



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

Secretary General
Diana Ruzicka, MSN, RN - USA

Treasurer/Financial Manager
Mobolanle Onwubiko, RN, RM
Nigeria

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

President, Africa Region
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 Buncuan, 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

SPRING
2023

From the International President's Desk



My dear brothers and sisters from the four regions of CICIAMS, it is once again great that we have had the privilege and honour to celebrate Easter. As we celebrate this very important season in our faith. I would like us to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day. For us Christians and Catholic Health workers, Easter represents the ultimate triumph of life over death, of hope over despair. It is a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life that it brings. It is also a confirmation that our mission as health workers is to preserve life regardless of the circumstances.

We are aware of the challenges and threats to life that are brought about by advances in science and the call for human rights. We remain the only hope for the survival of the unborn babies who face the threat of abortion. Let us do all in our power to equip ourselves with the right information to empower our youth on bioethics and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In a world that can often feel dark and uncertain, the message of Easter reminds us that there is always hope. No matter what challenges we may face, we can find strength and comfort in knowing that God is with us and that His love and grace will see us through. While we continue to fight against the powers and principalities, we do so with the confidence that the eternal battle has already been won.

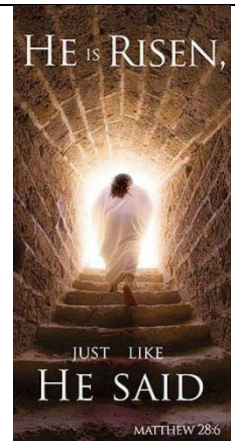
So, as we come together with family and friends to celebrate this joyous occasion, let us remember the true meaning of Easter. Let us renew our commitment to living lives of faith, hope and love, and let us strive together to make a positive difference in the world around us.

Today is a celebration of the victory of life over death, of good over evil, of beauty over ugliness and of order over chaos .

May the peace and blessings of Easter be with you and your loved ones always. I wish you and your families a blessed Easter. May God Bless and keep you all year through. May God give you all the faith it takes to make you the ambassadors of true life. May His love and wisdom always help to guide us as we perform our duties at all levels of health care service.

I trust all of us are preparing for the conference in Nairobi Kenya in August 2024. Let us not forget to pray for the team in Kenya as they are preparing to host all of us. Thank you and God Bless

Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN



Meet CICIAMS' International Ecclesiastical Assistant

At the CICIAMS General Council Meeting held on August 1, 2023 in Pennsylvania, USA, the Presidents of the Member Associations or their delegates voted unanimously to ask Reverend Father Kenneth G. Sleyman, MM to serve as the International Ecclesiastical Assistant.



Fr. Sleyman in a Maryknoll Missionary in Japan teaching at Tenshi College (Angels College) in Higashi Ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan teaching ethics, English and the Foundations of Christianity.

Fr. Ken shared, *"Being a nurse is a way for me to imitate Jesus' caring for others and his mother Mary supporting people in their time of suffering. Personally, I am indebted to a perceptive nurse Miss Smith who saw baby Ken turning a green color a few hours after my birth in the Nursery and called the Obstetrician Dr. Anderson in the night to check on me. My mother's blood type B negative and mine, B positive were incompatible and an emergency blood transfusion given to baby me to save my life. Hence, my nursing career is a way to repay that debt of gratitude to Nurse Smith and carrying on the mission to save lives through nursing care. The Vietnam War inspired me to choose nursing after High School to help in the war effort caring for the injured soldiers and civilians. However, by graduation time, the war ended, and I chose a new career path fighting cancer at a famous hospital in New York City. Eventually the suffering, the courage, and the faith of my cancer patients in New York and my leprosy patients in Korea pointed me towards priesthood to care also for people's spiritual pain and spiritual recovery with the tools of faith, hope, and love. After a 48 year-long career as a nurse and 32 years as a priest I feel I am an international person. I have lived in the USA, Korea, India, Israel, Italy, and Japan and understand the importance of culture in the role of health care and in our faith life. It is with great humility and great pride that I offer myself at the service of God at this time in my career to celebrate our common calling as Catholic nurses to heal people's bodies, hearts and souls through the good work of CICIAMS."*

At the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which concluded the most recent CICIAMS Executive Board meeting in Rome, Rev. Fr. Kenneth Sleyman, MM, gave each Executive Board member a missionary cross to go forth and work for Christ and CICIAMS.

Divine Mercy Sunday April 16, 2023

The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion [on Divine Mercy Sunday] shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.



The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her *Diary* entry 699:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.

In all, St. Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast.

Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St. Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St. Faustina — nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter^[1]. The title



"Divine Mercy Sunday" does, however, highlight the meaning of the day.

