald. G. (2021) “This Bill WON’T solve suffering nor improve care. ‘Our Duty of Care’”. 12 November.
6. CALM - Campaign against living miserably (2020). *The ONS figures on suicide rates for 2020*. 7 September.
7. Trufin, F. (2021). In: Devos, T. *Euthanasia: Searching for the full story. Experiences and insights of Belgian Doctors and Nurses*. Springer.

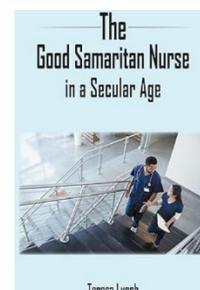
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## Publications by Members

This newest publication is from Teresa Lynch, President, ACNEW.

*Christian and other nurses in the hostile modern and increasingly secular age may feel helpless in an environment that created the Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) and continues to foster end of life 'care' through sedation and dehydration. The book aims to enlighten both health professionals and the public alike to their rights of conscience and knowledge of the needs of vulnerable patients whether related to ethical care or guidance and the law which can affect them.*

Published by Grosvenor House Publishing and available on Amazon (book and kindle form).



## Nurse Saints, Blessed, Venerable & Servants of God

On the **14th March 2024** Pope Francis declared that **Sister Christophora and companions** are to be declared martyrs. He authorized their decree of martyrdom. The sisters are from the Congregation of St Catherine and were killed by Soviet soldiers in 1945 in Poland and in the USSR. More news about beatification when the date will be known. **The sisters were nurses and hospital workers.**

**Sister Maria Alphonsa (Rose) Hawthorne** (1851-1926) who founded the Dominican Sisters of St Rose of Lima, who care for cancer patients and run hospices, has been declared **Venerable** - a step closer to sainthood. Now Rome will be looking at miracles attributed to her intercession. **Rose Hawthorne trained as a nurse in NYC.** Gosia Brykczynska, who studied in New York, visited her home in Hawthorne, NY (up the Hudson valley). There the sisters told her then - over forty years ago - that all they want to do, in fact all they do, is care for cancer patients. They don't do any other work.

**Janina Wojnarowska** (from Chrzanow, Krakow Archdiocese), a registered nurse who worked in the community, was declared Venerable last year. She knew Bl Hanna Chrzanowska, the first lay Catholic registered nurse to be beatified, and co-operated with her on Parish Nursing and carried out similar work in Chrzanow. She was also a mystic and a rather good poet!

Servant of God **Stanislawa Leszczynska** (1896-1974), midwife, also known as the Angel of Auschwitz. On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, March 11, 2024, the beatification process at the diocesan level was completed.

## From the Chair, Statutes Committee Election 2024

Nominations have been received for all positions except the Representative to the United Nations (UN/DGC/ECOSOC and UNICEF). The deadline for all open positions on the CICIAMS Executive Board is April 28, 2024:



Jane Buncuan, Chair,  
Statutes Committee

International President (2024-2028)  
Treasurer/Financial Manager (2024-2028)  
Region Presidents:

Africa (2024-2026, then 4 year terms resume)  
Asia (2024-2028),  
Europe (2024-2028) /  
Pan America (2024-2028)

Chairpersons:

Ethics (2024-2026, then 4 year term resumes),  
Midwives (2024-2028),  
Professional (2024-2028),  
Statutes (2024-2026, then 4 year term resumes)

**Representative to the United Nations  
(UN/DGC/ECOSOC and UNICEF) (2024-2028).**

\*\*\*Nominees will need to provide:

- 1) Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume,
- 2) Nomination forms signed by national president and
- 3) a brief description of their vision and how they will fulfill their role.

Link to forms:

- 1) Application Form for Membership of CICIAMS Executive Board (PDF)
- 2) 2024 CICIAMS Elections President Recommendations.

<http://ciciams.org/ciciamsworldplanningcttee.html>

A list of duties is also available at the above link. Send all documents to the Secretary General at:

[ciciamsinternational12@gmail.com](mailto:ciciamsinternational12@gmail.com)

## Are you a Nurse who is Catholic or a Catholic Nurse?

On August 27, 1935 at the International Catholic Nurses' World Congress held in Rome, His Holiness Pope Pius XI addressed the 2000 nurses assembled at Castel Gandolfo. After expressing concerns about paganism and materialism penetrating everywhere, His Holiness stated, *"Therefore you must be first and foremost and at all costs, full of the spirit of spirituality, of Christianity, of the Christian supernatural... We can never give to others that which we do not ourselves possess... And the treasure which your assistance must bring to the infirm is precisely that of spirituality, of the supernatural."* He expressed the importance of nurses also bringing material bodily comfort and having technical expertise. However, first and foremost we must possess the Christian supernatural ourselves. Here are 5 Catholic disciplines recommended by Our Lady. Might we adopt some or all of these, to help us deepen our prayer life?

