

International President:
Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH PhD,
RN – Kingdom of Eswatini

Secretary General
Mrs. Diana Ruzicka, MSN, MA,
MA, RN - USA

Treasurer/Financial Manager
Mrs. Maria Murciano, RN - Italy

Ecclesiastical Assistant
Fr. Kenneth Sleyman, MM (RN)
Japan

President, Africa Region
Rosalyn Okoobo, FCP, MHPM,
RN - Nigeria

President, Asia Region
Dr. Hiroko Shimizu, PhD, RN
Japan

President, Europe Region
Dr. Malgorzata (Gosia)
Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV
England

President, Pan America Region
Ms. Iveth Rocio Mavarez de
Tarantino, RN, MSc, MD - USA

Chair, Ethics Committee
Ms. Joyce Asufi, BNSc, MPH,
FWACN, RN - Nigeria

Chair, Committee on the Family
Sr. Cecilia Adache, OSF, RN,
MPH, CFCP, CFCE - Nigeria

Chair, Midwives Committee
Dr. Mabel D Rozario, RN, RM,
BSc, MPH, PhD - Bangladesh

Chair, Professional Committee
Mrs. Roseanne Aloo Nyabera,
BSN, MPH, RN - Kenya

Chair, Statutes Committee
Mrs. Grace Atieno Thirikwa, RN,
RM - Kenya

Representative. to United Nations
(UN/DGC/ ECOSOC/ UNICEF)
Dr. Anne Reeser, DNP, APRN-
BC, RN - USA

Representative to Crescendo
Ms. Béatrice van Dorsser, BN, RN
The Netherlands

Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales
The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants
Comité Católico Internacional de Enfermeras y Asistentes Médico-Sociales

NOVEMBER
2024



From the International President's Desk

It is with pleasure and humility that I share my most profound experience obtained from attending the 7th Africa Region congress held at the School of Monetary Studies in Nairobi Kenya on the 5th to 9th August 2024. I think it is in order to first and foremost congratulate the Catholic Nurses Association of Kenya for putting together such a successful regional congress amidst numerous challenges which almost led to another postponement of the congress. Considering that the economic situation was a challenge and it was anticipated that the attendance was going to be poor, the CNAK was determined to proceed with the congress trusting that our Lord, through the intercession of our Holy Mother Mary; He would make it happen. I respectfully request all members and friends of CICIAMS to join me in thanking our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us the courage to proceed with congress regardless of the limited numbers. We are thankful that indeed the congress proceeded as planned and it was a magnificent success.

The Catholic Nurses Association of Kenya also did a wonderful job in hosting the CICIAMS Executive Board and the General Council meetings both of which were successful with other members of the executive board joining online as some were not able to attend physically for various reasons. The Kenya experience demonstrated that CICIAMS can perform according to international standards.

I am also cognisant that some of our members could not attend the congress because of ill health, hence I would like to conclude my remarks by encouraging ourselves to surrender everything to the Lord, trusting that God is in control.

May I also wish you and your loved ones a blessed Advent and Christmas. Thank and God bless us all. Amen

---Dr. Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CICIAMS XXII World Congress, 11-13 November 2026

Executive Board Meeting 9Nov; General Council Meeting 10Nov

Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Center, 2/4 Moo 6, Petkasem Rd., Tha Kham,
Nakhonpathom 73110 Thailand

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/tYxwk12v58ootcai/?mibextid=jmPrMh>

CICIAMS XXII World Congress will be hosted by the Catholic Nurses Guild of Thailand (CNG-Thailand). The theme; HUMAN DIGNITY AND PEACE: TIME FOR GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION.

Day 1 – Perspectives of Catholic nurses in applying a theology of healthcare

Day 2 – Empower Catholic nurses to promote human values from conception to dignified death

Day 2 – Unity in diversity – Being a Catholic nurse in a multi-cultural world

Day 3 – Artificial intelligence: New frontiers in nursing from a Catholic perspective

*Catholic Nurse Association/Guild Presidents or their delegate attend the General Council Meeting (GCM) which is the supreme governing body of CICIAMS. Three additional members may attend the GCM and have a voice. Other observers may attend as space allows, no voice. Each association/guild has one vote; if over 1000 members, two votes.

