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CICIAMS General Secretariat, St. Mary's, Bloomfield Avenue, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. IRELAND
1. The message from the International President

Easter! Rejoice! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ has risen today. May our Lenten preparation for the celebrating of the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord be filled with Easter joy and blessings.

Just as the flowers are awakening from their winter slumber here in the northeastern section of the United States and the birds are singing as they return from their warmer winter climates, all is being renewed. In reflection, so too is CICIAMS being renewed. It is by God’s design that all things are renewed.

CICIAMS is emerging from a transitional stage. Complex challenges are being met as we look to the future. Our CICIAMS Asian Regional Conference is scheduled for September 3-5 2010, in Singapore. The new Pan American Region is seeking pro bono marketing for this new region. The National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA is having there first conference in many years under new leadership. In addition, their membership is increasing and there is the potential for forming eight new local councils.

Because of the work of our member countries, CICIAMS membership continues to be in good standing at the World Health Organization, the United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (UN DPI/NGO) and Consultative Status at the UN ECOSOC. The International Labor Organization (ILO) is inviting CICIAMS representation to their International Labor Conference in Geneva.

The UN DPI/NGO conference planning committee is requesting nominations for speakers to their 63rd Annual Conference on GLOBAL HEALTH to be held in Melbourne, Australia, August 30, 31 –September 1, 2010. Sr. Anne John, President of the Catholic Nurses Guild of India (CNGI) is a nominee from CICIAMS and is now on the potential speakers list. Sr. Ann John intends to speak on the Hope Center for HIV/AIDS. The Center founded by and is operated by the members of the CNGI.

CICIAMS members in the English Speaking African Region continually actively work on projects in their countries and volunteer to work on CICIAMS committees. The French Speaking Region needs help. The European Region president, Mrs. Maria Jose Martinez reports the European Regional Conference will be in 2011.

CICIAMS representation since September 2010 is as follows: the UN DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City, The Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers annual November conference, Rome, the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers 25th Anniversary Celebration, Rome, the World Day of the Sick, Rome and the 2nd FORUM for the 90 international Catholic NGOs.
who are asked by the Vatican to make a more positive and stronger voice at international organizations such as the UN and WHO.

MaterCare International’s Executive Director, Dr. Robert Wally, is requesting volunteer obstetricians, OB nurses, midwives, pediatricians and anesthesiologist from the USA and Canada to provide care for pregnant women in Haiti. He is asking for three-week commitments. NACN, USA is seeking volunteers in these areas. In the near future Dr. Wally has another project in mind in which CICIAMS could possibly collaborate with him in Haiti.

Fr. Joblin is being honored for his 25 years as Ecclesiastical Advisor to CICIAMS at a dinner in Rome with the members of the CICIAMS Executive Board. This occasion is in conjunction with the Spring Executive Board Meeting. A tribute, written by Ms. Josephine Bartley in honor of Fr. Joblin is sent, per request, to the Pontifical Council for the Laity for the celebration of the Year of the Priests this summer in Rome.

The International Federation of Catholic Medical Association (FIAMC) is having their XXIII World Congress, “Our Faith as Physicians”, May 6-9, 2010 in Lourdes. Our Catholic doctors continually say they need Catholic nurses to collaborate with them. Consider attending this Congress and supporting our Catholic doctors: www.fiamclourdes2010.fr

Finally, no organization can exist without funds. The CICIAMS General Council denied the raising of fees at the General Council Meetings in Lourdes and Frieburg, Germany. The fees are based on the US dollar (USD). The decline of the USD, the increase in the cost of living and paying members are not paying their fees are challenges we face. Therefore, at the General Council meeting in Monterrey, Mexico, 2009, the members agree on an increase in fees. The fee increase goes into affect this June. Now we look forward to all CICIAMS members’ fees being brought up to date. There is much more work being done by CICIAMS. However, you have enough information to appreciate the need for member’s financial support. With your financial support, CICIAMS will be on solid financial ground.