CICIAMS Executive Board Meeting February 18-19, 2023, Rome, Italy

The CICIAMS Executive Board met in Rome, Italy on the 18th and 19th of February as required by the CICIAMS Statutes. The meeting began as it always should with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass arranged by our Liturgical Committee: Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV and Rev. Fr. Ken Sleyman, MM, at the Church of Santa Maria in Trastevere.



This was the first meeting which several of the Executive Board members were able to attend. Introductions were made and the group prepared for two busy days to follow.



Due to budget constraints of CICIAMS, which is now almost wholly funded by member dues, only partial reimbursement was paid to each board member for their travel to Rome. Thus, high on the agenda was grants and activities to make CICIAMS fiscally solvent. The CICIAMS Executive Board voted to prepare two grants to the Papal Foundation, one for the training of nurses in NaproTechnology headed by Sr. Cecilia Adache, OSF, Chair, Committee on the Family and another related to Ethics and right of conscience. Additionally, the Secretary General was charged with investigating just in time publishing as another source of income.

Africa Region Congress w/ GCM - 2024

Mrs. Rosaline Ooko, President, CICIAMS Africa Region reported that the Catholic Nurses Guild of Kenya will host the Executive Board and GCM at the Africa Region Congress.

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

Dates: August 5-9, 2024 (Monday through Friday) with excursion option 10 August 2024

5 August – Executive Board Meeting (EB)

6 August – General Council Meeting (GCM)

7 August – Opening ceremony, keynote address and 1-2 papers

8 & 9 August – Presentations

10 August – Departure or Excursion

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

General Council Meeting particulars:

The CICIAMS GCM is the supreme governing body of CICIAMS and consists of the full Executive Board and the presidents of national associations 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 Presidents of their Association or their Deputies. They may be accompanied by one or several members of their Association, the number not to exceed four (4). Each will have a right to speak. Other members are welcomed as observers. 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. Full Member Associations in good standing have voting rights. Any Member Association with membership exceeding one thousand will be entitled to a second vote. ***VISA – If you require a VISA for travel to Kenya, please apply for one early.

Elections will be held for the following positions in 2024:
International President (2024-2028)

Treasurer/Financial Manager (2024-2028)

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

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

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

***Nominees will need to provide: CV/resume, nomination form signed by national president and a brief description of their vision and how they will fulfill their role. Announcements will be sent in January 2024.

Additional Actions taken by the Executive Board

1. Charged the Secretary General to send a letter thanking the Maryknoll Missionary Provincial for funding Fr. Ken Sleyman, MM's participation in CICIAMS.
2. Approved the Non-binding Strategic Alliance with Nurses with Global Impact to host the annual awards ceremony at the United Nations on International Nurses day on May 12, 2023. This agreement will be reviewed following the event and prior to September 2023 when it is due to be signed again.
3. Approval to fund the attendance of Dr. Khosi Mthethwa at the NWGI luncheon at the United Nations in New York City as one of the keynote speakers.
4. Approved the funding of Dr. Khosi Mthethwa to represent CICIAMS at the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life annual meeting of moderators Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life on June 22, 2023.
5. Referred the Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults Policy to the Ethics Committee for review and revision
6. Requested Region President provide a list of liaison organization to Dr. Anne Wawire Kabimba, Chair, Midwives Committee and Representative to Catholic Inspired NGOs (CINGO) for her report to CINGO.
7. Confirmed Diana Ruzicka as the Legal Representative to the IOR replacing Mary Dolan.
8. Secretary General to set up MailChimp Messages and Ethics Committee to devise a policy to guide what may be sent to members.
9. Website manager to establish a webpage accessible to members only for educational videos working with Family, Midwives and Professional Committee
10. Chair, Committee on the Family to design Papal Foundation Grant to educate nurses in the Creighton Model Fertility Care System and NaproTechnology
11. Fr. Ken Sleyman to review Mind, Body, Spirit Handbook written by Dr. Marian Nowak for possible sharing within CICIAMS. Executive Board to discuss appropriate method to share member publications.
12. Sr. Cecilia Adache and Dr. Anne Wawire Kabimba to create webinars for members.
13. Ethics & Family Committee to collaborate in designing a project / grant to address the truth of euthanasia.
14. CICIAMS Ethics Committee to continue the revision of the Ethical Guidelines which the Regional Presidents will review within their region for cross cultural applicability and then these will be translated into various languages
15. Secretary General, Regional Presidents and Chairs Family and Midwives Committee – requested members from each member association be identified to bring forward issues pertinent to each committee.
16. Promote the inclusion of conscience protection laws in all countries.
17. Secretary General to design an orientation webinar for new officers.
18. Tabled discussion of a second UN team to the GCM in 2024

19. Regional Presidents requested to solicit information on issues that nurses face related to the care of the elderly and provide these to Béatrice van Dorsser for the April 2023 Crescendo meeting in Paris.
20. President CICIAMS Africa region in collaboration with CNG-Kenya provide budge asap, firm schedule for the Regional Congress etc.
21. As a regional initiative, President Africa Region to obtain funds to assist with providing pads for girls in Africa – Hygiene & Girl Campaign.

