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

FEBRUARY  
2025

## From the International President's Desk

May I greet you all my dear brothers and sisters, with the words that encourages me at all time, “The word became Flesh, and dwelt among us”. As I was thinking about the greetings I would like to share in this new year’s newsletter. I pondered about the fact that we are in the Jubilee year 2025, whose theme is: “Pilgrims of Hope.” This theme encourages us not to despair in times of challenges.

I am aware that we have had and continue to have different kinds of challenges in our daily lives. The church is providing us confidence to persevere. It is also important to note that this year again there will be the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers, in April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. I found it very encouraging that we shall have a Jubilee focusing on us and our mission as health care workers.

I am aware that not all of us can be able to participate in the Jubilee in Rome, however technology has made it possible to access information from the globe. Hence, I encourage each and every one of us to follow all the events on line so we are not left behind.

I found it prophetic that the theme for our Twenty Second Congress in Thailand “Human Dignity and Peace: Time for Global transformation” resonates so well with the Jubilee theme and the theme of the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Day of the Sick; “Hope does not disappoint (Romans 5:5) but strengthens us in times of trials” I am inspired by these themes. I have hope that the years ahead will be better for us as individuals and for our organization. Ours is to focus on things that sustain us such as; discipline, hard work, integrity, prayer and love. Let us surround ourselves with people who challenge and inspire us to grow to higher standards. As St Paul writes “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial” (1Corinthians 10:23). Let us choose what is beneficial, not just what is interesting.

May I conclude by thanking our Secretary General for including an explanation about the Jubilee and the Jubilee Prayer. Let us all join in prayer for the Jubilee. Thank you and stay blessed.

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



## 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, Bl. Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, Pray for us.

# CICIAMS XXII World Congress

11-13 November 2026; Executive Board meeting 9 Nov; General Council Meeting 10 Nov  
Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Center, 2/4 Moo 6, Petkasem Rd.,  
Tha Kham, Nakhonpathom 73110 Thailand

CICIAMS XXII World Congress will be hosted by the Catholic Nurses Guild of Thailand (CNG-Thailand).

The theme; HUMAN DIGNITY AND PEACE: TIME FOR GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

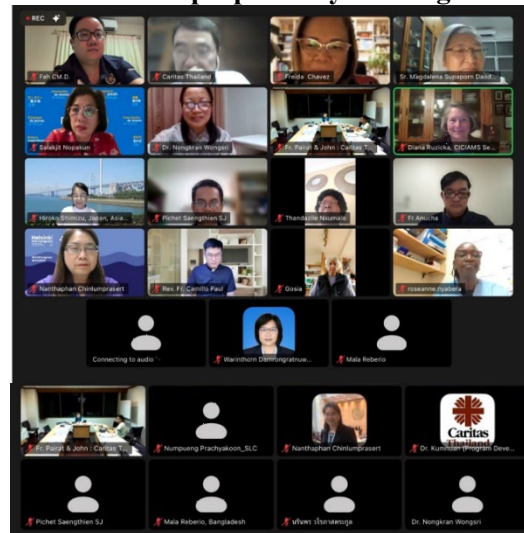
## First online expanded preparatory meeting for the CICIAMS XXII World Congress, October 9, 2024

The outline of the CICIAMS XXII World Congress was approved at the CICIAMS World General Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on August 6, 2024. A domestic preparatory meeting was immediately held in Thailand by relevant parties, and an expanded preparatory meeting was held online on October 9, 2024. The meeting was attended by International Ecclesiastical Assistant, Rev. Kenneth G. Sleyman MM, International Secretary General Mrs. Diana Ruzicka, Europe Regional President Dr. Malgorzata Brykczynska, and Asia Regional President Dr. Hiroko Shimizu. Sub-themes and time table based on the main theme were confirmed.