Transition continues to take place. It is all part of God’s divine providence. God works silently, slowly and steadily as he moves CICIAMS forward. God sent his son to serve not to be served. Let us all improve in our serving him through CICIAMS.

Happy Easter to you and your families.

Marylee J. Meehan, R.N., M.A.
International President of CICIAMS
2. Our Spiritual Director is leaving

“FAREWELL HOMAGE TO Father Joseph Joblin SJ”, 26th March 2010

3. News from the Regions:

a. Pope Benedict XVI presiding at the XVIII World Day of the Sick Mass at St. Peter's Basilica February this year
b. Mrs. Maria Jose Martiniz Lapena and colleagues from FERS Spain at the Mass at Pope John Paul II tomb during the XXV Anniversary of the Foundation of the Pontifical Council for Health-Care Workers (PCHCW) February this year

Front row Nora McCarthy, Liz Cooney, Jacqui Hall, Fr Eric Mead, President Janet Muchengwa Back row Esther Mensah, Mary Farnan and Vice-President Gerry Yates.
d. Message of Love and Faith from Lebanon
Rosary Sisters Hospital, a Message of Love and Faith from Lebanon
Sister Nicolas Akiki
In Lebanon, in this beautiful country where the flowers grew up on the war’s dust, the congregation of Rosary Sisters founded its hospital in 1986 under the name of “Rosary Sisters Hospital”. Located in the heart of the capital city Beirut, the hospital mission is to help and heal people in need. Throughout the days of peace and war, this non-profit catholic organization was able to draw a smile on the face of thousands of patients, from different nationalities and religions, replacing fear in their hearts by hope and faith in God’s love and compassion.
Today, the hospital is extending its activities and a new adjacent building is under construction to be able to host more patients. The hospital staff is in complete action and putting all its efforts to have the best results in the Accreditation procedure, planned by the end of 2010. Outside the hospital, two dispensaries located in the South are offering care for the residents and the current focus is on launching the ophthalmic campaign in several regions of the country especially in poor headquarters where people aren’t giving priority to their health.
Praying the rosary day and night, the sisters devoted their life to serving patients. Blessed Mother Marie-Alphonsine, founder of the Rosary Sisters congregation, was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 22nd November 2009, and it is through her intercession that the sisters are capable to face daily challenges and achieve their mission of giving with Love.

e. KOREA CATHOLIC NURSES ASSOCIATION
In Korea, on 31 August 2009, we successfully held our 30th anniversary at Seoul St' Mary's hospital. About members of 600 participated and also we published commemorative booklets. Now we have 2500 members of Catholic nurses. And we have a goal of this year as to enhance spirituality of nurses.
f. 10th Asian Regional Conference 3rd to 5th September in Singapore

Theme: Embracing Holistic Care through Practice, Education and Research

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Registration online or by downloading the registration form at:

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<td>Hospitality Night Dinner on 4 September</td>
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Registration Entitlements

Delegate registration fee will include all Congress documentation and attendance at all sessions from **3 to 5 September, 2010**, 1 welcome reception, lunch and coffee/tea breaks (where applicable) and 1 admission to the Hospitality Nite on Saturday, 4 September 2010.

g. In memory

In memory of James Ho, RIP our former national President of CNG Malaysia for 15 years.

In memory of Msgr. Lobo RIP India
Sir Richard Lai

The Editorial Board fully acknowledges the contribution of Mr. Richard Lai towards the formation of CICIAMS throughout the years.