Welcome to the Newly Elected CICIAMS Executive Board Members



Mrs Maria Murciano, RN, Treasurer/Financial Manager (Italy)

BIO DATA - Maria MURCIANO, born and lives in Taranto, Italy. Nurse since 1985. Nursing Coordinator from 1993 to today. Coordinator of the Emergency Department for three years. Married, two daughters and two granddaughters.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's Degree: "Planning and Management of Social Policies and Services";
- University Diploma "Nursing Sciences";
- Higher education diploma "Health Management of Primary Care and Management of Territorial Health Services";
- "Bioethics with a Didactic-Pedagogical Address Advanced Course";
- "Perfection in Bioethics Basic Level Course";
- "Bioethics Specialization Advanced Course";
- Diploma "Professional Nurse";
- Diploma "Directive Functions of Nursing Care 'Nursing Coordinator'";
- Master "Methods and Techniques of Social Communication and Training Methodologies in E.C.M. with Design and Teaching in Training Events, Teacher in Training.";
- Diploma "Classical Maturity";
- First level course "Italian Sign Language";

POSITIONS HELD

- Vice President, Provincial College I.P.A.S.V.I. (TA) 1993-1996;
- National President, Catholic Association of Health Care Workers (A.C.O.S.) for three years;
- National Treasurer (A.C.O.S.) from 2018 to today;
- 01/02/2011-2020 Teacher C.R.I. (TA) II.VV. "Basic Clinical Nursing and Nursing Theories";
- A.A. 2012-2013 Teacher Bioethics "Health Law Ethical Deontology Applied Bioethics – Degree Course in Nursing";
- A.A. 2016/2017 Teacher Community and Family Nursing (Degree Course in NURSING);
- TEACHER "OSS" courses at Training Institutions - Taranto.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS

Create a work environment of collaboration and mutual respect in close union between competence and Christian ethics and always placing the Person at the center.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES

Reading/Painting/Gardening.

Dr. Anne Reeser, DNP, MSN, APRN-BC, Representative. to United Nations (UN/DGC/ECOSOC/ UNICEF) – USA

Anne is committed to and loves her Catholic Faith, Family, and Catholic Nursing. Her life's work has been to impart Catholic teachings and values to our youth. With a long history of volunteering and supporting the Catholic Church, she has taught Faith Formation for over 20 years as the middle school, high school, and Confirmation director. She and her husband are especially passionate about *Mary's Meals* which is committed to feeding and educating children around the world.

Awarded a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from The Catholic University of America, Anne also has a Nurse Practitioner (NP) degree and a Master's and Bachelor degree in Nursing from Florida International University. She continues to work as an NP Hospitalist in Gastroenterology for the past 29 years, has taught in the DNP program, and worked at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital specializing in AIDS and TB. She has been a preceptor and mentor for many nurses throughout her career and has delivered various educational lectures in her field as well as programs related to the Catholic Teachings.



Anne is married with three children and three grandchildren who are her inspiration. She is the Treasurer for The National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA, a parishioner at San Juan del Rio Catholic Church in the Diocese of Saint Augustine, Florida, a member of the Council of Catholic Women, and the National Association of Pro-life Nurses. She asks for your prayers to carry on our Catholic work for Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother.

Welcome to the Newly Elected CICIAMS Executive Board Members *(cont'd)*

President,
CICIAMS Asia Region



Dr. Hiroko Shimizu, PhD,
RN, Professor Emeritus
(Kagawa University)
(Japan) 2024-2028

President, CICIAMS
Pan America Region



Ms. Iveth Rocio Mavarez de
Tarantino, RN, MSc, MD
(USA) 2024-2028

Chair,
Midwives Committee



Dr. Mabel D Rozario, RN,
RM, BSc, MPH, PhD
(Bangladesh) 2024-2028

Chair,
Professional Committee



Mrs. Roseanne Aloo
Nyabera, BSN, MPH, RN
(Kenya) 2024-2028

Chair,
Statutes Committee



Mrs. Grace Atieno
Thirikwa, RN, RM
(Kenya) 2024-2026

More introductory biographies will be forthcoming in future editions of CICIAMS News

Welcome to the Incumbents Re-elected to the CICIAMS Executive Board – Thank you for continuing to serve!