In an effort to maintain fiscal solvency, the Executive Board voted to:

22. Charged the Financial Manager and Website Manager with establishing a donation tab on the CICIAMS website
23. Post on the website and in the newsletter requests for donations through legacies.
24. Charged the Financial Manager and website manager with establishing a system to make annual due on the website via credit card payments.
25. Dr. Gosia Brykczynska volunteered that the Nurses' Examination of Conscience could be published by CICIAMS for income.
26. Secretary General charged to work with Fr. Ken to prepare various booklets for income: Rosary pamphlet, CICIAMS prayer in various languages etc.
27. Secretary General to devise a donation letter. Each EB member to provide a list of potential donors
28. Fr. Ken and Dr. Anne to investigate the purchase of a home in Rome where nurses could stay.
29. Dr. Gosia Brykczynska to discuss fee schedule with Europe member.

Easter Vigil 2023 – Excerpt from the Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis

... The night is drawing to a close and the first light of dawn is appearing upon the horizon as the women set out toward Jesus' tomb... ..upon arriving and seeing the empty tomb, they turn around and retrace their steps. They leave the tomb behind and run to the disciples to proclaim a change of course: Jesus is risen and *awaits them in Galilee*.

Let us ask ourselves today, brothers and sisters: what does it mean to go to Galilee? Two things: on the one hand, to leave the enclosure of the Upper Room and go to the land of the Gentiles (cf. *Mt 4:15*), to come forth from hiding and to open themselves up to mission, to leave fear behind and to *set out for the future*. On the other hand, and this is very beautiful, to *return to the origins*, for it was precisely in Galilee that *everything began*. There the Lord had met and first called the disciples. So, to go to Galilee means to return to the grace of the beginnings, to regain the memory that regenerates hope, the “memory of the future” bestowed on us by the Risen One.

Following the CICIAMS Executive Board meeting, at the request of CICIAMS International President, Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, members of the EB met with the leadership of two key Vatican Dicasteries.

Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, Kevin Cardinal Farrell welcomed the EB along with his legal representative, Dr. Philip Milligan, who was instrumental in obtaining approval for the revisions of the 2014 CICIAMS Statutes with the amendments made by the GC in 2020 and 2022. The EB was pleased to also meet Rev. Giovanni Buontempo, Communication Coordinator of Ecclesiastical Movements and Associations of the Faithful who had previously secured the Dicastery's letter confirming Fr. Kenneth Sleyman's selection as the CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant and was assisting with updating CICIAMS information on the Dicastery website. At this meeting, Dr. Mthethwa was presented with the newly approved 2023 Statutes signed by His Eminence on February 11, 2023, on the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. She presented Cardinal Farrell with a beautiful hand-painted candle.



Rev. Giovanni Buontempo, Diana Ruzicka, Rosaline Okoobo, Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, Cardinal Farrell, Sr. Cecilia Adache, Béatrice van Dorsser, Bola Onwubiko, Rev. Ken Sleyman, Dr. Philip Milligan - February 20, 2023
CICIAMS & Dicastery for Laity, Family & Life

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Immediately following members of the Executive Board met with the leadership of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. The meeting was chaired by Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, SMA, Secretary and attended by Msgr. Namugera, Fr. Chris Mahar and Fr. Dumisani Vilakati. Fr. Namugera provided a presentation on the current actions and operations to the Dicastery in its new mission. *“The mission of the Dicastery is to support the Holy Father, the Bishops (broadly understood) and the People of God in promoting integral human development, ensuring that no one is excluded (Praedicate Evangelium, Preamble 8). Therefore, the approach of the Dicastery is to listen, dialogue and reflect, and then discern propose and support effective responses aimed at integral human development.* The Dicastery's fields of work include: *injustice & insecurity, economy & work, care of creation, human rights, sickness, migration, humanitarian emergencies and ETC (the ETC covers all areas of concern to local churches. It can be something specific or a situation that may evolve over time.* At this time, no annual health conferences are planned. Instead, the Dicastery is reaching out to the Church at large to dialogue and assist.



Msgr. Namugera, Rev. Ken Sleyman, Diana Ruzicka, Béatrice van Dorsser, Bola Onwubiko, Fr. Chris Mahar, Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, Rosaline Okoobo, Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, Sr. Cecilia Adache, OSF, Fr. Dumisani Vilakati – February 20, 2023
CICIAMS & Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

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? Here are 5 Catholic disciplines recommended by Our Lady. Might we adopt these?