History in the making
Sir Richard Lai

1970        Founder member of the Catholic Nurses Guild of Malaysia
1976        Hosted the 2nd Asian CICIAMS Conference in Kuala Lumpur
1978-1986   Elected Asian President of CICIAMS
1983-1986   Founder Member of the Natural Family Planning Service of Malaysia
1983-1986   Faculty Member Advisory Board, Asian Family Services, India
1986-1990   Elected International President CICIAMS in Lisbon
1990-1998   1st Vice President of CICIAMS
1990        Decorated Knight Commander of St Gregory the Great By Pope John Paul II at the 10th World Congress of CICIAMS in New York by Renato Cardinal Rafaela Matino Vatican’s Permanent Representative to UN.
1988-1998   Head of CICIAMS International Study Commission on Family Life elected in Munich
1984-1989   Member of Pontifical Council of Cor Unum on Health
1987-1994   Member Pontifical Council for Pastoral Health Workers
1998-2002   Elected International President of CICIAMS for a second term in Taiwan
2002-2006   1st Vice President of CICIAMS
1995-        Delegate to the International Congress of the Unborn in Tokyo
1998-2006   Delegate to WHO Regional Committee for the Pacific Region
2007-2010   Advisor to CNG, NFP and Catholic Pharmacists Malaysia
2008-2010   Webmaster in creating websites for CNG and Catholic Pharmacists

5. Reports/Press Release:
   a. WHO Report January 18-23 January 2010
      The address of the Direct-General-Dr Margaret Chan was mainly on the subject of the Haitian earthquake which had happened a few days earlier. She spoke of the massive loss of lives, the horrendous injuries experienced by many survivors and the total destruction of so many homes and buildings including the Medical and Nursing faculties within the University and the response of WHO to this disaster. She
also spoke of the need of all member countries to respond to the call for help for this the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Dr Chan went on to congratulate all those countries who cooperated with information and vaccine sharing during the pandemic outbreak of Swine Flu and the need to continue this preparedness in sharing resources in the event of further pandemic outbreaks. Many other world health issues were also highlighted in Dr Chan’s address. I was fortunate to be meeting with Dr Jean Yan, Chief Nurse Scientist about CICIAMS collaboration plans, and I was invited to take part in a brainstorming session to initiate the immediate, medium and longterm nursing needs in Haiti. This included a two way link with the WHO Chief Nurse of the Caribbean Islands who was coordinating the nursing teams in Haiti. She gave an update on the situation and the immediate help needed. She informed us that although the Nursing Faculty in the University had been destroyed, the Nursing College was operational but with little in the way of equipment such as dressings and bandages. She told us that while the staff had set up a receiving centre for the wounded many of the students were out begging for dressings and bandages in the surrounding areas.

It was an uplifting and emotional experience to be part of this session and to hear from all the Heads of the Nursing and Midwifery departments at WHO what would be attempted in the immediate, medium and long term to meet the health needs of the people of Haiti. It gave me an insight into the tremendous work of WHO.

I was delighted to be informed that our plans for collaboration with WHO for 2010-2012 had been approved so our status as NGO in WHO is assured until 2012 when our next submission will be due. I hope this will encourage all members to inform CICIAMS of all the good work they are involved in so that our status in this organisation will continue for many years.

Isa Wilson-Delegate
b. Report from CNGN (Nigeria)

CATHOLIC NURSES’ GUILD OF NIGERIA (CNGN)

REPORT OF THE CATHOLIC NURSES GUILD OF NIGERIA FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009

INTRODUCTION: The year 2009 was quite an eventful one for the Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria, particularly after attending the 4th English speaking Africa Regional Congress in Accra, Ghana in 2008, where a mandate was given by the region to produce the next Regional President.

It has been a year for change as the previous executive council having completed its tenure was prepared to hand over to a newly elected council.

MEETINGS: The year started with the first quarterly national meeting held in Enugu Diocese on the 14th of February 2009. The meeting discussed among other things modalities for the election which was to be held later in the year, as well as the amendment of the Guild’s constitution. On the whole there were three national Exco meetings held with representatives drawn from all the dioceses in Nigeria. All the meetings were presided over by the National President, Mrs. Juliana Ezenwa with the National as well as the Diocesan Chaplains and Rev. Sr. Advisers always in attendance. At the meetings we receive activity reports from the various dioceses, discuss their problems as well as find possible ways of helping each other.


ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE: The 21st annual National Conference of the Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria took place from 10th to 13th September 2009 at the Pope John Paul II Major Seminary Awka, with the theme Safeguarding the health of the Child. Four papers were presented during the conference.

1) Safeguarding the Health of the Child in the context of the seven points agenda of the Government.
2) Integrated management of childhood illnesses
3) The role of the church in safeguarding the health of the Child.
4) Parental responsibilities in the health of the child.
During the conference, new officers were elected into the National Administrative Council as follows:

1) Mrs. Juliana Ezenwa was re-elected National President for the second tenure.
2) Mr. Donatus M. Akpan was also again elected National Executive Secretary for the second time. Others were:
3) Mrs. Rose Agbi - 1st National Vice President
4) Mrs. Mary Aibangbe - 2nd National Vice President
5) Mrs. Veronica Omodunbi - 3rd National Vice President
6) Mrs. Patricia Emekwuru - Financial Secretary
7) Mrs. Matilda Chikogu Ubaru - Treasurer
8) Miss Mary Adie - Auditor I
9) Mrs. Philomena Kings - Auditor II
10) Mr. Anthony Adetoro - Public Relation Officer I
11) Mrs. Callista Uguanyi - Public Relation Officer II
12) Mrs. Stella Okoro - Welfare Officer
13) Mrs. Justina N. Okoli - Editor-in-Chief
14) Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Emmanuel Asuquo Akpan is still our Ecclesiastical Adviser.

The new national Executive Council was inaugurated on the 28th of November 2009.

The new amended constitution was also presented to the house after having been adopted.

WORLD CICIAMS CONGRESS: It was unfortunate that none of the officers from Nigeria attended the congress. This was not unconnected with financial constraints occasioned by the just concluded 4th Regional conference in Ghana, and the difficulties in obtaining transit Visa, since there were no direct flights from Nigeria to Mexico at the time. However we were happy to hear that the paper sent in by Nigeria on traditional African Medicine in Nursing was presented on our behalf by the Regional President. Two Rev. Sisters who are our members however represented Nigeria.
CICIMNS ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Nigeria has paid her subscription up to 2008. The last was paid in Ghana during the regional congress. However we hope to send our subscription for 2009 and 2010 within the next two weeks.

ACTIVITIES: Apart from organizing workshops and seminars to update the knowledge of members the Guild in Nigeria performs humanitarian, health and spiritual services in the country. The Guild is one of the leading organizations in Nigeria which frowns at and speaks out against the legalization of Abortion by the National house of Assembly.

At the diocesan levels members provide health services at parish and diocesan functions, donate First Aid Boxes to parishes, give health talks on various health problems especially HIV/AIDS. They carry out regular Blood Pressure and Blood sugar checks and advice clients accordingly particularly Priests.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: On the 11th of February every year the Catholic Nurses of Nigeria always join their counterparts all over the world to mark this day. It is usually celebrated at diocesan levels. Activities on that day include, Holy Masses with special anointing of the Health care providers and the sick, prayers for the sick and care givers, visit to hospitals, clinics, destitute homes, homes for the elderly with presentation of gift items ranging from food, toiletries, snacks, drugs, clothes etc to the inmate of such places. Nurses also use the day to exchange pleasantries, pray and help each other. The Pope’s message is usually read during the mass.

NUMERICAL STRENGTH: Out of a total of about forty five Dioceses which make up the church in Nigeria, thirty are in full association with the Guild with a total of three hundred and ninety two members.

OBITUARIES: In 2009, the Nigerian Guild lost two members by death. They were: Mr. L. L. Ogunanya from Oyo Diocese and Mrs. Regina Akonye from Port Harcourt Diocese.

Mr. Donatus Akpan, the National Secretary also lost his mother. Three members lost their daughters: they were Mrs. T. O. Iyayi, President, Uromi Diocesan Guild,
Mrs. Cordelia Ibe from Owerri and Mrs. Ozuanu from Auchi. Prayers and Holy Masses were offered for the peaceful repose of the deceased and consolation of the bereaved families.