Scripture / Eucharist / Rosary / Fasting / Confession  
(Daily Reading) / (Every Sunday) / (Daily) / (Twice weekly) / (Monthly)

## From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Asia Region

日本カトリック看護協会 Japan Catholic Nurses Association (JCNA)

Japan Catholic Nurses Association (JCNA) – Japan's Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster Support

By Hiroko SHIMIZU, R.N., Ph.D., President of Japan Catholic Nursing Association

2024年1月1日の新年の喜びを祝う日本の能登半島の晩餐の夕べに震度7の地震が襲った。石川県の報道によれば、能登半島に集中して2024年4月2日の時点で死者245名、全壊、半壊、一部損壊の被害を受けた住宅は、石川県内では7万6114棟が確認された。石川県内の市や町が設けた避難所では、7400人以上が避難生活を余儀なくされている。発災当時の避難者3万4000人以上であったピーク時と比べると4分の1を下回ったが、断水の長期化や仮設住宅への入居待ちなどにより避難所での生活が長期化している被災者が多い。日本のカトリック名古屋教区の2つの教会は、被災地にあり、建物損壊の被害を受けた。

カリタスジャパンは、被災後まもなく司祭らが被災地に入り、被災調査とカトリック幼稚園を会場に食堂を開店し、そこで祈りの場を拓いた。2011年東日本大震災で被災者支援を行ったJCNA東北支部副支部長南原さん（カリタス南相馬所長）はカリタスのメンバーとして支援に駆け付けた。JCNAではHPにおいて募金を呼び掛け、国内の会員からの寄付金を集めている。 <http://jcna.info/donation.html>

今回の被害は、泥状化現象や崩落による道路寸断が多く、ボランティア支援に制限が生じた。半島のような道路の少ない地理的条件下では十分な支援がはいることさえ困難である。そのため継続的な支援が必要である。

An earthquake with a magnitude of 7 on the Japanese seismic scale struck on the evening of the New Year's celebration in Japan's Noto Peninsula on January 1, 2024.

It was according to a report from Ishikawa Prefecture, as of April 2, 2024, 245 people had died and 76,114 houses in Ishikawa Prefecture had been destroyed, partially destroyed, or partially destroyed, concentrated in the Noto Peninsula.

More than 7,400 people are forced to live in evacuation centers set up by cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture. This is less than one-fourth of the peak number of 34,000 evacuees at the time of the disaster, but due to prolonged water outages and waiting times to move into temporary housing, the number of evacuees has been extended for a long time. Many of these damages resulted in roads being cut off due to siltation and collapse, which limited volunteer support.

In geographical conditions like the peninsula, where there are few roads, it is difficult to provide enough support. Therefore, continuous support is necessary.

Two churches in Japan's Catholic Diocese of Nagoya were in the disaster area and sustained structural damage. Immediately after the disaster, Caritas Japan's priests went to the disaster area to investigate the damage and open a cafeteria at a Catholic kindergarten, creating a place for prayer.

Mrs. Nanbara (Director of Caritas Minamisoma) of the JCNA Tohoku Branch, who supported victims of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, rushed to help as a member of Caritas.

We call for donations on Japan CNA's website and collects donations from domestic members. <http://jcna.info/donation.html>

On April 3rd, another large earthquake occurred in Taiwan. We will be able to exchange information and pray for each other in the event of a disaster.



JCNA members helping clean up the disaster area in early April 2024



Damage to the urban area in Noto, January 27, 2024



Memorial prayer in front of a Catholic kindergarten affected area, January 27, 2024



Famous fish market after untouched big fire in early April 2024

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## From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Asia Region

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### Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild

The Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild organized a Lenten retreat in March at St. John Vianney Hospital. Thirty-seven (37) nurses attended. Reverend Father Srijon, a Jesuit priest from Sri Lanka presented a conference on the connection of the human body with spirit. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was made available to all participants followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Eucharistic celebration and then Stations of the Cross. At the conclusion, the fast ended with a community lunch in the hospital cafeteria.

