



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

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Diana Ruzicka, MSN, RN - USA

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Mobolanle Onwubiko, RN, RM  
Nigeria

International Ecclesiastical  
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Japan

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Rosaline Okoobo, FCP, MHPM,  
RN - Nigeria

President, Asia Region  
Francisca Malantin, RN - Malaysia

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

President, Pan American Region  
Dr. Marian Nowak, DNP, MPH,  
RN, FAAN - 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  
Representative to CINGO  
Dr. Anne Kabimba, PhD, RN/M  
Kenya

Chair, Professional Committee  
Ms. Stella Chisunka, BSc, MSc,  
RSCN, RN - Zambia

Chair, Statutes Committee  
Ms. Jane Bunquan, BNSC, MNsg,  
RN - Malaysia

Rep. to United Nations (UN/DGC/  
ECOSOC/ UNICEF)  
Dr. Patricia Sayers, DNP, 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

October  
2023



## From the International President's Desk

As we are preparing for the CICIAMS Africa Region Congress to be held on the 5 -9 August 2024 in Nairobi Kenya. I was pondering about some of the events that will be taking place during the congress. The theme and sub-themes are topical issues that need to be addressed by all of us at organization and individual level.

The other most important issue is the election of the next CICIAMS leadership. My brothers and sisters I kindly request that we prayerfully plan for this event. We need leaders who are dedicated to continue the work that was started 90 years ago.

We owe it to the founders of the organization to do our best to keep the vision alive. In our different corners let us individually ask ourselves about the contribution we are making to support our associations at parish, country, regional level and globally. This prompted me to address partly, the concept of integrity at personal level, and as it relates to our colleagues and clients.

It is important to demonstrate that you are consistent in your actions and that you treat all people the same way regardless of what your feelings or relationships may be with them. Integrity also refers to transparency and objectivity. Colleagues and clients must find us trustworthy and must have confidence that whatever decision we take is based on the merits of the case and is done in a transparent, logical and objective manner.

Maintaining integrity is not easy, but it is incredibly important in order for us to create a real, lasting and enabling environment for all to thrive. From fostering an open and positive work environment to promoting strong and resilient team, integrity in the organization benefit all members. Integrity in the organization means we take our commitments seriously; we are proactive in seeking information when we do not fully understand our responsibilities and ultimately are accountable for our actions. These commitments are demonstrated by many traits such as honesty, loyalty, respect and responsibility.

May I take the opportunity to thank you all and wish you God's Blessing as we prepare for the Congress in Kenya and wisdom to identify the right leaders as we are making nominations.

Thank you.

Dr. Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN

### Day of Prayer & Fasting for the Holy Land – **October 27, 2023**

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has invited “sisters and brothers of the various Christian denominations, those belonging to other religions, and all those who have at heart the cause of peace in the world, to join in as they see fit” in a day of prayer and fasting for the Holy Land on October 27, 2023.

On Tuesday, October 17, 2023 many members of CICIAMS joined in a day of fasting, abstinence and prayers with Pierbattista Card. Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and fellow Christians across the world. We united collectively in prayer to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice and reconciliation. Let us continue to turn our hearts to God the Father as we pray for peace in every part of the world.



## CICIAMS Testimony

at the Annual Meeting with the Moderators of  
Associations of the Faithful,  
Ecclesial Movements and New Communities  
June 22, 2023, Rome, Italy

Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President, along with Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV, President CICIAMS European Region, represented CICIAMS at the Annual Meeting with the Moderators of associations of the faithful, ecclesial movements and new communities organized by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life on Thursday, June 22, 2023 in Rome. The theme was: *On mission with Peter – apostolicity at the heart of the identity of the ecclesial movement.* Twenty-five years after the First International

Congress of Ecclesial Movements was held in May 1998 the topic of the specific ‘vocation’ of the ecclesial movements was addressed. Participants were given a lecture by the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger on their ‘theological positioning’ to review prior to the meeting.

Cardinal Ratzinger in his lecture stated that “If the positioning or placement of the movements in the Church is ‘apostolicity’, then it follows that in every age it will be fundamental for them to want to live an apostolic life.” He explained that “wanting to live an apostolic life” in any era involves three essential components: an evangelical life, a missionary life, charity and service. These were defined as follows:

*Evangelical life:* “Renunciation of property, of descendants and of imposing one's own idea of the Church, that is, obedience in following Christ”.