**PROBLEMS:** The one major problem faced by the guild is that of apathy on the part of some members and general lack of financial commitments.

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT:** In view of the mandate given to Nigeria by the Region to produce the next Regional President for the English speaking Africa, Nigeria has nominated Mrs. Juliana C. Ezenwa, the Nigeria National President as the one to take over from the incumbent Regional President, Mr. Sello Komoreng.

**GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION:** The Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria will be fifty years in 2010. The Guild will therefore celebrate this 50th anniversary in September 2010 during her 22nd Annual National Conference.

**THE WAY FORWARD:** The Guild intends to launch a NGO so as to make its impact felt more beyond the frontiers of the Church by reaching out to people in need of special attention, care and support.

**CONCLUSION:** As you travel to Rome for the CICIAMS meeting, the Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria wishes you a safe journey, peaceful deliberations and a very happy Easter in advance. Long live Africa!

God bless you all.

Donatus M. Akpan

*National Executive Secretary, (CNGN)*
c. ASSISTED SUICIDE

On July 24th 2009 the RCN chose to adopt a stance of neutrality on assisted suicide following a 3 month consultation of members February – May 2009. Earlier in July the BMA had reaffirmed its 2006 change of stance from neutral to one of opposing assisted suicide arguing that ‘legalized assisted suicide could put unreasonable pressure on the most vulnerable members of our society to accept it. Whilst the consultation mostly conducted online had reached about 175,000 members out of a total of around 400,000 members the RCN decision was based on a response of only 1,200 members. 49% (588) of respondents had supported assisted suicide, 40% (480) opposed assisted suicide and the remaining opted for a neutral stance. There is too little evidence that the survey response accurately reflects the views of the majority of members of the RCN. The RCN Policy Briefing Document of April 2009 had already stated ‘Assisted suicide is illegal in England and Wales under the 1961 Suicide Act which makes it unlawful to aid, abet, counsel or procure the suicide of another’. In September 2009 Keir Starmer produced guidance on factors that could be taken into account when a decision to prosecute or not prosecute is made and pointed out assisted suicide remains illegal and carries a jail term of up to 14 years so there can be no guarantee that relatives assisting will not be prosecuted. As nurses we should be asking what drives individuals and their relatives to consider an option of assisted suicide? Is there a lack of support or service provision that contributes to such a decision by people who may be worn out and unable to make a fully rational decision? The Catholic agency Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk has recently produced a DVD raising awareness of the spiritual needs of people with dementia. Relatives of mentally alert elderly, who through failing physical health find themselves unable to speak or fully communicate their needs might also find this DVD useful.

For more articles of Catholic Nurses Journal, refer to the following link: http://www.catholicnurses.org.uk/journalsnewsletters200910.html
front row from left:

(1) Josephine Bartley, Reported on CICIAMS General Secretariat and Statutes (2) Marylee Meehan, International President (3) Mary Bernadette Spillane, Acting Treasurer (4) Rentius So Vice President, Asian Region

back row from left:

(1) Agnes De Bates, Advisor to the Acting Treasurer (2) Annemie Vlaemynck, Co-opted member of the Professional Committee (3) Isabelle Wilson, Representative to WHO (4) Nita Harkins, Chair, Professional Committee (5) Yolander Perez MEAC member (guest) (6) Mary Vilchez Vice President, Pan American Region (7) Joan Doherty, Representative to UN, NGO UNICEF, ICO New York & PAHO
7. **Message from the Editors**

Easter Greetings to you all! It has been nearly three years since our first edition of CICIAMS News on line. We hope we can have more flexibility in these news in a way we can update it any time any way!!

We look forward to your feedback and contribution so that we can all do some thing for CICIAMS!

The Rising Christ from Croatia, may we all be united in Him!