CICIAMS
International President



Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH
PhD, RN (Kingdom of
Eswatini) 2024-2028

President,
CICIAMS Africa Region



Rosalyn Okoobo, FCP,
MHPM, RN (Nigeria)
2024-2026

President,
CICIAMS Europe Region



Dr. Gosia Brykczynska,
PhD, RN, OCV (England)
2024-2028

Chair,
Ethics Committee



Ms. Joyce Asufi, BNSc,
MPH, FWACN, RN
(Nigeria) 2024-2028



TERM LIMITS: Per Decree of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, members of International Executive Boards may serve two terms and then must be off the Board for ONE term. The exception is the International President who may serve two terms regardless of other terms served on the Executive Board. The President must then be off the Board for TWO terms and may not serve in the position of International President again. These term limits do not apply to National Associations and Guilds which are governed by their internal Bylaws. See General Decree and Explanatory note: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/news/2021/decreto-mandati-governo.html>

POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION FOR 2026-2030: 1) Secretary General; 2) International Ecclesiastical Assistant; 3) President, CICIAMS Africa Region; 4) Chair, Committee on the Family; 5) Chair, Statutes Committee.

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)

St. John of God, St. Camillus de Lellis, Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN
patron saints of nurses and nursing association, Pray for us.



*Rosalyn Okoobo, FCP, MHPM, RN
President, CICIAMS Africa Region*

PERIOD FRIENDLY WORLD

by Rosalyn Okoobo, President, CICIAMS Africa Region

Period friendly world is a program that is dedicated to the teaching of menstrual hygiene with the slogan: "Pad Up A Girl".

Definition:

Menstrual hygiene is the practice of maintaining cleanliness during menstrual flow.

Introduction:

The Africa Region of CICIAMS, one of the four regions forming the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS), recognizes the significant impact of menstrual hygiene on girls' education. According to UNICEF, 1 in 10 African girls misses school during menstruation, leading to educational setbacks and dropout rates. Additionally, fertilitycare practitioners have linked many cases of blocked tubes to unsterile menstrual hygiene practices, which can lead to infections like pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and subsequent complications. At an Africa Regional meeting, this widespread issue was identified, prompting us to initiate a project aimed at educating women on menstrual hygiene and providing sanitary pads.

Goal:

To educate young girls and rural women on personal hygiene, emphasizing cleanliness during menstrual flow to prevent infections.

Target Audience:

High school girls and rural women across all member countries in Africa.

Strategies:

- Advocacy visit to high school, churches, and women organizations.
- Information dissemination, sensitization and awareness creation on the implications of inadequate menstrual hygiene.
- Use of social media outlets such as radio discussion programs focused on gender issues, information flyers and local movie artists to convey the importance of proper hygiene procedures.
- Collaborating with governmental, non-governmental and private agencies working in related field in the development and dissemination of information.
- Solicit for funding from philanthropists, stake holders in the education system, families and private individuals for the purchase and distribution of sanitary towels

Conclusion:

Menstrual hygiene management is a crucial aspect of women's health that is often overlooked and stigmatized. Proper management can prevent infections, reduce reproductive health issues, boost confidence and self-esteem, and improve access to education by ensuring regular school attendance.

The Africa Regional Catholic Nurses are committed to this initiative. We aim to reach 5 million high school girls and 10 million rural women annually.

With your support, the "Pad Up A Girl" campaign will be successful.

Together, we can achieve this! #PadUpAGirl

For More Information: CICIAMS Secretary General, ciciamsinternational12@gmail.com

CICIAMS 7th Africa Region Congress 5-9 August 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

Some personal reflections on the CICIAMS 7th Africa Region Congress in Nairobi

by Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV
President, CICIAMS Europe Region
London, UK

I attended the VII CICIAMS Africa Region Congress in Nairobi in August 2024, as a representative of European nurses and in my capacity as President, CICIAMS Europe Region. There were several of us from Europe. The congress was initially planned for 2020 but had to be postponed because of global restrictions imposed due to the COVID pandemic.

Catholic nurses from around the world were present at the gathering and two ex-pat Americans even managed to represent not only nurses from North America, but also from their current countries of residence... The congress followed the proscribed CICIAMS format and the formal business of CICIAMS took place first with the election of new officers which went smoothly and efficiently. After the two days of CICIAMS business meetings the Catholic Nurses of Kenya hosted the local Africa region conference, which commenced with Holy Mass in the Nairobi Seminary Church of Our Lady Queen of Apostles. During the conference presentations were made (some even remotely from North America and Nigeria via electronic links) covering among many topics aspects of nursing spirituality, ethics, maternal-child health and end of life care.