The Bangladesh Catholic Church opened the 20-bed hospital in the heart of the capital Dhaka to provide low-cost, high-quality medical services for all, especially poor people. It started operation in Tajaon on November 11, 2019. The three-story facility is an initiative of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Bangladesh and funded by the Archdiocese of Dhaka.



Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered by Rev. Fr. Srijon, S.J.



Nurses at the Lenten Retreat  
St. John Vianney Hospital  
Tajaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh

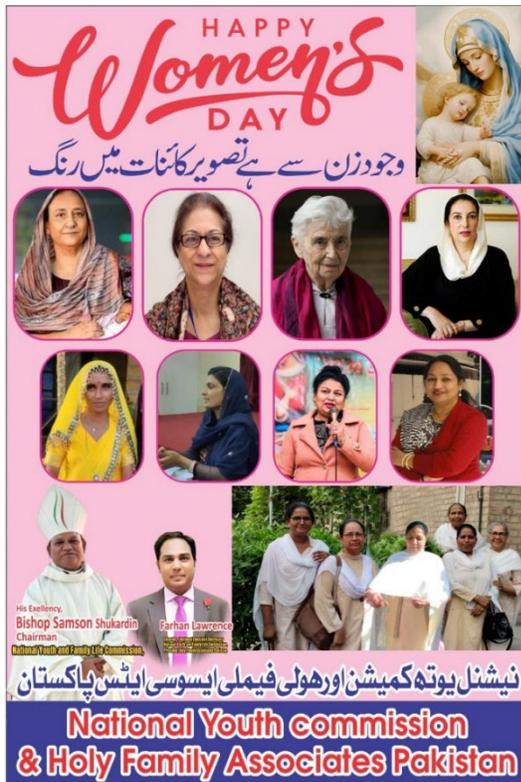
## From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Asia Region

From the Korea Catholic Nurses Association (KCNA)

The Korea Catholic Nurses Association (KCNA) hosted the 2023 Pilgrimage on November 4-5, 2023 at Jung Ha-sang Education Center. The Theme: *His love endures forever* (Psalms 118:1). One hundred and sixty eight (168) nurses attended.



From the CICIAMS Pakistan



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# From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Asia Region

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## Catholic Nurses Guild – India (CNG-India)

Nurses gatherings, Recollection, Distributors of grains and oil to poor people



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## From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Asia Region

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Catholic Nurses Guild – India (CNG-India)

Sr. Sarla Macwan, F.C., MSN, MBA received an award from the Mumbai Gynecologist society for her commitment towards women's health



Catholic Nurses Guild of Singapore



Catholic Nurses Guild of Singapore  
at the annual Social Mission Mass at  
Agape Village in Toa Payoh  
January 13, 2024

*"When we bring the love of Jesus to the marginalized and the outcast - when the Lord touches them - they will change and reorder their lives, not according to how we think it should be, but how God wants them to live." – William Cardinal Goh*



## From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Asia Region

### Catholic Nurses Guild of Singapore



*“We can be sure that for those who do not come to church – when they listen to Jesus or hear the hymns and sermons, their hearts are moved, and they yearn to return to God. Many are waiting for someone to assure them they will be accepted, forgiven, and unconditionally loved.”*

He cautioned those present not to create a *“sub-culture of judgement”* in the Church where only those deemed *“good”* Catholics could serve.

*“We must love and serve even those who are difficult to love or work with,”* he said. *“Rope them in to help reach out to the poor and vulnerable – in spite of their lack of consistency in life, many are good people with a heart for the poor.”*

From Excerpts from William Cardinal Goh at annual Social Mission Mass, Catholic News, Singapore (online)

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## From National Catholic Nurses Association and Guilds – Asia Region

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### The Catholic Nurses in Malaysia

The 52<sup>nd</sup> CNGM AGM and Retreat held on 28 September to 1 October 2023  
at Gethsemane Garden Bunan Gega, Serian in the State of Sarawak



Some of the participants



ExcOs & OCs with Bro Gerald, our Retreat Master & Fr Mark, our National Chaplain



Listening attentively to Bro Gerard's talks



Reciting the Rosary

This is the event where Catholics nurses and other allied health professional from all over Malaysia get together.