*Missionary life:* “Apostolic life calls for apostolic action. Foremost -- in different ways -- is the proclamation of the Gospel: the missionary element.”

*Charity and service:* “Evangelisation... is never carried out with words alone; love, which is at the heart of proclamation, the core of truth and its operational centre, must be part of one’s life and so become proclamation itself. Hence evangelisation is always connected in some way to social service.”

Each movement/community were then asked to prepare 3-4 minute testimonies reflecting on how their movement is facing the challenge of apostolic life. The statement provided on behalf of CICIAMS by Dr. Khosi Mthethwa follows in full:

**Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, International President  
International Ecclesial Movements and New Communities Annual Meeting  
Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life  
Thursday, 22 June 2023  
VATICAN CITY-ROME**

CICIAMS is organized on the worldwide and international level as an Association of National Catholic Associations and Guilds of Nurses, Midwives and Health Workers. On August 27, 1935, Pope Pius XI addressed 2000 nurses attending the second World Congress of the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social Assistants in Rome. He stressed the importance of nurses not only bringing health for the body but most importantly to bring life to the soul stating, “*And the treasure which your assistance must bring to the infirm is precisely that of spirituality, of the Christian supernatural, Christ.*” In his address two years later presented at the CICIAMS third World Congress in London, His Holiness Pope Pius XI specifically charged Catholic Nurses to guard against the eugenics and neo-malthusianism --- population control and wrote to the assembly that it was the duty of every Catholic nurse to belong to Catholic associations of nurses and to promote them in every way possible. In the last year of his reign, on April 8, 1938 on behalf of the Holy Father, Cardinal Pizzardo, sent a letter to the bishops of the United States, and perhaps to others across the world, in which he expressed His Holiness’ desire that “*Archbishops and bishops should organize*



Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV, President CICIAMS European Region  
and Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President





*local associations of Catholic nurses according to the needs of their respective diocese, which in due time, under the guidance of the Hierarchy, might be united to create a National Federation of Catholic Nurses.*

And thus, Catholic Nurses organizations arose across the Church, in many dioceses, and nurses collaborated with their bishops and priests to grow in Christian spirituality and technical expertise the fruit of which was to bring Christ to our patients.

### **Today, what are our challenges?**

Our challenges are those outlined by His Holiness almost 90 years ago... *paganism and materialism* have infiltrated healthcare. What was originally Christian, hospital established by Catholic priests, brother, sisters and laity in many places are no longer Christian. Challenges in the health care system include requests and requirements to assist with abortion, contraception, sterilization, transgender surgery, euthanasia, unnecessary plastic surgery, removal of organs for donation before donors are dead and these are only a few examples of the many affronts to the dignity of the human person in

healthcare today. Organizational challenges are fiscal, CICIAMS previously received annual grants from the Pius XII Foundation, this ceased in 2014. Many national associations find it difficult to pay the annual subscription which results in Executive Board members funding their travel and activities on behalf of CICIAMS. Some individual cannot afford this cost and we cannot become an organization of only the nurses who have fiscal resources... In regards to support for National Guild and Associations of Catholic Nurses from the hierarchy, in some countries and dioceses there is exceptional support from the bishops, in others, there is none. The nurses would benefit greatly from another letter from His Holiness Pope Francis similar to the 1938.

In order to promote a truly apostolic life, following the XXI World Congress held in the United States last August, we recommended five Catholic disciplines for the nurses to adopt: Daily reading of Scripture, Eucharist weekly, Rosary, Fasting and confession. We also recognized the need for a deeper spiritual life of prayer including what Blessed Hannah said, ‘our work is the work of Christ and that there is enough sacrifice inherent in that work - if we do it conscientiously’. This speaks to the emphasis that; cannot give to other what we do not have.

As the International organization our mission is to bring together the nurses across the world in mutual support. We do this through a General Council Meeting held every two years in one of the four regions, Europe, Asia, Africa and Pan America and in conjunction with a World Congress held every four years. We communicate through various new and old technologies: mail, email, WhatsApp, text, newsletter etc. In between meetings the Executive Board is charged with implementing the will of the General Council.