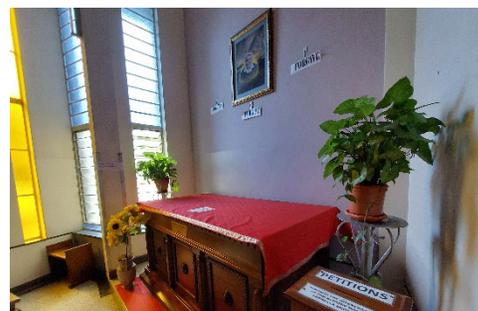
Each day started and finished with a prayer and Holy Mass was celebrated daily – with the local bishop as chief celebrant on each one of the days. The congress was blessed with the presence of several nursing chaplains including CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant Rev. Fr. Kenneth G. Sleyman – a Maryknoll missionary who is also a nurse. He has worked in Japan for many years now teaching at a school of nursing. Prior to this assignment he worked for several years with leprosy patients.



Dr. Hiroko Shimizu, PhD, RN, President, CICIAMS Asia Region & President, Japan Catholic Nurses Association; Dr. Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President; Fr. William Thabo Mkhonta, Chaplain, Eswatini Catholic Nurses Guild; Rev. Fr. Kenneth G. Sleyman, MM, CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant; Consolata Missionary Regional House, Nairobi, Kenya

the very day when the first cohort of local Somali students were graduating from the newly created school of midwifery, a lone fundamentalist shooter killed her along with her Somali body-guard.

Sister Leonella was well known, respected and liked in Kenya, especially among hospital workers and the various religious congregations who ran hospitals and schools of nursing. (*cont'd page 3*)



Tomb of Blessed Leonella Sgorbati, RN Nurse & Martyr, Consolata Missionary Sister (1940-2006)

On the last day of the congress, a small group of us, together with

Father Ken, made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Leonella Sgorbati (1940-2006) a Consolata Missionary Sister – buried in Nairobi – in the chapel of the Consolata sisters' regional house. Blessed Leonella was a nurse and a registered midwife. She worked for many years as a director of a school of nursing and as a midwifery tutor and spent all of her missionary life in Kenya. In retirement she agreed to go to Somalia and help set up – in that war-torn country – a school of midwifery and maternal-child health. This was a very difficult assignment for the tiny community of Consolata sisters who went out with her to Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, for political, cultural and religious reasons. On



Blessed Leonella Sgorbati, RN, RM Nurse & Martyr – 1940-2006



However, it is only upon her death that her own Consolata sisters read her diaries and letters and began to realise what a treasure they had in Sister Leonella. It is clear from Sister Leonella's writings that some time she had offered her life to God – even to the point of martyrdom – and that she was perfectly at peace with the idea that she would most probably be killed for her faith. Upon being shot she said to her sisters in the ambulance, that she forgave the person who shot her. These words are placed above her tomb in the chapel. Sister Leonella was beatified as a martyr in 2018 and her feast is celebrated on the 17th September.

Throughout the CICIAMS Africa Region congress, the relics of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska (1902-1973) were venerated, as these had been brought to Africa to be eventually deposited in the chapel of the Good Shepherd Hospital in Siteki, Eswatini. Father Ken blessed all participants of the congress with Blessed Hanna's relics. It is a great honour and joy for Catholic nurses that so many saints and blessed also worked as nurses and midwives and that these saints are now such powerful and moving role-models and intercessors for us.

I returned home from the 7th Africa Region congress via a few other East African countries, inspired to work even harder to promote the activities of CICIAMS and Catholic nurses around the world and especially here in Europe. I look forward to attending next year in Rome the Jubilee of Healthcare workers with other Catholic nurses and members of CICIAMS Executive Board, and to the next CICIAMS XXII World Congress to be held in Thailand in 2026.



Mpumelelo Mhlanga, Vice Secretary, Catholic Nurses Guild, Zimbabwe receiving a blessing from Fr. Kenneth G. Sleyman, MM, CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant with the relics of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN

From the Ethics Committee



Joyce Asufi, Chair

CICIAMS Ethics Guidelines

CICIAMS Ethics Guidelines were circulated to all National Association/Guild Presidents. Please review these by June 15, 2025 and provide input to the Ethics Committee through your Region President. We hope to have these approved, translated and published for the CICIAMS XXII World Congress.