Online Meeting on October 9

## Second online preparatory meeting for the CICIAMS XXII World Congress, November 15, 2024



Online Meeting, November 15, 2024

In preparation for the World Congress, the Catholic Health Association of Thailand announced a new executive committee structure on November 1. The president is Sr. Magdalena Supaporn Daodee, PhD, RN, Sisters of Saint Paul de Chartres, President of Catholic Nurses Guild of Thailand (CNG-Thai), Headquarter: 122/11 Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand, Soi Nonsi14, Nonsi Road, Chong Nonsi, Yannawa, Bangkok 10120 Thailand and the vice president is Mrs. Saifon Mungsoongnern, MSN, RN. The organizing committee for the World Congress is being formed with the cooperation of members of the Catholic Health Association of Thailand, including not only nurses but also Catholic doctors and Catholic priests

The International Online Preparatory Meeting on November 15, 2024 was held with the participation of Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President and Diana Ruzicka, CICIAMS Secretary General, and others. From the CICIAMS Professional Committee Chair Mrs. Roseanne Aloo Nyabera and committee members Ms. Freida Chavez and Ms. Thandazile Nxumalo participated. The local

organizing committee included local members of the Program Committee, as well as Dr. Malgorzata Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV; President, CICIAMS Europe Region and Dr. Hiroko Shimizu, PhD, RN, CICIAMS, President Asia Region both from the CICIAMS Executive Board. The program included several revisions to the timetable and allocation for the first day. Selection and response of the keynote speaker were considered. The Social Committee considered accommodation and services. Reports were also given by the Committees: Liturgical, Congress Promotion, Media Communication, Sponsorship, Finance and Transport. All of them reported on their enthusiastic preparations. CICIAMS International President gave advice and words of encouragement regarding regional exchanges around the world. Please look forward to future information in this paper for more details.

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## From the CICIAMS Europe Region

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### Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives, Krakow Branch Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Pielęgniarek i Położnych Polskich (KSPiPP)

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#### Bl. Hanna Chrzanowska Formation House

Wiązowna, Poland

On 10.11.2024, the Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska Formation House was consecrated in Wiązowna by Bishop Romuald Kamiński, Ordinary of the Diocese of Warsaw-Praga. The blessing took place after a solemn Holy Mass, which was attended by a large group of parishioners and invited guests. The house was built in two years with the great commitment of the parishioners. Its main part is a large, multifunctional chapel; In addition, there are several smaller rooms and utility facilities. In the formation house there will be services, conferences, meetings of parish groups, as well as meetings of parish and commune residents. The parish priest Przemysław Macios has a lot of ideas in this regard. This building is another work inspired by the figure of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska.

Teresa Kloch-Mizerska

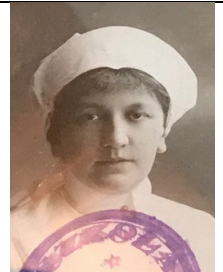


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#### Servant of God Sr. Magdalena Maria Epstein

Pilica, Poland

Sr. Magdalena Maria Epstein was born on August 2, 1875 in the Pilica castle, near Olkusz, in a wealthy family of a convert, banker of Jewish descent, Leon Epstein. Her mother, Maria from the Skarzynski family belonged to the class of the Polish landed gentry. Besides comprehensive education, her family home gave her deep religiosity and patriotism. She showed great compassion to the distressed and the suffering since her childhood days. After the deaths of her parents, she completely sacrificed her life to help the ailing and the poor (*cont'd next page*).



## Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives, Krakow Branch Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Pielęgniarek i Położnych Polskich (KSPiPP)

November 16, 2024 - Meeting in Pilica at the birthplace of Sr. Magdalena Maria Epstein. In 2025 there will be the 150th anniversary of her birth. Also in 2025 there will be a 100 years anniversary of the opening of the University School of Nurses and Hygienists.