In each of our regions and parish many apostolic activities are implemented based upon the initiative and creativity of the members. For instance, In Asia the Korea and Singapore Catholic Nurses Guilds host an annual spiritual retreat in which many young nurses, lay and religious participate. In Eswatini, the Catholic Nurses Guild established the St. Teresa Clinic, initially funded by the World Health Organization and now self-sustaining. Internationally we recently applied for a grant through the papal nuncio in Geneva to the papal foundation to train two nurses in each region in the Fertility Care System and NaproTechnology and address the infertility and natural methods of spacing birth. Already we have an educator in this system in Nigeria who received an award for her work at the United Nations on International Nurses Day in May 2023. In December, we began a collaboration with Nurses with Global Impact, Inc.

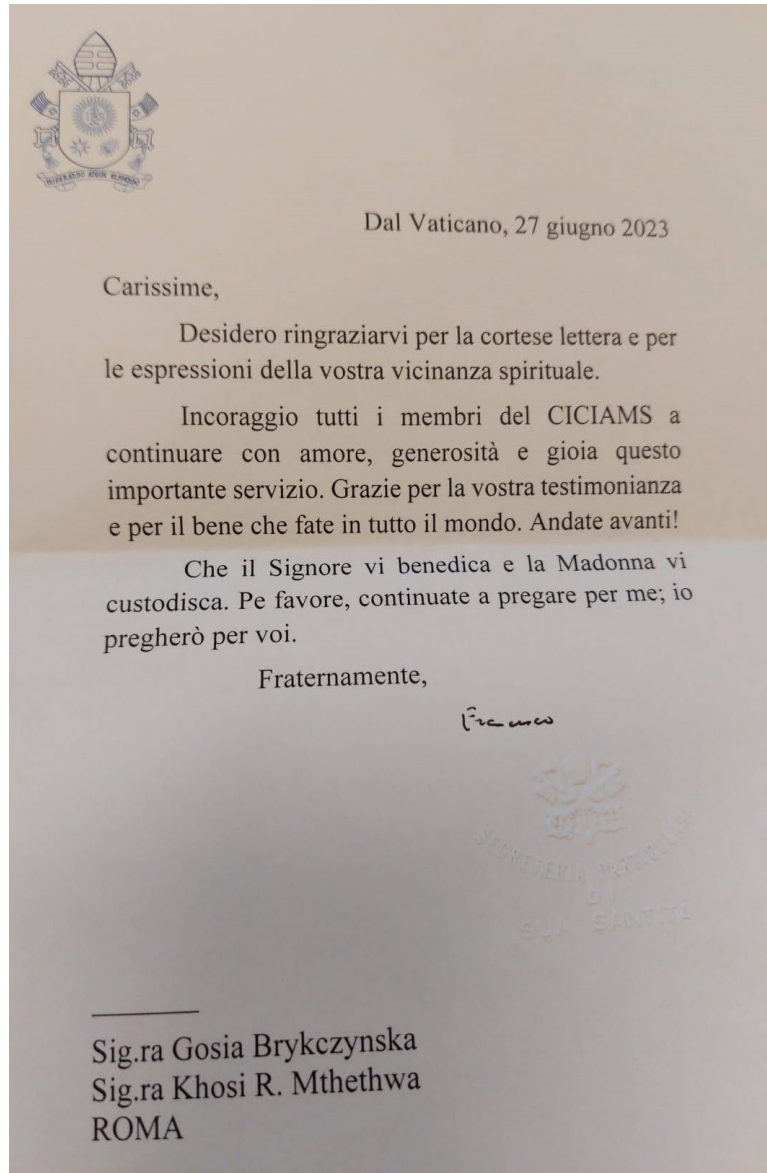
to recognize, at the United Nations on International Nurses Day, nurses across the world who exemplify Christian values. This year’s awardees who travelled to New York City were Sr. Stella Tan, who spent her life ministering in the rain forests in Malaysia delivering healthcare and food and necessities to people in remote areas of the rain forest using her station wagon, wagon and sometimes traveling by boat down rapids to reach remote regions. Sr. Cecilia Adache from Nigeria was recognized for her work with the Fertility Care System and NaproTechnology. Sylwia Juszkievicz from Poland, a nurse who works in neurosurgery and volunteers on an ambulance crew to care for people injured in the War in Ukraine. And Lucy Thanga from Kenya who served as the CICIAMS Africa Region President and brought together nurses across Africa and implemented several projects to include the Faithful House Project to encourage chastity and fidelity in marriage to stop the transmission of HIV/AIDS in heterosexual marriages.