The New Charter for Health Care Workers



updated and published in Italian by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers was published in 2017. The United States National Catholic Bioethics Center translated the guideline into English and has made it available FREE of charge but only

viewable online at: <https://www.nbccenter.org/free-scribd-texts/new-charter-for-health-care-workers>

PRIÈRE DU CICIAMS --- CICIAMS PRAYER --- ORACIÓN CICIAMS

Seigneur,

Voos le grand Guérisseur, vous avez dit: « Ce que vous faites aux plus petits d'entre les miens, c'est à moi que vous le faites ».

Guidez-nous dans notre service aux malades, aux pauvres et aux marginaux. Apprenez-nous à découvrir votre image en chacun d'entre eux.

Que votre amour éclaire nos vies. Permettez que notre esprit, notre cœur et nos mains rayonnent toujours de cet amour en soulageant la souffrance et en apportant confort, joie, paix et Guérison partout où cela s'avère utile.

Accordez-nous la grâce de vous servir dans toutes nos actions, d'être généreux et désireux de partager avec chacun dans le service et l'amour de l'humanité.

A vous, la puissance, la miséricorde, la gloire et la joie. Ainsi soit-il

Dear Lord

Thou Great Healer. You have said, 'Whatever you do to the least of My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Guide us in our service of the sick, the marginalized and the destitute. Teach us to see Your image in each of them.

May Your love shine forth in our lives. Let our minds, hearts, and hands always radiate that love in lessening pain and in bringing comfort, joy, peace and healing wherever needed.

Grant us the grace to serve You in all we do, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous and willing to share with each other and in loving and serving humanity.

For the power, the mercy, the glory and the joy are Yours. Amen

Amado Señor,

Tú Gran Sanador. Tú has dicho: 'Todo lo que hacéis al más pequeño de Mis hermanos, a Mí me lo hicisteis.'

Guíanos en nuestro servicio a los enfermos, los marginados y los indigentes. Enséñanos a ver Tu imagen en cada uno de ellos

Que Tu amor brille en nuestras vidas, Que nuestras mentes, corazones y manos siempre irradien ese amor para disminuir el dolor y traer consuelo, alegría, paz y curación donde sea necesario.

Concédenos la gracia de servirte en todo lo que hacemos, de ser ricos en buenas obras, de ser generosos y dispuestos a compartir unos con otros y de amar y servir a la humanidad.

Porque el poder, la misericordia, la gloria y el gozo son tuyos. Amén

From the CICIAMS Asia Region

62nd Japan Catholic Nurses Association (JCNA)

National Convention, Sapporo City, Japan

by Hiroko Shimizu, PhD, RN

President, CICIAMS Asia Region & President, JCNA

Headquarter: 1182-7 Taisho-cho, Yawatahama City, Ehime Prefecture, Catholic Yawatahama Church, 796-0033, Japan

The 62nd National Convention of Japan Catholic Nurses Association Held Sapporo City in Japan Theme: the Mission of Catholic Nurses



*Japan Catholic Nursing Association 62nd National Conference attendees, Kita-Juichijo Church, Sapporo, Japan
August 24 & 25, 2024 with Bishop Bernard Katsuya at the opening Mass*

The Japan Catholic Nursing Association (JCNA) held its 62nd National Convention in Sapporo (northern Japan) on August 24th and 25th, led by the Sapporo branch (Branch Chief Ms. Shouko Sato). 83 people, including guests, attended. The theme of the meeting was "Compassion for Life - the Mission of Catholic Nurses," which considered the duties of nurses.



Bishops and advisory priests participating in the opening mass [Bishop Bernardo Katsuya in the center, Reverend Fr. Kenneth G. Sleyman, MM (International Ecclesiastical Assistant, Sapporo Branch Adviser) second from the right, and Father Go Kurebayashi, Headquarters Advisor, to the left of the bishop]

The keynote speech was delivered by Bishop Bernard Taiji Katsuya (Sapporo Diocese) at Kita-Juichijo Church in Sapporo. His theme was "Activities that belong to the essential mission of the Church," and he spoke about what it means to be close to "the small people."