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### In the Federal Territory of Labuan

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CNG Labuan organized Christmas Carols in the hospital



CNG Labuan visiting sick members

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### In the State of Perak

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CNG Taiping involved with the Cancer Screening and HPV Vaccination Program on 17.03.24



CNG Taiping visiting the elderly and homebound on 18.03.24

**In the State of Sarawak**



Members in Bau conducted the health screening after mass 28.01.24



Members in Sarikei assisted the Blood Donation Campaign on 28.01.24



Members in Miri organized mass for patients at Miri Hospital on 24.02.24



Members in Kuching organised the Lent Reflection by Fr Mark on 24.02.24



Medic Standby Team during the Divine Healing Retreat at BSC, Kuching on 29.02 to 02.03.24



Health screening organized by members in Sibiu on 03.03.24



Recruitment drive by CNG Miri on 11.03.24



Members in Mukah involved with packing and distributing food baskets to the needy on 15.03.24



Medic Standby Team in Bau for the Lenten Walk on 16.03.24



A mass service for health care workers led CNG Serian on 06.04.24

**In the State of Sabah**



CNG Kiulu celebrating IND and mass service on 28.05.23. The members had a meeting with CNGM's President.



A Retreat to Ranau organised by CNGKK, 11 to 12.11.23. CNGM's President and Vice President (Sabah) met the Catholic nurses in Ranau



Health screening by CNG Tenom on 19.01.24



Health screening by CNG Sandakan on 29.01.24

Catholic Nurses Guild of Sandakan conducted a Blood Donation Campaign on March 17, 2024 to help thalassemia patients and raise awareness about blood donation, part of their mission to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

<https://www.dioceseofsandakan.org/2024/04/catholic-nurses-guild-of-sandakan-advocates-for-blood-donation-campaign/>



CNG KK organized a Lenten Retreat at Holy Family Residence Purak on 9 to 10.03.24



CNG Keningau organized the Mass in conjunction with World of the Sick on 11.02.24

**In the State of Malacca**



Members organised health screening



CNG Melaka. A moment with the retired Sisters

Since the mco was up-lifted, we are back in full force. We are multi-tasking. In addition, being a carer, we are the cleaner, gardener, teacher or the cook, etc. when there is in need. From time to time we are also called to attend a meeting at our Parish Office especially when it's related to pastoral care. We will continue to serve God and care for those around us.

Compiled by Jane Buncuan



President, CNG Malaysia

A Worldwide Call to Prayer – Return to Our Lady

Prayer of the Nine-Month Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe proposed by Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke  
To be prayed daily throughout the nine-month novena from March 12 to December 12, 2024



O Virgin Mother of God, we fly to your protection and beg your intercession against the darkness and sin, which ever more envelope the world and menace the Church. Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, gave you to us as our mother as He died on the Cross for our salvation. So too, in 1531, when darkness and sin beset us, He sent you, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Tepayac to lead us to Him



Who alone is our light and our salvation.

Through your apparitions on Tepayac and your abiding presence with us on the miraculous mantle of your messenger, Saint Juan Diego, millions of souls converted to faith in your Divine Son. Through this novena and our consecration to you, we humbly implore your intercession for our daily conversion of life to Him and the conversion of millions more who do not yet believe in Him. In our homes and in our nation, lead us to Him Who alone wins the victory over sin and darkness in us and in the world.

Unite our hearts to your Immaculate Heart so that they may find their true and lasting home in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ever guide us along the pilgrimage of life to our eternal home with Him. So may our hearts, one with yours, always trust in God's promise of salvation, in His never failing mercy toward all who turn to Him with a humble and contrite heart. Through this novena and our consecration to you, O Virgin of Guadalupe, lead all souls in America and throughout the world to your Divine Son in Whose name we pray. Amen.

Prière neuvaine Notre Dame de Guadalupe cardinal Burke  
Prière de la Neuvaine des neuf mois à Notre-Dame de Guadalupe  
du 12 mars au 12 décembre 2024

Ô Sainte Vierge, Mère de Dieu, nous nous réfugions sous votre protection et implorons votre intercession face aux ténèbres et au péché qui recouvrent chaque jour davantage le monde et menacent l'Église. Vous nous avez été donnée comme mère par votre Fils, Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ, alors qu'Il mourait sur la Croix pour notre salut. De même, en 1531, alors que les ténèbres et le péché nous accablaient, Il vous a envoyée sur le Tepeyac sous le vocable de Notre-Dame de Guadalupe, afin que vous nous conduisiez à Celui qui, seul, est notre lumière et notre salut.