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

Regional Presidents in Action – Featured Africa Region



Rosaline Okoobo
President Africa Region

PERFORMANCE OF AFRICAN REGION

Greetings of love and peace from the African region of CICIAMS, and wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2023. No doubt we all enjoyed the international congress, hosted by the members of NACN – USA 2022. It was a very well organized congress, the speakers where on point and papers presented where very educative and informative. I say congratulations to the President, LOC, and all the members of National Association of Catholic Nurses USA.

It was in the General Council Meeting held on the 1st of August 2022, a day before the opening ceremony of the Congress, that I was elected the Interim President of the Africa Region of CICIAMS. For that, I am grateful to the International President and the presidents of member countries for counting me worthy to lead the region.

We held our first meeting on the 3rd of August 2022, with four African Countries in attendance.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MEETING

1. Regional Executive Body. Members were nominated from different countries to various positions to form the regional executive.

2. CICIAMS Committee Members. President to nominate members to work in the various CICIAMS committees in their countries i.e. Ethics, Family, Midwifery and profession. These members reports to the CICIAMS chair persons as this will make it easy for the chairmen to obtain information from the various countries. This was given a target of three months and we all met the target.

3. Reviving the inactive countries: The active countries were assigned to follow up on the inactive countries that are close to them and mentor them. This assignment was given a six month target and it is still ongoing. We expect positive result at the end of January when we shall have a zoom meeting.

Our means of communication is WhatsApp and Email. We have a WhatsApp group that has been very effective. Every member is active and willing to share in the platform. Through the platform our bye-law was circulated.

We have proposed some projects which will spread across the member countries:

1. Safeguarding the lives of children and vulnerable adults.
2. Care of the elderly.
3. Fertilitycare/Naprothechnology (Fertility Awareness).

These and other existing projects we hope to exchange and observe to see the impact on our people.

Nigeria has some trained fertility care practitioners and from health education and fertility awareness, they were able to discover that most students and young women cannot afford sanity towels for their monthly flow. We are seeking collaborations and donors to pad up these young women as they resort to pieces of clothes to avoid being stained. This is another project that must spread to all the countries of Africa. “Pad up a girl Campaign”.

Conclusion:

We hope to meet more often when we have the financial means to do so. Members have been very co-operative and enthusiastic to do more. We are grateful to God and hope for a fruitful 2023.

Rosalyn Okoobo
Africa Regional President

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|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Regional president: | Rosaine Okoobo ----- | Nigeria |
| 2. Vice President: | Buthelezi Gcinile----- | Eswatin |
| 3. Secretary: | Dr. Anne Kabimba ----- | Kenya |
| 4. Public Relations: | Esther Musonda ----- | Zambia |
| 5. Financial Manager: | Thandazile Nxumlo----- | South Africa |

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Nigeria: | Ghana, Cameroon, Botswana |
| Eswatin: | Lesotho, Mozambique, Burundi |
| Kenya: | Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda |
| Zambia: | Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe |

CICIAMS Representing Catholic Nurses and Member Associations Internationally

NWGI – CICIAMS Alliance

7th International Nurses Day Celebration and Awards Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations

In December 2022, CICIAMS entered into a Non-Binding Strategic Alliance with Nurses with Global Impact, Inc. to host the 7th Annual Celebration of International Nurses Day in 2023. This year several CICIAMS members from across the globe have been nominated for this prestigious recognition which will occur at a luncheon at the United Nations on May 12, 2023. Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President is a keynote speaker.

NWGI Founder and NACN-USA/CICIAMS member Deb O'Hara Rusckowski, RN, MBA, MTS established NWGI to connect, support and celebrate the work of nurses everywhere, bringing visibility to nurses doing extraordinary work and their projects that make a global impact on healthcare. Their experiences and stories are shared on International Nurses day at the United Nations at the annual luncheon and then in perpetuity on the web and via social media. To attend the luncheon, register at: bit.ly/nursesday2023



The poster features a blue background with a collage of international flags at the top. The CICIAMS logo is in the top left corner, and a globe icon is in the top right. The main text reads: "7th Annual Celebration of INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2023". Below this, it says "MAY 12, 10AM-2PM" and "Tickets: \$125". A photo of a diverse group of nurses in blue scrubs is shown. To the right, it says "HONORING NURSES WORLDWIDE" and "bit.ly/nursesday2023". Below the photo, it states "2.0 CONTACT HOURS WILL BE AWARDED". At the bottom, there are two orange boxes: "INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS" and "EXHIBITORS". A yellow banner at the very bottom says "NURSE HONOREES FROM AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE, AND THE AMERICAS".