After the speech, a mass was held at the church, and in the afternoon the venue moved to Tenshi University in the same city, where an "educational lecture" was given by the university's president, Tabata Kuniharu.

The Japan Catholic Nursing Association is a Catholic nursing professional association organized by public health nurses, midwives, nurses, care workers, and other medical professionals who aim to provide care based on the Catholic spirit.

62nd Japan Catholic Nurses Association (JCNA) National Convention (cont'd)

It has branches in 14 dioceses across the country, and strives to foster exchanges and training among members through activities such as training sessions for each branch and online training sessions hosted by the headquarters. In 1959, two years after its founding, JCNA joined CICIAMS.



JCNA Sapporo Chapter members who organized the meeting

professor emeritus at St. Luke's College of Nursing), who became a member the year after Sr. Sawa, are both 93 years old and participated in the meeting from the preparation work onwards. Members were heard saying "I was moved to be able to participate" and "It gave me strength" from the various warm interactions with members, including legends. Next year's National Convention will be hosted by the Fukuoka branch (western Japan).

The association was founded in 1957, but the Sapporo branch established the Hokkaido Catholic Nurses Association in 1951 and launched its journal, Mitori (End of life care), two years later, starting the spiritual training of Catholic nurses.

Sr. Reiko Sawa (former vice president and international affairs officer at headquarters, former president of Seibo Women's Junior Nursing College) of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who was a founding member of the predecessor Hokkaido Catholic Nurses Association in 1952, and Dr. Junko Kondo (former president of Tenshi University,



JCNA Vietnamese youth performing a dance at the social gathering

From the Dicastery for Evangelization



JUBILEE 2025 - "Pilgrims of Hope": The Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers is April 5 & 6, 2025 at the Vatican City. National Associations/Guilds 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>; For questions:

info@iubilaeum2025.va; The papal bull for the jubilee is available at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

The Annual CICIAMS Executive Board meeting, required by CICIAMS statutes, will be held 3-4 April 2025 in Rome. Executive Board members should plan accordingly.

From the CICIAMS Representative
to the
United Nations (UN), Department of Global Communications (DGC), Economic and
Social Council (ECOSOC) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

The Commission on Population and development (CPD 58)

by Anne Reeser, DNP, MSN, APRN-BC

CICIAMS Representative to the United Nations DGC/ECOSOC/UNICEF



*Dr. Anne Reeser, DNP,
MSN, APRN-BC*

The approaching 58th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is set to begin in April, 2025. The special theme is “*Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages*”. In preparation of this special theme, experts from around the world presented the most current evidence on October 16 & 17, 2024 and how it affects all regions. In attendance online were three of the new CICIAMS UN NGO Team (Anne Reeser, Patricia Sayers, and Susanne Staiano).

Encompassed in the 58th session of the CPD are 17 comprehensive health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) listed below:



Key topics related to these 17 SDG’s were discussed using a life-course approach and included the promotion of health and well-being for all across the life span, prevention of illness and disease, and closing the gaps to essential health-care services.

Some of the takeaway messages at this conference detailed how important it is for States to work together to identify the needs of present and future generations in relationship to disease prevention and outcomes, cost effectiveness, and the impact of decreasing birth rates with an increasing older population.

In anticipation of the *CICIAMS 2025 Oral Statement*, topics for consideration may include hunger, clean water and hygiene, education, fertility health, urbanization and natural disaster preparedness, and the future of children, youth, and the aging populations.

“In His name the nations will put their hope.” (Matthew 12:21)



LEGACY GIVING: Families and individuals can leave a legacy/donate monies to fund the mission and aims of the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants by giving now or in your estate plans/will. Your good deeds here on earth can live on in the actions of nurses across the world. Consider supporting CICIAMS. For more information about financial ways of supporting CICIAMS, please contact the Secretary General at: CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com

The Vatican

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD)



Tebaldo Vinciguerra, Environmental and Ecology Desk, Research and Reflection Section

On September 30, 2024, nine members of the CICIAMS Executive Board led by Dr. Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President met with two members of the Research and Reflection Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD): Dott. Tebaldo Vinciguerra, Environmental and Ecology Desk who oversees the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (W.A.S.H.) project and Signora Elaine Camillo da Silva, from the DPIHD, Health Care Desk. The meeting was an occasion to share ideas and updates about issues of common interest, not only W.A.S.H.



Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President

Signora da Silva shared that the focus of the Health Care Desk currently is 1) Mental Health of youth and in Humanitarian Crisis, working with psychologists, asking what are communities doing for mental health of individuals, families, schools and how can the DPIHD assist, 2)

Disabilities – consulting with local Church offices in Africa and reflecting on this issue.

CICIAMS Secretary General shared several issues of concern to CICIAMS to include: 1) Infertility experienced in Africa and Asia and implementation of the Creighton Model FertilityCare System & NaproTechnology to address both infertility, push to prescribe contraception and using natural methods to space of child. 2) Harvesting ovum, 3) Abortion. International organizations attempting to require midwives to perform abortion. Need for a conscience clause for healthcare workers in all countries. 4) Request for BHCG antibody test kit to determine if women have been given injection to cause the development of antibodies against pregnancy. 5) mRNA technology adverse effects of sudden cardiac death in young people, athletes, miscarriages, risk for autoimmune diseases in 4-8 years. And the challenge for nurses training in Public Health being required to vaccinate. 6) Participation in the W.A.S.H. project – Dr. Anne Lydiah Wawire Kabimba taking the lead for CICIAMS, and 7) Financial viability of CICIAMS. \$15,000 annual grant from the Paul VI Foundation ceased in 2014. Grant request for administrative funds have not been successful thus far.

Sanitary Hygiene Project. Dr. Khosi Mthethwa provided an overview of the program noting that six countries involved (Eswatini, Kenya, Nigeria, South African, Zambia, Zimbabwe) received modest funds from the CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Advisor, Fr. Kenneth G. Sleyman, MM at the most recent CICIAMS 7th Africa Region Congress in Nairobi, Kenya. The \$700 was divided between the 7 countries who are tasked with mobilizing more resources, raise funds, identify factories and buy or receive donations of sanitary towels. On the Day of the Sick, they usually provide health services but might consider mobilizing resources for this project for schools. In the Kingdom of Eswatini, not only do they plan to distribute sanitary towels but also a hygiene pack to include: bar soap, tooth paste, tooth brush, face cloth. These hygiene packs would also be given to the boys. The project also includes providing hygiene education. Issues encountered include the lack of water at the rural schools. Dott. Tebaldo Vinciguerra recognized the value of this work and requested 1–2-page document to enable them to share information about the campaign.

W.A.S.H. Dott. Vinciguerra shared that no additional conferences/webinars are planned on this project to furnish W.A.S.H. facilities to 150 surveyed health care facilities (HCF). Assessment of HCFs to include water wells, water tanks, toilets, filters, maintenance, testing and quality of water etc. was completed in 2011. 50-55 facilities received financial support or pledge of support. 10-12 of these are in Kenya. DPIHD has connected donors from U.S., Sweden's Stockholm Archdiocese and WEFTA etc. with implementing partners. Implementing partners include: Catholic health facilities, Daughters of Charity, St. John of God facilities and more. See: <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/progetti/wash-water-sanitation-hygiene.html>. Current goal is to provide more advocacy uniting HCF with donors and eventually reach all 150 HCFs. The Holy See and DPIHD can add more voice, experience, publish in academic journal, encourage universities discussing in curricula. Dott. Vinciguerra discussed the challenge of maintenance. Installation must be accompanied by effective training, testing and maintenance. By the end of 2024, over 70 facilities will have received assistance. DPIHD is circulating a new article on the project which includes quotes from Cardinal Czerny, Prefect, DPIHD. CICIAMS could be involved by organizing training, webinars, papers, giving talks. The DPIHD would participate in speaking and perhaps writing a paragraph. DPIHD would bring the Catholic perspective into the training (i.e. Catholic Social Teaching, Solidarity, Charity, Human Dignity, Gospel values). DPIHD is happy to share their expertise. CICIAMS International President, Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, mentioned that there are also W.A.S.H. needs in church facilities. CICIAMS Chair Professional Committee, Roseanne Nyabera mentioned the importance of, in addition to hand hygiene and teeth cleaning (personal hygiene), harvesting and treating water. There are many diseases related to improper care of the environment and water (*cont'd page 7*).

Creighton Model FertilityCare System and NaproTechnology Project. Sr. Cecilia Adache, OSF, lead on the project, joined the call. She shared that Dr. Hilgers began this project over 40 years ago and it was a response to Humane Vitae. NFP is to be a thing of joy for families. She has received the list of funding opportunities from DPIHD. This has been discussed with her congregation and they have given her permission to pursue the grants. Would like to look at conducting webinars and zoom meeting to include more people.