*(cont'd from previous page)* First, with a group of young women, she arranged a small hospital adjacent to a dispensary run by the Daughters of Charity. In 1911, she set up the first School of Professional Nurses in Cracow. During the First World War, she provided healthcare, with the framework of the Ducal-Episcopal War Victims Relief Committee, for wounded soldiers and civilians afflicted with epidemics. In 1925, cooperating with the Jagiellonian University authorities, representatives of the American Red Cross and the Rockefeller Foundation, she established the modern University School for Nurses and Hygienists, giving it high professional and ethical level. After passing the administration of the institution into good hands (at the end of 1930), she joined the enclosed Dominican

convent in Grodek, Cracow (March 24, 1931), where she spent 16 years, setting a good example of humbleness, love, and zeal for the monastic life. At the center of her devotion she placed the Crucified Christ. She died in the odour of sanctity on September 6, 1947 and was buried in the Rakowicki Cemetery, Cracow.

On September 30, 2004, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski started the canonization process of the Servant of God in the Dominican Sisters church "Na Grodku". It was closed on the diocesan level on April 20, 2007 by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, who passed the dossier to the Congregation of Causes of Saints in Rome.



*From the left: Mgr Elżbieta Głowa, Chief Nurse of the Hospital in Żeromskiego in Kraków, czł. KSPiPP, prof. Zdzisław Pietrzyk - Jagiellonian Library, H. Matoga, Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Canonization of Blessed Hanna Chrzaniwska; the empty chair was left for a short time by the deputy provincial sister of the Sister of the Daughters of Charity, Sr. Marta Szkarlat*



*From the left, Sr. Marta Szkarlat, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics of Health Sciences prof. dr hab. Piotr Pierzchalski, Prof. Iwona Malinowska - Lipień, Anna Polonek, treasurer of MOiPiP, captain of the Polish Army, laureate of the Florence Nightingale Medal Anna Kaczmarczyk, Karolina Szumara – Rybczyńska*



*From the left: Prof. wydz. Health Sciences Anna Majda, Izabela Ćwiertnia, organizer Mr. Edward Szumara, Sr. Beata Widelka, (standing in bow tie) Tadeusz Wadas, President KSPiPP*

**Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives, Krakow Branch**  
**Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Pielęgniarek i Położnych Polskich (KSPiPP)**

**LITANY TO BLESSED HANNA CHRZANOWSKA**

2024/02/18

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*

*Christ, hear us. Christ, hear us.*

*Heavenly Father, God, have mercy on us.*

*Son, Redeemer of the world, God, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Spirit, God, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Mary – pray for us.*

*Saint Joseph – pray for us.*

*Saint Benedict – pray for us.*

*All Saints and Saints of God, pray for us.*

*Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska – pray for us.*

*God for His great works praising-*

*Jesus Christ in the mystery of the Cross finding*

*Diligently exploring the Word of God*

*In the Eucharist, uniting with Christ,*

*Drawing abundantly from Benedictine spirituality –*

*In prayer, the strength of faith, hope and love strengthens –*

*With Mary rushing to help those in need –*

*With the Sorrowful Mother of the tormented, compassionate –*

*Serving Christ himself in the sick –*

*Looking for support in the Holy Church –*

*Collaborating with the shepherds of the Church in caring for the sick*

*Radiating with the heat of God's love –*

*Eight Beatitudes incarnate being-*

*Self-sacrificing deeds of mercy*

*Defending the sanctity of life from conception to death –*

*Teaching the art of nursing wisely –*

*Nurses' consciences forming-*

*The simplest services towards the sick undertaken by*

*Struggling for the dignity of the nursing profession –*

*Persistently searching for the sick and abandoned*

*Taking in exiles and orphans –*

*Restoring hope and joy of life to the disabled –*

*Taking care of the bodies and souls of her clients –*

*Mediating in reconciling the sick with God –*

*The custom of Holy Mass in the sick person's home introduced by*

*Guarding the patient's dignity with great tact,*

*In the face of human misery, compassion arouses –*

*For Samaritan service to the sick, many incendiary-*

*To meet the sick and suffering, educators*

*God in the beauty of the world, discovering for yourself and others –*

*A cheerful spirit that dispels sadness –*

*Enduring adversity bravely and confidently –*

*Sacrificing everything that was hers for the sick –*

*Fulfilling the nursing vocation gloriously –*

*devoted to God and man with all her heart –*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, Lord.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, hear us, Lord.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*K. Pray for us, blessed Hanna.*