Past CICIAMS Member Association Awardees Read their Inspiring Stories: <https://nurseswithglobalimpact.org/>



2018
Dr. Marie Hilliard, JCL, PhD,
RN
NACN-USA



2020-2021
Dr. Marian Nowak, DNP,
MPH, RN, PN, CSN, FAAN
NACN-USA



2022
Auggy Ndlovulazi, RN, BA
CNG-Eswatini



2022
Lisa Fuchs, RN
NACN-USA



Holy See Mission Internship Program

The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN is currently accepting **intern applications for Fall 2023**.

Submit your application by:
Saturday, April 15, 2023

Dr. Patricia Sayers, DNP, RN, CICIAMS Representative to the United Nations shared this internship opportunity with the Holy See at the United Nations in New York City, USA inviting CICIAMS members who are under 35 years of age to apply. Since 2015, the Holy See Mission has had 162 interns from 37 different countries. The internship program provides the opportunity for bright, Catholic, English-speaking college graduates or graduate students to gain experience assisting the Holy See in its multilateral work at the UN, seeking to bring the light of Catholic Social Teaching to the debates of the international community.

According to the Holy see, “these interns are integral to the work of the Holy See at the United Nations. They attend various UN meetings, conferences, and debates, and then prepare reports that, once reviewed, are sent to the Holy See’s central offices in the Vatican. These interns also assist with the Mission’s conferences, receptions, and cultural events.”

There are three internship cycles each year: Fall (apply by April 1), Spring (apply by October 1), and Summer (apply by January 1), and eight internship positions are available per cycle. **The Mission is currently accepting applications for the Fall 2023 session, which will run from late August through December 2023.**

The Application process involves sending a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendations (one from a teacher or academic advisor, the second from a Catholic pastor or chaplain) to arrive by the respective deadline at Internship Program, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, 25 E. 39th Street, New York, NY 10016. A PDF copy of the mailed application should also be emailed by the deadline to office@holyseemission.org with “Internship Application” listed in the subject line. After applications have been received and evaluated, certain applicants may be invited to submit an essay on one of the themes in debate at the UN as the second stage of the process.

After that, interviews may be scheduled via Zoom or, for those in the New York area, in person as the third stage.

Interns are responsible for making their own housing arrangements while in New York, covering their initial travel to and from New York, and other expenses. However, the Mission offers reimbursement for travel to and from the Mission Office each day and a staff lunch at the Mission at 1:15 pm. is provided daily.

The Mission maintains a list of possible housing options (normally dormitory style setting) in New York City. This information is offered once the intern has been selected for a position. Interns can make arrangements to stay in these locations, find alternative housing, stay with friends/family, or look at possible sublet opportunities and short term rentals.

The Mission has established Fellowship Programs with certain Catholic Colleges and Universities that provide funding for the housing and living expenses for a mutually-agreed upon student or recent graduate to serve as fellows for a semester or for an academic year at the Mission. If the intern is not from one of these established programs, he/she can apply for the Viscogliosi Brothers Fellowship. There is an application process for the VBF and the intern will need to show demonstrable financial need to qualify. These funds can be used for housing and monthly expenses while the intern is in New York City and working for the Mission. The application process for the VBF is shared with the intern upon request.

For complete information:

<https://holyseemission.org/contents/mission/5829deacef4c7.php>

Further Inquiries and questions

Those with questions not answered here are invited to email office@holyseemission.org or contact Fr. Mark Knestout (212.370.7885 x127; mknestout@holyseemission.org).



Dr. Patricia Sayers, Dr. Marian Nowak, Patty Staley and Maria Arvonio representing CICIAMS at the United Nations

CRESCENDO Worldwide Network for a Human and Christian Ageing

What issues are nurses facing in your country in regards to the care of the elderly?

Mrs. Béatrice van Dorsser represents CICIAMS to The Association “Crescendo International Network.” Crescendo is inspired by the Gospel and the Church’s teaching – in particular by the document of the Pontifical Council for the Laity “Dignity and Mission of Older People in the Church and in the world” (October 1998), as well as the United Nations Principles for Older People (1991).



CRESCENDO.

Mrs. van Dorsser has asked nurses’ to review the latest newsletter of Crescendo and also to share with her directly their reactions regarding care of the elderly. What issues are the nurses facing in their countries with the care of the elderly.

(Email: globe9@xs4all.nl).

Mrs. van Dorsser will bring this information to Crescendo meeting in April 2023.

Please share the Crescendo newsletter with your members. It has been published into 3 languages and is available at:

<https://www.reseaucrescendo.org/documents-a-consulter/?lang=en>

“According to God’s plan, each human being is a growing life, from the first spark of its existence to its last sigh.” (Christifideles Laici No.48 – Apostolic Exhortation 1988)

Helena Matoga, RN, MA, a member of the *Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Pielęgniarek I Położnych Polskich* (KSPiPP), was instrumental in promoting the cause for the canonization of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN and is now also assisting with the cause of Servant of God Sr. Magdalena Maria Epstein, OP (1975-1947).