CICIAMS International President – Dr. Khosi Mthethwa expressed appreciation to the Dott. Tebaldo Vinciguerra for organizing the meeting and for his offer of assistance on various issues. She also thanked each member of the CICIAMS Executive Board who participated and expressed interest in future collaboration with the DPIHD Research and Reflection Section. She requested that all communication come through the CICIAMS Secretary General. DPIHD – Dott. Tebaldo Vinciguerra expressed thanks for the participation and looked forward to further collaboration. Dott. Tebaldo Vinciguerra will provide the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, “Family Life” point of contact’s email address for collaboration on family life issues.

Executive Board members attending via Teams online: Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, Mrs. Diana Ruzicka, Dr. Anne Reeser, Mrs. Grace Thirikwa, Mrs. Roseanne Nyabera, Professor Mabel D. Rozario, and Sr. Cecilia Adache.

From the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (DLFL)

On October 8, 2024, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life shared a message from His Eminence Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect to Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President, that the Annual Meeting with Moderators of Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movement and New Communities will occur on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 June 2025 at the Aula Nuova of the Synod in Vatican City. Attendees are invited to then attend the Jubilee of Movements, Associations and New Communities scheduled for Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June 2025. Three members of each association are invited to attend.

In Memoria



Condolences and Prayers for the Repose of the Soul of
Mrs. Glory Tsakasile Musi
Catholic Nurses Guild – Kingdom of Eswatini
2024

On behalf of Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President and the CICIAMS Executive Board, CICIAMS, Secretary General Diana Ruzicka, expressed our sincere sorrow to the Catholic women of the Kingdom of Eswatini and the family upon the passing into eternal life of Glory Tsakasile Musi.

Mrs. Musi was instrumental in starting the Catholic Nurses Guild in Eswatini. She also supported nurses taking over the management of the St. Theresa Clinic. Although she was not a nurse, Mrs. Musi loved the nurses and the work they were doing for the Church and the entire country. She will

be remembered for her strong faith, exceptional leadership skills and selfless spirit. Mrs. Musi was a dynamic woman who dedicated her life to improving the lives of people from all walks of life.

Mrs. Musi’s contributions have made a lasting difference, and her spirit will remain an inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

May the angels carry her to the bosom of our God.

*Eternal rest grant unto Glory O Lord
and may perpetual light shine upon her.
May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God
rest in peace. Amen.*



80th Birthday Celebration

Calendar of Events



-----2024-----

57th World Day of Peace (Vatican) – 1 Jan

Word of God Sunday (Vatican) - 21Jan

“Remain in my Word” (John 8:31)

71th World Leprosy Day – 28 Jan 2024

5th World NTD (Neglected Tropical

Diseases) Day, 30 January 2024

- 32nd World Day of the Sick-11Feb2024 (Vatican)
- 17th 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 1st World Health Assembly in 1948) – 7 April 2024
- International Day of the Midwife, 5 May 2024
- International Nurses Day –Friday, 10 May 2024
- 37th World No Tobacco Day (WHO)–31May2024
- Meeting of Moderators of International Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesiastical Movements & New Communities, 13 June 2024, Rome
- World Refugee Day (UN) – 20 June 2024
- 26 June 2024 – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (UN)
- 3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 28 July 2024 (4th Sunday of July, close to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus) (Vatican)
- **2024 August 5-9 – CICIAMS 7th Africa Region Congress, Nairobi, Kenya***
- 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)
- 110th 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)
- 7th World Day of the Poor, 17 Nov 2024 (Vatican)
- **2025 – CICIAMS EB Meeting 3 & 4 April**
- 2025 – JUBILEE YEAR (Vatican) - 5-6April Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers
- 2025 – DLFL Meeting with the Moderators of Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, 4-5 June 2025 (Wed/Th) at Aula Nuova of the Synod, Vatican City [Optional remain for Jubilee of Movements, Associations and New Communities, 7-8 June (Sat/Sun)].
- **2026 – CICIAMS XXII World Congress, Thailand, 9-13 Nov w/ optional excursion 14Nov***

- 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



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 January 15, 2025 for February 2025 CICIAMS News at: CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com