Thank you for this opportunity to share briefly some of the apostolic work of the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social Assistants. May God bless you all and may He continue to bless our work through the intercession of Bl. Hanna Chrzanowska – the first lay registered nurse to be beatified and the patron saints of nurses and nurses associations’, St. John of God and St. Camillus de Lellis.



*Dr. Brykczynska and Dr. Mthethwa with a Swiss Guard, Vatican City*

## Note from His Holiness Pope Francis



From the Vatican, 27 June 2023

Dear,

I would like to thank you for your kind letter and for the expression of your spiritual closeness.

I encourage all members of CICIAMS to continue this important service with love, generosity and joy. Thank you for your witness and for the good you do throughout the world. Keep up the good work!

May the Lord bless you and the Madonna keep you. Please continue to pray for me; I pray for you.

Fraternally,  
Francis



Message receive from His Holiness Pope Francis to CICIAMS International President, Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, PhD, RN and CICIAMS President, Europe Region Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV in response to a greeting they sent to him during a joint meal in the Santa Marta dining room during their stay there while attending the Annual Meeting with the Moderators of Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in June 2023.

## 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.

# CICIAMS 7<sup>th</sup> African Region Congress with 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](mailto:info@catholicnurseskenya.org); [www.catholicnurseskenya.org](http://www.catholicnurseskenya.org)

## Schedule:

- 5 August 2024 – Executive Board Meeting (EB)
- 6 August 2024 – General Council Meeting (GCM)
- 7 August 2024 – CICIAMS 7<sup>th</sup> African Region Congress Opening Ceremony, Keynote Address and 1-2 papers
- 8 & 9 August 2024 – Presentations
- 10 August 2024 – Departure or Excursion

**Register & Book Accommodations Now**

## Executive Board Meeting 5 August 2024:

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:

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.

**Congress Theme:** Enhancing Nursing and Midwifery Education for improved Health Care Services in the Spirit of *Laudato Si* and Synodality

**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](mailto:abstract2024@gmail.com)

**For More Information:** 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)

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

## Election 2024

Nominations are solicited for the following 2024 Executive Board positions:

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)



Jane Buncuan,  
Chair, Statutes  
Committee

\*\*\*Nominees provide the following to  
CICIAMS Secretary General –

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

1) Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume,

2) Nomination form signed by national  
president and

3) a brief description of their vision and how  
they will fulfill their role.



**PLEASE SUBMIT AS SOON AS YOU  
KNOW YOU OR A MEMBER WOULD  
LIKE TO SERVE.** Representation from all  
regions desired.



# Singapore Catholic Nurses Guild – 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee

by Yvonne Lew & Janet Chong


## Mass & blessing for Catholic Nurses & Allied Healthcare Professionals



Join us for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Nurses' Guild of Singapore with His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zalewski, Papal Nuncio to Singapore

The event will include the Eucharist; the Nurses' pledge & the Blessing of hands.

- Date: Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Time: 5.00 pm.
- Venue: Church of Christ the King, AMK, Av.8.
- After Mass, there will be a dinner.
- Tickets for the dinner is S\$15/- pax.
- Please register via QR code or contact the following:-
- Contact: Maria - 96610818 ; Yvonne - 81210988; Geraldine – 81131673;
- Special jubilee tote bag for those who register. Don't miss this chance to celebrate Catholic Nurses & Allied Healthcare Professional's Day with His Excellency Marek Zalewski, the Papal Nuncio.



Please register asap !

The Catholic Nurses Guild (CNG) Nurses' Day annual Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated on 23 July 2023 with Archbishop Nuncio Marek Zalewski (Poland) as the main celebrant with Spiritual Director, Father Johnson. It was a meaningful event because it we celebrated on CNG-Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our Golden Jubilee. We have come a long way. Praise the Lord. Over 250 nurses with allied health professionals attended.