Maria Epstein, while volunteering with the Association of Lady Almoners whose aim was to care for and help the poor, in 1909, decided to run a small dispensary supported by the Daughters of Charity in Kraków. It was at this time Maria Epstein conceived the idea of establishing a nursing school in Kraków, which opened on November 5, 1911. She managed the school from its inception and was a graduate in the first class of fourteen. Maria ensured that the education included a spirit of patriotism and religiosity. Interrupted during World War I (1914-1916), Maria Epstein organized short First Aid /



Sr. Magdalena Maria Epstein, OP

Nursing Courses which were run by the graduates of the Kraków School, and were aimed at training Red Cross volunteers. In 1916, the school resumed and, with the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, the education of nurses was moved to Jagiellonian University in the 1920s. In 1930, Maria Epstein resigned from being director of the school of nursing and entered the monastery of cloistered Dominican nuns.

We are blessed to have a CICIAMS member with such historical knowledge. Helena, searching through the archives in Poland, located an article written by a colleague of Bl. Hanna Chrzanowska (who was editor of the journal) following the International Catholic Nurses’ first World Congress held in Lourdes, France in 1933. See the article and translation on the following page.

Saints during the Soviet Occupation

At the CICIAMS XXI World Congress held in Pennsylvania, USA, the CICIAMS General Council welcomed the Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives. In a letter presented to the delegation, Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, wrote, *“I am pleased to inform you that the General Council of CICIAMS, at its meeting held on 1 August 2022 at Peddler’s Village in New Hope, Pennsylvania, has unanimously recognized The Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives as contiguous members of the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants. We regret that there were many years that we were unable to exchange communications due to World War II followed by the Soviet Occupation of Poland. We are very, very pleased to resume communication and welcome your active participation.”*

The Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives (Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Pielęgniarek I Położnych Polskich (KSPiPP) were represented by Mme Krystyna Starosta, RN; Mme. Izabella Ćwiertnia, MA, RN and Mlle. Katarzyna Bialokoz, BSN, RN.

Mme Starosta shared holy cards of Servant of God Stanisława Leszczyńska, the midwife known as the Angel of Auschwitz. Several Polish nurses are currently in the canonization process. On June 11, 2022, His Holiness Pope Francis approved the beatification of ten Sisters of St. Elizabeth martyred in *odium fidei* under the Communist Regime. The ceremony occurred on June 11, 2022, in Wrocław, Poland, officiated by Marcello Cardinal Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, the first lay Catholic registered nurse to be beatified, was featured in the Fall 2022 newsletter.



SŁUGA BOGA
STANISŁAWA LESZCZYŃSKA
(1906-1974)



Helena Matoga,
RN, MA

History and Archives

First International Congress of Catholic Nurses, Lourdes [France], 18-21 July 1933

PIEŁĘGNIARKA POLSKA

CZASOPISMO POLSKIEGO STOWARZYSZENIA PIEŁĘGNIAREK ZAWODOWYCH
 WYCHODZI POD REDAKCJĄ HANNY CHRZĄNOWSKIEJ I MARJI STAROWIEYSKIEJ

KOMITET REDAKCYJNY:

M. Babicka-Zachertowa, S. Golebianska, dr. M. Kacprzak, B. Krakowski,
W. Lankajtesówna, M. Mochnacka, H. Nagórska, E. Rabowska, J. Romanowska,
J. Suffczyńska, Prof. dr. W. Szenajch, Z. Szlenkierówna, S. Schindlerówna,
Z. Kusilewska, dr. Cz. Wroczyński, Z. Zawadzka — Warszawa, E. Borkowska,
T. Kuleczyńska — Kraków, Prof. dr. K. Jonscher, M. Wilkońska, dr. J. Zeyland,
J. Zakowska — Poznań, A. Dąbska, A. Mańkowska, dr. L. Węgrzynowski —
Lwów, Prof. dr. W. Jasiński, M. Ptaszyńska, Z. Węclawowiczówna — Wilno.

Międzynarodowy Kongres Piełęgniarek Katolickich w Lourdes od 18—21 lipca 1933 r.

„...Jest w Lourdes jakiś nastrój, którego żadne słowa nie wyrażą,
w którym ci, co cierpią, znajdują dziwne ukojenie, dziwną siłę, nigdzie nie
spotykaną... O tajemnicę tego pytajcie Tej, która żyje tu wśród nas;
od Niej uczcie się patrzeć na dusze pod powłoką ciała trawionego cier-
pieniem, zgnębionego, omdlewającego, któremu powołane jesteście nieść
pomoc i ulgę“.