Par vos apparitions sur le Tepeyac et par votre présence constante à nos côtés sur le manteau miraculeux de votre messager, saint Juan Diego, des millions d'âmes se sont converties à la foi en votre Divin Fils. Nous implorons humblement votre intercession, par cette neuvaine et par notre consécration à votre personne, pour que, chaque jour, nous nous convertissions à Lui, et que des millions d'autres personnes qui ne croient pas encore se convertissent à Lui. Conduisez-nous, dans nos foyers et dans notre nation, vers Celui qui, seul, remporte la victoire sur le péché et les ténèbres qui sont en nous et dans le monde.

Unissez nos cœurs à votre Cœur Immaculé afin qu'ils puissent trouver leur demeure véritable et définitive dans le Cœur Très Sacré de Jésus. Soyez toujours notre guide, tout au long du pèlerinage de cette vie, vers notre demeure éternelle auprès de Lui. Que nos cœurs unis au vôtre aient toujours confiance en la promesse divine du salut, et en la miséricorde sans faille de Dieu envers tous ceux qui se tournent vers lui avec un cœur humble et contrit. Par cette neuvaine et par notre consécration, ô Vierge de Guadalupe, conduisez toutes les âmes d'Amérique et du monde entier à votre Divin Fils, au nom duquel nous vous prions. Amen.

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke  
Prière à réciter chaque jour pendant les neuf mois de la neuvaine,  
du 12 mars au 12 décembre 2024.



MOSAÏQUE DE NOTRE DAME DE GUADALUPE CRÉÉE PAR L'ATELIER DE MOSAÏQUE DU VATICAN POUR L'ÉGLISE DU SANCTUAIRE DE NOTRE DAME DE GUADALUPE À LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.



Oración  
de la Novena a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe  
Del 12 de marzo al 12 de diciembre de 2024

Oh Virgen Madre de Dios, acudimos a tu protección e imploramos tu intercesión contra las tinieblas y el pecado que envuelven cada vez más al mundo y amenazan a la Iglesia. Tu Hijo, Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, te dio como Madre nuestra al morir en la Cruz por nuestra salvación. Así también, en 1531, cuando las tinieblas y el pecado nos asediaban, Él te envió, como Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, al Tepeyac, para conducirnos a Aquel que es nuestra única luz y nuestra salvación.

Por tus apariciones en el Tepeyac y tu presencia permanente con nosotros en la tilma milagrosa de tu mensajero, San Juan Diego, millones de almas se convirtieron a la fe en tu Divino Hijo. Por medio de esta novena y de nuestra consagración a ti, imploramos humildemente tu intercesión para nuestra cotidiana conversión de vida a Él y la conversión de millones más que aún no creen en Él. En nuestros hogares y en nuestra nación, condúcenos hacia Aquel que es el único que obtiene la victoria sobre el pecado y las tinieblas en nosotros y en el mundo.

Une nuestros corazones a tu Corazón Inmaculado para que encuentren su verdadero y duradero hogar en el Sacratísimo Corazón de Jesús. Guíanos siempre a lo largo de la peregrinación de esta vida hacia nuestro hogar eterno con Él. Que nuestros corazones, uno con el tuyo, confíen siempre en la promesa de salvación de Dios, en su misericordia inagotable, para todos los que se vuelven a Él con un corazón humilde y contrito. Por medio de esta novena y de nuestra consagración a ti, oh Virgen de Guadalupe, conduce a todas las almas de América y del mundo a tu Divino Hijo, en cuyo nombre te lo pedimos. Amén.

Cardenal Raymond Leo Burke  
Para rezar diariamente durante los nueve meses de la novena,  
del 12 de marzo al 12 de diciembre de 2024.



IMAGEN EN MOSAICO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE CREADA POR EL ESTUDIO DE MOSAICOS DEL VATICANO PARA LA IGLESIA DEL SANTUARIO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.



## From the Vatican – Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life & Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

### 4<sup>th</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, July 28, 2024



Béatrice van Dorsser  
CICIAMS Rep. to  
CRESCENDO

The IV World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday, 28 July 2024. The theme chosen by the Holy Father – **“Do not cast me off in my old age”**

(cf. *Psalm 71:9*) – is meant to call attention to the fact that, sadly,

loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture.

In this year of preparation for the Jubilee, which the Holy Father wishes to be devoted to prayer, the theme of the World Day is taken from Psalm 71, the plea of an elderly person who reflects on the story of his friendship with God.