We received the Papal Blessing from Pope Francis (Vatican City) signed by HIS EXCELLENCY. This Papal Blessed certificate was replicated presented to all Executive Committee (EXCO) members and previous EXCO members during mass by Nuncio.



Papal Blessing certificate presented to retired EXCO nurses

Most retired nurses expressed that they were very touched & felt honoured to receive it. We thanked all retired nurses, including you and all other countries that are still serving in some way. "You have contributed to nursing in CNG, which we (juniors) have benefited in allowed us to carry on your good work. You sow what you reap." Wish all an awesome & Blessed weekend !

SHALOM 🙏



Singapore Catholic Nurses Guild – 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee (cont'd)



*Yvonne Lew with Papal Nuncio to Singapore,  
Archbishop Marek Zalewski*



Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee Catholic Nurses Guild of Singapore!!!



## Catholic Nurses Guild India at Conference of Catholic Health Associations

The Catholic Nurses Guild India (CNGI) participated in the Conference of Catholic Health Association of India at Kerala, South India. The theme was Leadership for Sustainable Healthcare. Sr. Sarla Macwan, F.C., MSN, MBA, President CNGI gave a presentation addressing the topic on behalf of the Nurses Guild.





## Catholic Nurses Guild India at Conference of Catholic Health Associations (cont'd)

The Catholic Nurses Guild India (CNGI) participated in the Conference of Catholic Health Association of India at Kerala, South India. The theme was Leadership for Sustainable Healthcare. Sr. Sarla Macwan, F.C., MSN, MBA, President CNGI gave a presentation addressing the topic on behalf of the Nurses Guild.



Sr. Sarla Macwan, F.C., MSN, MBA,  
President, Catholic Nurses Guild India



## Japan Catholic Nurses Association (JCNA) – Medical Support for Peace Walks

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

Atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945, and on Nagasaki, August 9, 1945. A total of 300,000 citizens died in an instant. In these two towns, citizens have since held peace walks to pray on this day. In 2023, peace walks were held in those towns, and members of JCNA's Nagasaki and Hiroshima branches conducted medical activities for those participating in the walk. The words in the photo of Hiroshima ① are: "Shimonoseki Citizens Peace Walk" "Japan must join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" "Nuclear power plants and nuclear waste are the path to Japan's destruction" The words in the photo of Hiroshima ② are "Economy? Peace? Prioritize Which one?", We pray that the people of Ukraine will not find themselves in the same situation.



**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](mailto:CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com)



# Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria (CNGN) – Annual National Conference

by Rosalyn Okoobo, CICIAMS President Africa Region

Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria (CNGN) held their annual National Conference with the Theme: “Breaking Barriers Creating Bonds in a Challenging Nigeria” from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023.

## Sub Themes:

1. Dedicated Nurses, response to the Health needs of Nigeria
2. “United we stand, divided we fall”: Implication for effective healthcare delivery in Nigeria
3. The Pastoral Tandem. “Take care of him” in the light of Pope Francis message at the 2023 World Day of the Sick
4. Breaking the barrier of minority nursing and gender difference in Nigeria, The Way Forward.
5. Entrepreneurship for nurses; solution to brain drain and economic slavery in Nigeria



The opening Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was said by His Grace Most Rev. Gabriel Leke Abegunrin, The Metropolitan Archbishop of Ibadan province for their 34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference and AGM.

The opening ceremony also featured the presentation of the Voice of the Catholic Nurses of Nigeria (VOCANON) magazine by the Editor-in-Chief, Nr. Joyce Asufi and subsequent launching by invited guests and members of CNGN.



Erodite scholars presented papers on the theme as well as the sub-themes from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2023. AGM was held on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2023.

While commending the choice of their theme for the conference, Archbishop Abegunrin admitted that Nigeria is indeed beset with so many challenges ranging from insecurity, injustice, poverty, hunger and therefore urged participants to use the conference as a moment for sober reflection on the causes of these challenges, as well as brainstorm on the possible ways of breaking these barriers.

He also charged the Chaplains to always live up to their calling as Chaplains in guiding and directing the nurses under their care.





## Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria (CNGN) – Annual National Conference

CNG also received presidential greetings from the CICIAMS International President, Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, in her address which was delivered by Mrs. Rosalyn Okoobo, CICIAMS President Africa Region. She congratulated the National President of CNGN and her executive for being consistent in observing the precepts of our statute of holding an annual general meeting and conference. She also appreciated the Pastoral support we enjoy from the leadership of the Church. She thanked the Catholic Nurses Guild of Nigeria for being one of the strongest and vibrant members of CICIAMS. She encouraged them to keep up the good work of attracting more members to the organization, nurtured and prepared them for leadership positions.



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## National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. (NACN-USA)



*Diana Ruzicka, Zachary McAllister and Janet Munday, Madonna University, 25 February 2023*

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Madonna University and Memorial for Sr. Victoria Indyk, PhD, RN

On February 25, 2023, the NACN-USA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Janet Munday and CICIAMS Secretary General, Diana Ruzicka represented both associations to celebrate and support 60 years of nursing at Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. At the luncheon the nurses remembered the contributions of Sister Victoria Indyk, CSSF, PhD, RN who died during the COVID-19 pandemic and had contributed so much to the University, NACN-USA and her mission in Haiti. Diana Ruzicka presented greetings from Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President and shared some kind words about the impact of Sr. Indyk to NACN-USA and Catholic nursing in many locations in the world. Zachary McAllister, MSN, RN, Nursing Instructor at Madonna University who attended the CICIAMS XXI World Congress in Doylestown, Pennsylvania in August 2022 expressed interested in re-establishing the Catholic Nurses local council at Madonna University.



*Sr. Vicky Indyk, CSSF, PhD, RN  
1951-2020  
NACN-USA member*

## In Memoria



It is with deep sadness that we, the Gichuhi family, announce the death of Lucy Wangu Thang'a at The Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi on 21st July, 2023, following a short illness.

Lucy was the daughter of the late Michael Kihungi Kimotho and the late Monica Wairimu Kihungi. She was the daughter-in-law to the late Sisto Gichuhi Kanyari and the late Zaveria Wangui Gichuhi.

Lucy was the loving wife to the late Paul Thang'a Gichuhi, adored mother to Kui and Hutch, Alex and Beatrice, Mike and Helen and Wairimu. Precious grandmother to Bakhita, Patricia, Alexandra, Gabriella, Michaela and Thang'a. Doting great-grandmother to Zayn.

Lucy was the sibling to Catherine and George Ndung'u, the late James and Suzanna Kimotho, Esther and Peter Gilbert, Waithira and John Karungu, the late Charles Gacheru, Florence and the late Elisha Wanderi, George and Veronica Mageria, the late Willie and Nyokabi Macharia, Sophia and Morris Githieya, Jane and Ngure Makumi, Peter and Joyce Wanjohi.

She was the beloved sister-in-law to the late Philip and Bernadette Thiuri, Consolata and David Karugo, Joseph and Joyce Wambugu, the late Julietta Wambui, Daniel and Jane Ndegwa, the late Michael and Grace Wang'onde, Mary Wangari Nduiga, John and Jane Wanjohi and Bernard and Sophia Muhinja. She was an aunt, niece, cousin and close friend to many.

A Requiem Mass will be held at St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church – Karen on Monday 31st July 2023 at 11:00am and Tributes will start at 9:30am.

The Funeral will be held at Othaya on Tuesday, 1st August, 2023.

### **Lucy, Rest Well and in Peace in the Lord.**

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#### **Letter of Condolence from CICIAMS read at Lucy Thang'a's Funeral**

The following letter was composed with the contribution of CICIAMS International Presidents: Dr. Khosi Mthethwa and Geraldine McSweeney. Dear Lucy will be sorely missed:

On behalf of Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President and the CICIAMS Executive Board may I express our sincere sorrow upon the passing into eternal life of Lucy Wangu Thang'a.

Lucy will always be remembered for her strong faith and as a committed Catholic and professional nurse, with exceptional leadership skills. She was approachable, welcoming, friendly and a dedicated prolife advocate --- the role she played so well whenever she had an opportunity to do so.

Her contributions to faithful Catholic nursing across the world are many. At the local level, she was one of the founders of Catholic Nurses Association of Kenya (CNAK). She was responsible for building CNAK from scratch with the assistance of the German Association-Caritas GEMEINSCHAFT. She led in guiding the establishment of the Faithful House Programme in Kenya and in communicating with people responsible for this programme in other African Countries. She promoted healthy living among couples during the peak of HIV to prevent the spread of HIV infection among married couples.