Temi słowy w dniu 19-go lipca 1933 r. w czasie Mszy św. w Grocie
wital Jego Eminencja Ks. Gerlier, Biskup Lourdes, przybyłe ze wszystkich
stron świata piełęgniarki zakonne i świeckie, należące do Międzynarodo-
wego Związku Piełęgniarek Katolickich.

Dla zacierpienia sił, dla wydobycia z siebie duchowych wartości, które
nierzaz wskutek nadmiaru pracy gdzieś na dnie duszy tlą się tylko, dla
sięgnięcia do źródła wiedzy, nie można było znaleźć lepszego miejsca, niż
u stóp Matki Boga, wśród szeregów chorych, wpatrzonych w to Źródło
Miłosierdzia.

800 członkiń Związku słuchało w skupieniu słów dostojnego mówcy,
który w głębokim ujęciu cierpienia i zrozumieniu zawodu piełęgniarskiego
odpowiadał na tłoczące się ciągłe pytania: dlaczego tyle nieszczęścia?

„Wy, które życie w stałym zetknięciu z cierpieniem, wy, które tak
łatwo popaść możecie w zwątpienie wobec okropnych spustoszeń, szerzo-
nych przez choroby — posłuchajcie „Pani“ (*la Dame*), Ona was nauczy, że
cierpienie ma w świecie swe znaczenie opatrnościowe, niezastąpione“.

“...There is an atmosphere in Lourdes that no words can express, in which those who suffer find strange consolation, a strange strength, which is found nowhere else... Ask Her who is living here, among us, about this mystery. Learn from Her to look at the soul - hidden under the shell of the body - tormented by suffering, dejected, languishing, and to which you are called upon to bring help and relief.”

With these words on July 19, 1933, at the Holy Mass in the Grotto, His Eminence Fr. Gerlier, Bishop of Lourdes, welcomed religious and lay nurses from all over the world, belonging to the International Union of Catholic Nurses. In order to draw strength, to extract spiritual values from oneself, which sometimes only flickers somewhere in the depths of the soul due to excess of work, and in order to reach the source of knowledge, one could not find a better place than at the feet of the Mother of God, among the rank of the sick whose eyes are fixed on this Spring of Mercy.

Eight hundred (800) members of the Association listened attentively to the words of this distinguished speaker who, with a deep understanding of suffering and appreciation of the nursing profession, addressed the constantly pressing questions: Why is there so much misfortune?

“...You who live in permanent contact with suffering, you who may so easily fall into doubt witnessing the terrible devastation caused by sickness, listen to Our Lady. She will teach you that suffering has its providential, irreplaceable significance in the world.



UCZESTNICZKI MIĘDZYNARODOWEGO KONGRESU PIEŁĘGNIAREK KATOLICKICH
PRZED GŁÓWNA BAZYLIKĄ W LOURDES.



Mrs. Sabbath Mlambo, RN (1930-2021) began her mission to care for others in the 1960s. She cared for cancer and tuberculosis sufferers and through her community outreach projects in townships such as Lamontville, Chesterville and Clermont, she was able to provide meals to locals. She was later called out of retirement to head the St. Clement's home-based Care project in 2001 that provided assistance to the families of HIV and Aids sufferers in her hometown Clermont. Mrs. Mlambo was very passionate about education. She funded the studies of orphans and children from poor families who have become professionals like doctors, geologists and lawyers. In her 80's she provided food parcels to destitute people presenting at her home. As a staunch Catholic, Mlambo teamed up with the late Archbishop Hurley on numerous community projects stating that "her strength to serve others came from God and would continue for as long as she received the breathe of life."

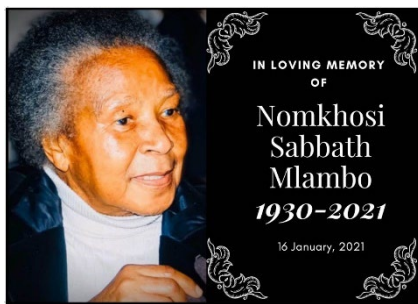
Mrs. Mlambo first heard about the Catholic Nurses Guild in early 1978. Mrs. Clara Khanyi encouraged her to become a member of the Guild and invited her to attend the next World Congress. This began extensive traveling as she actively participated in CICIAMS. She was blessed to meet the late Pope St. Paul VI at his summer residence in Castle Gondolfo. She traveled to several places in northern Italy and then on to Belgium where she learned that the Holy Father had passed away. Traveling next to Munich, in Bavaria they stayed at the headquarters of the Dominican Sisters. From Germany they went to Israel visiting Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and many holy sites. Upon her return, she told Catholic Nurses around KwaZulu Natal (KZN), South Africa about the CICIAMS World Congress and the Catholic Nurses Guild. She investigated establishing a branch of the guild in KZN. The response was very positive and the rest is history.