By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that – as Scripture states – “It is not good for man to be alone” (*Gen 2:18*).

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life invites parishes, dioceses, associations and ecclesial communities from all over the world to prepare spiritually and with pastoral initiatives for the Day. See [www.laityfamilylife.va](http://www.laityfamilylife.va) for a special pastoral kit.

### Theme 2024

#### A Great “symphony” of Prayer

In his February 11, 2022 letter to Msgr. Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization for the Jubilee 2025, His Holiness Pope Francis expressed a great desire that 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee of 2025, be devoted to a great “symphony” of prayer. He stated:

*In this time of preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great “symphony” of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it. Prayer as the expression of a single “heart and soul” (cf. Acts 4:32), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread. Prayer that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart. Prayer as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity. In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God’s grace and to make the “Our Father,” the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples.*

The complete letter is available at:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2022/documents/20220211-fisichella-giubileo2025.html>

### Jubilee Year 2025



The motto for the jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope” is available in multiple languages on the jubilee site:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/logo.html>

The Papal Bull for the Jubilee year is expected to be published March 25, 2024, the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord.

The Annual CICIAMS Executive Board meeting, required by CICIAMS statutes, will be held 3-4 April 2025 in conjunction with the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers which is on 5 April 2025.

National Associations who would like to attend the Jubilee should register at the website below and make travel and hotel arrangements early.

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025.html>

Information: [info@iubilaeum2025.va](mailto:info@iubilaeum2025.va)

### The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by  
the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and  
the whole cosmos in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our  
Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

W.A.S.H. in Catholic Health Care Facilities Initiative  
(Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

World Water Day for Peace – March 22, 2024 – Theme: *Water for Peace*



Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, FMA  
Secretary  
Dicastery for Promoting  
Integral Human Development

In 1993 the United Nations initiated World Water Day to be held annually on March 22, to tackle the global water crisis which affects over 2 billion people who are living without access to safe water. The Vatican is participating in this goal through the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD) WASH Project with a goal to bring water to all Catholic Health Care Facilities.

On the occasion of the 2024 World Water Day, the Secretary, DPIHD, Sister Alessandra Smerilli, FMA, stressed that *“water, as we well know, is irreplaceable and indispensable for the integral human development of all, and has a great symbolic richness.”* Remembering World Water Day, which this year the United Nations has chosen as its theme *“Water for Peace,”* Sr. Smerilli said that *“the fact that more than two billion people – for various reasons – do not have access to safe, constant and adequate drinking water is a great shame for humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”*

For this reason, the DPIHD Secretary encouraged us to give evangelical witness and not be content with a social message because, as the Pope said, *“if, as Christians, we commit ourselves to justice and human dignity, we cannot hide that we do so because we recognize Christ in the poor, the forgotten and those whose natural environment is seriously damaged, and because we discover the immense dignity granted to these people by God the Father, who loves them infinitely.”*



**WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), DPIHD**

Recently, work was completed to improve hygiene conditions, and access to water, sanitation and waste water treatment (WASH activities) in four health centers of the Church in Malawi. The Church is very committed in facilitating adequate water, sanitation and hygiene conditions, and the Dicastery can facilitate contacts between those who wish to help and those who can intervene locally with equipment, maintenance, construction and training. The Liberia Editrice Vaticana (LEV) published the contributions of many of the speakers who participated in the five webinars held in March 2021. All the texts are inspired by *Aqua fons vitae guidelines* and address issues related to peace, cooperation and WASH challenges.

**CICIAMS Participation**



Dr. Anne Wawire Kabimba, PhD, RN  
Chair, Midwives Committee

Through Dr. Anne Wawire Kabimba, PhD, RN, Chair Midwives Committee and CICIAMS Representative to Catholic Inspired NGOs (CINGO) and Diana Ruzicka, MSN, MA, MA, RN, CICIAMS Secretary General, CICIAMS participated in one of the webinars held in March 2021.

Subsequently information on the DPIHD WASH project was provided to nurses throughout the world in an article published in the Summer 2023

CICIAMS News. Dr. Kabimba will present on WASH at the 7<sup>th</sup> CICIAMS Africa Region Congress to be held in Kenya, 7-9 August 2024. If your National Association/Guild members are interested in establishing access to fresh water in your health care facility contact: [ciciamsinternational12@gmail.com](mailto:ciciamsinternational12@gmail.com). The Secretary General will place you in contact with DPIHD staff responsible for this project.