At the regional level, as the President of the CICIAMS Africa Region, she worked tirelessly in maintaining contact with the member associations and encouraging other countries to join CICIAMS, the most recent one being from Zimbabwe. Lucy promoted a culture of self-organizing and self-reliance among Catholic Nurses Associations across Africa. She was blessed to see 7 countries from Africa as active participants in CICIAMS congresses.

Lucy, as chairperson of Family Committee, led a campaign against the implementation, in women of childbearing age, what was said to be a tetanus vaccine and later transpired to be infertility vaccine. She also trained nurses in the African Region to be vigilant on pro-life education and protection of unsuspecting communities from manipulation and exploitation. When her term ended, Lucy then nurtured the member of Catholic Nurses Guild Eswatini, who was elected to chair the Family Committee.



## Letter of Condolence from CICIAMS (cont'd)

Lucy mobilized African Associations in documenting and showcasing their immense work, and learning from each other, through research and presentations at CICIAMS meetings. Due to her mentorship, members of Africa Region Catholic nursing associations are now skilled at documenting and sharing reports about their extraordinary work and achievements in their respective countries.

At the International level, Lucy was a member of the CICIAMS Executive Board first as the Chairperson of Family Committee in which she served diligently making the membership aware of the current guiding documents on family issue as guided by the Vatican Dicasteries. She helped maintain CICIAMS' Consultative status with the World Health Organization for a number of years. She was instrumental in organizing the Regional Congress in Nairobi in 2020, which had to be deferred to 2024 due to COVID-19 pandemic. Lucy was a wonderful person and an outstanding member CICIAMS. All she wished was for CICIAMS to grow and be known even at country level. She was happy to see additional membership to CICIAMS and encouraged us to agree to take up leadership positions in CICIAMS.

Lucy Wangu Thang'a was an excellent example for the love of her family. Although her husband, Paul bought her the ticket to attend the CICIAMS XXI World Congress at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, USA in 2022, she chose not to attend so she could care for her ailing husband, may God rest his soul. We pray for her children and grandchildren whom she spoke of so dearly about. May you be consoled by knowing that your loving parents are in a better place now and remember to have masses on their behalf.

We are so very pleased that she could journey to the United States in 2023 to be recognized internationally at the United Nations for all her contributions to healthcare and Catholic nursing at a global level. Lucy will be sorely missed. Rev. Fr. Kenneth G. Sleyman, Maryknoll Missionary and CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for Lucy on Sunday, July 23, 2023 and noted, "I remember dear Lucy and her happy persona. She as a gift from God to CICIAMS."

We express great sorrow in her passing and send prayers from around the world. May God almighty and Mother Mary console every one of us and her immediate family. May the angels carry her to the bosom of our God. *Eternal rest grant unto Lucy 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.*



Lucy Wangu Thang'a (Kenya), Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa (Eswatini), Diana Ruzicka (USA) and Catherine Pero (Malaysia), International Nurse Day, May 12, 2023, United Nations, New York City, NY, USA



Sr. Cecilia Adache, OSF & Lucy Wangu Thang'a, Nurses with Global Impact Awardees

# The Business of the Organization

## 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 News to the CICIAMS Secretary General at:  
[CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com](mailto:CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Events



- World Mental Health Day, 10 Oct 2023 (WHO)
- 7<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor, 19 Nov 2023  
“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor.” (Vatican)
- CINGO (Catholic Inspired NGO) annual meeting, December

-----2024-----

- 57<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace (Vatican) – 1 Jan 2024
- 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 – 11 Feb 2024
- 17<sup>th</sup> World Rare Disease Day – 28 Feb 2024
- 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
- World Refugee Day (UN) – 20 June 2024
- Annual Meeting of Moderators of Ecclesiastical Movements and New Communities, Dicastery for Laity, Family & Life, June 2024, Rome (Date TBD-Int'l President & one other attend)
- 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)
- 2025 – JUBILEE YEAR (Vatican)
- **2026 – CICIAMS XXII World Congress – Thailand\***
- 2027 – World Youth Day, Seoul, South Korea