The first event of the newly formed branch was a one-day conference held at Marian Hill Retreat House which was well attended. Sabbath Mlambo became the first president of the local branch and communicated nationally with the nurses assisted by the Bishop and the parish priests. As the first branch President, she reviewed the national constitution and provided an amended to change the motto to, "*See Christ in Every Person.*" This was then presented at the National Conference of the Catholic Nurses' Guild of Southern Africa and accepted.

Mrs. Mlambo attended the XIII World Congress in Lisbon, Portugal making the time to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima with the late Bishop Biyase and Fr. Deutimere from Orange Free State. KwaZulu Natal was the largest group to attend that conference. In 1990, she attended the XIV World Congress in New York City, traveling to the Holy Land prior. The closing Mass was at St. Patrick's Cathedral after which they were given a guided tour of the United Nations. She visited Ottawa, Canada, and London.

It was at the World Congress in New York that members from the English-speaking regions of Africa (i.e., South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, etc.) met with the International Executive and requested that an English-speaking region be formed in Africa. This would be debated at the CICIAMS XV World Congress in Belgium in 1994. The CICIAMS General Council unanimously accepted the proposal and the Africa English-speaking Region came into being.

Nurses from Kwa Zulu Natal continued to attend each of the successive World Congresses making the time to travel extensively along the way. Two attended the XVI World Congress in Taipei, Taiwan in 1998.



The English-speaking region conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2000 with the theme, "Healing Africa." The Regional president was Mrs. Juma from Kenya and she handed the presidency over to Mr. Sello Komerong from South Africa.

A large group from KwaZulu Natal attended with XVII World Congress in Bangalore, India in 2002, and visited Mother Teresa's tomb in Calcutta and the bedroom of the late Mahatma Gadhi in Mumbai. Two nurses from KwaZulu Natal attended the XVIII World Congress in Mexico in 2009 and visited the site of Our

Lady of Guadalupe. Because of Mrs. Mlambo's efforts and encouragement, the branch thrives in KwaZulu Natal. Her leadership, compassion and dedication was appreciated by all. She will be sorely missed. May her soul and all the souls of the Faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. A tribute to a wonderful life.

LEGACY GIVING: Families and individuals can "Leave a Legacy" 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. Your life can live on in the actions of nurses across the world past your days here on earth. Consider giving to CICIAMS.

CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com



The Business of the Organization

CICIAMS Official Documents & Links

*****NEW***** CICIAMS 2023 Statutes:
<http://www.ciciams.org/ciciamsreports.html>

CICIAMS Ethics Guidelines and Principles of Practices for Catholic Nurses: www.ciciams.org/ethicscommittee.html

Saint André International Center for Ethics and Integrity

Dr. Jozef Welie, MA, MMedS, JD, PhD, FACD invited members of CICIAMS to the 2023 Summer/Fall Ethics seminars. Among the four is *Health care ethics – Catholic perspective* (July 19-27, 2023) at the Notre Dame de Grace Conference Center in Rochefort-du-Gard in the south of France, located 15 minutes from the city of Avignon. The Center exists to a) develop scholarly conferences and academic courses in ethics and related subjects and b) make available ethics resources, both physical (e.g. scholarly documentation) and virtual (e.g., network) for research in ethics. The Center was established May 6, 2019 as a 501c3 non-profit charitable organization in Nebraska, USA and has an international board. www.chateausaintandre.center/ or info@chateausaintandrecenter



Calendar of Events



International Nurses Day - Nurses with Global Impact, Inc. Awards, United Nations, New York City
12 May 2023 10am-2:00pm
Register at: bit.ly/nursesday2023

Annual Meeting of Moderators of Ecclesiastical Movements and New Communities, Dicastery for Laity, Family & Life, 22 June 2023, Rome

Health care ethics – Catholic perspective July 19-27, 2023

3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 23 July 2023 (4th Sunday of July, close to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus)

World Youth Day, Lisbon, Portugal 1-6 Aug 2023

109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 24 Sep 2023

7th World Day of the Poor, 12 Nov 2023

2024 August 5-9 - Regional Conference - Kenya*

5Aug – Executive Board Meeting

6Aug – General Council Meeting (All National Association/Guild Presidents or their delegates)

7-9Aug – Regional Congress

10Aug – Optional Excursion

2026 - CICIAMS XXII World Congress - Thailand*

*Begin the VISA process EARLY



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 evangelise 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

Next newsletter deadline: 15 June 2023

May your day be richly blessed