**For Care of Water**  
*“I ask God, each one of the faithful, as well as all people of goodwill, to increase our commitment to care and pray, with and through Sister Water to be ever better custodians and defenders of water, God’s sacred gift.”*  
Bishop Rodriguez Vega,  
Archbishop of Diocese of Yucatan, Mexico

## Calendar of Events



-----2024-----

57<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace (Vatican) – 1 Jan  
Word of God Sunday (Vatican) - 21Jan  
“*Remain in my Word*” (John 8:31)  
71<sup>th</sup> World Leprosy Day – 28 Jan 2024  
5<sup>th</sup> World NTD (Neglected Tropical

Diseases) Day, 30 January 2024

- 32<sup>nd</sup> World Day of the Sick-11Feb2024 (Vatican)
- 17<sup>th</sup> World Rare Disease Day – 28 Feb 2024
- World Water Day – 22 Mar 2024 (UN est. 1993  
Goal #6: water and sanitation for all by 2030).  
Vatican DPIHD project: WASH (Water, Sanitation &  
Hygiene) to all Catholic healthcare facilities.
- World Health Day (est. by the 1<sup>st</sup> World Health  
Assembly in 1948) – 7 April 2024
- International Nurses Day –Friday, 10 May 2024
- 37<sup>th</sup> World No Tobacco Day (WHO)–31May2024
- Annual Meeting of Moderators of International  
Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesiastical  
Movements and New Communities, Dicastery for  
Laity, Family & Life, Synod Hall, Thursday, 13 June  
2024, Rome
- World Refugee Day (UN) – 20 June 2024
- 26 June 2024 – International Day against Drug Abuse  
and Illicit Trafficking (UN)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 28  
July 2024 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of July, close to the feast of Sts. Joachim  
and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus) (Vatican)
- 2024 August 5-9 – CICIAMS 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Region  
Congress, Nairobi, Kenya\*  
5Aug – Executive Board Meeting  
6Aug – General Council Meeting (All National  
Association/Guild Presidents or their delegates)  
7-9Aug – Regional Congress  
10Aug – Optional Excursion
- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.  
Theme: “Let Justice and Peace Flow” – 1 Sept 2024  
(Vatican)
- International Day of Peace – 21Sep2024 (UN)
- 110<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees,  
24Sep2024 (Vatican)
- XXXIX World Youth Day, celebrated in the  
particular Churches (Diocesan World Youth Day) on  
the Solemnity of Christ the King 24Nov2024 “*Those  
who hope in the Lord will run and not be  
weary*”(Vatican)
- World Mental Health Day, 10 Oct 2024 (WHO)
- 7<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor, 17 Nov 2024 (Vatican)

- 2025 – JUBILEE YEAR (Vatican) - 5-6April  
Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers
- 2025 – CICIAMS EB Meeting 3 & 4 April
- 2026 – CICIAMS XXII World Congress –  
Thailand\*
- 2027 – World Youth Day, Seoul, South Korea  
\*Begin the VISA process EARLY

## CICIAMS Official Documents & Links

CICIAMS 2023 Statutes & Standing Orders:  
<http://www.ciciams.org/ciciamsreports.html>

CICIAMS Ethics Guidelines and Principles of Practices  
for Catholic Nurses:  
[www.ciciams.org/ethicscommittee.html](http://www.ciciams.org/ethicscommittee.html)



## CICIAMS Mission

§ 1. CICIAMS Mission Statement: Informed by the moral  
and social teachings of the Church, CICIAMS is  
committed to the following:

- Giving Christian witness in our lives through guiding  
and supporting Healthcare workers internationally
- Developing a positive vision of life from conception to  
death
- Representing Christian and professional values in our  
work with other national and international associations
- Coordinating the work of member association in their  
efforts to evangelize the ethos and ideals of the nursing  
profession
- Promoting the initiation of and participation in  
professional research and development towards the  
achievement of optimum care and wellbeing
- Respecting the religious convictions of others and  
accepting their rights to practice their beliefs.



## CICIAMS AIMS

- Representing the professional & Christian interests of  
its members
- Promoting members’ spiritual welfare & ethical values
- Promoting health & social measures of health in line  
with Catholic principles and professional development
- Promoting cooperation among member associations

Send articles, photographs and information to the CICIAMS Secretary General by July 15, 2024  
for August 2024 CICIAMS News at: [CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com](mailto:CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com)