*W. May we bear witness to mercy with our whole lives.*

*Let's pray.*

*God, You called blessed Hanna to serve the sick, the poor and the abandoned. Grant that she, who responded to Your call with all her heart, would constantly encourage us by her example to help others. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Litany prepared by Fr. Kazimierz Kubik, pastor of nurses and midwives of the Archdiocese of Krakow



*Dr. Fr. Kazimierz Kubik, MD, Former Chaplain of the Nurses & Midwives of the Archdiocese of Krakow.*

*Fr. Kazimierz Kubik had been a long-term (30 years) pastor of the nurses and midwives*



*From left: Catholic nurse Ania Kaczmarczyk, winner of the Fl. Nightingale 2017 medal. She participated in a combat mission in Afghanistan in the area of heavy fighting near Ghazni and twice in Lebanon in 2021 and 2024. Currently, with the rank of captain of the Polish Army; Helena Matoga, MA, RN, Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Canonization of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN and Nurses & Midwives of the Archdiocese of Krakow,*

*27 Dec 2024*

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## From the CICIAMS Asia Region

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### 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild and Election for 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee

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The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild (BCNG) and Election for 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Holy Cross Pastoral and Retreat Center, Father Tek, Vadun, Gazipur, Bangladesh. This year our theme was, “ *Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care*”. The Most Rev. Bishop Theotonius Gomes, CSC was the Chief Guest in the occasion.

Holy Eucharist was offered by Most Rev. Bishop Paul Ponon Kubi, Chairman, Episcopal Health Care Commission of CBCB and Fr. James C. Cruze, Spiritual Director, BCNG. After the welcome speech by Prof. Mabel D Rozario, President, BCNG, the distinguished Special Guests delivered their valuable speeches to encourage and boost the nurses spiritually and professionally.

The Special Guests were-

1. Bishop Paul Ponon Kubi
2. Fr. James C. Cruze
3. Fr. Kunjan Quiah
4. Fr. Lintu F. D Costa
5. Sr. Dr. Lipy Gloria Rozario
6. Mr. Richard Bobby Rebeiro

A total of 100 participants from 5 branches of BCNG attended. The branches are:

1. Dhaka Branch
2. Kumudini Branch
3. Jashore Branch
4. Rajshahi Branch
5. Dinajpur Branch

The newly elected 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board members are: (For the period of June 2024 – June 2026)

1. Prof. Mabel D Rozario – President
2. Mr. Raphael Biswas- Vice President
3. Liuni Lipika Rozario- General Secretary
4. Carmel Kusum Rozario- Treasurer
5. Teresa Baroi- Asst. General Secretary
6. Gorete Maria Palma- Asst. Treasurer
7. Swopna Ray- Organizing Secretary
8. Mala Rebeiro- Cultural and Literary Secretary
9. Hira Corraya- Member
10. Ananto Rozario- Member



## Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild – Education Seminar for the Nurses

Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild organized a National Education Seminar for the Catholic nurses on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Holy Cross Pastoral and Retreat Center, Father Tek, Vadun, Gazipur, Bangladesh. A total of 95 nurses attended the seminar. Various topics related to nurses' work and recent issues were presented and discussed.

Sl.No.	Topic	Speaker
1	Climate change and its impact on health	Dr. Fr. Liton Hubert Gomes
2	Building resilient mental health	Mala Rebeiro
3	Professionalism in Nursing	Prof. Mabel D Rozario
4	Prevention of dehydration by ORS	Raphael Biswas

The participants were very happy to attend the session and expressed their gratitude and willingness to have such seminar in future.



## Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild – National Seminar for the Nurses

National Seminar on Leadership and Spirituality held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) organized by Episcopal Commission for Health Care for the members of Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild. Hundred and one (101) nurses attended the seminar. Holy Eucharist was offered by Fr. Bablu Sarker, Administrative Director, Fatima Hospital, Dr. Fr. Lintu Francis D Costa, Executive Director, St. John Vianney Hospital and Fr. Tushar James Gomes, Director, CBCB. Candles were lit by the President of BCNG, Prof. Mabel D Rozario and 5 Representatives from 5 Branches of BCNG followed by Welcome Speech by Most Rev. Bishop Theotonius Gomes, CSC. After that topics based on New Charter for Health Care Workers and Nursing related topics were presented. The presenters were:

Sl.No.	Topic	Presenter
1	Procreation	Lily Anthania Gomes
2	Living	Dr. Edward Pallab Rozario
3	Death	Dr. Fr. Lintu F. D Costa
4	Nurses Views About Nursing	Prof. Mabel D Rozario
5	Develop Leadership Skills of Health Care Workers	Fr. Bablu Sarker
6	Increase Spirituality Through Nursing	Fr. James C. Cruze

A questionnaire was distributed to collect information from the nurses about their views about nursing. Before distributing the questionnaire Ethical Principles were explained to them. Best wishes to his Grace Bishop Paul Ponon Kubi, CSC, Chairman, EC-HC and Bishop of Mymensingh Diocese, Lily Gomes, Secretary, EC-HC to arrange the seminar for the nurses on request of Bangladesh Catholic Nurses Guild.



## 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM OF Catholic Nurses Guild Malaysia

by Ms. Mary Narayanasamy, RN, MCN

President, Catholic Nurses Guild of Malaysia

Headquarter: CNG-Malaysia, Taiping Catholic Church, 288 Jalan Convent, 34000 Taiping, Perak (West Malaysia), Malaysia.



*National Chaplain of CNGM, Rev. Fr. Neol Bonchol and Ms. Mary Narayanasamy, President, Catholic Nurses Guild of Malaysia*

**The 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM of Catholic Nurses Guild Malaysia** was held on the 13 September 2024 followed by 2 days seminar 14 to 15 September 2024 in Swan Garden Resort Hotel, Malacca. The theme of the Seminar was 'Imparting Values'. 13 September at 5pm Opening Mass was celebrated by Lordship Bishop Bernard Paul of Malacca and Rev. Fr. Mark Neol Bonchol which is our National Chaplain. 73 members attended the AGM and Seminar. The members came from all over Malaysia: Kuching, Bau, Lundu, Sibul, Miri, Taiping Malacca, Selangor, Keningau Serian, Kulil, Labuan, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu. The topics were as follows:

- 1) IND Theme "Our Nurses, Our Future; the economic power of care",
- 2) Palliative Care,
- 3) Medico Legal and Ethics,
- 4) The Importance of Blood Health to Healthier Mothers and Babies.

Discussions and sharing was held after all the lectures to get the feedback from the participants of the seminar. Some members continue with a holiday to Hatyai, Thailand for 3days and 2 nights after the seminar from 5.30pm 15 to 18 September. Some participants visited the Holy Cross chapel in Malacca for the Feast of Santa Cruze on the 13 May 2024 after the AGM.



*Participants of the 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM of CNGM held in Malacca, Malaysia*

## Sybil Kathigasu (1899-1948), Nurse, Lay Martyr & WWII Heroine

Cardinal Sebastian Francis, Bishop of Penang, Malaysia, officially opened the cause for the canonization of Sybil Kathigasu. On July 1, 2024, His Eminence noted that nurse Sybil Kathigasu's life continues to inspire people even 76 years after her death.

Sybil was born on September 3, 1899 in the Dutch East Indies. She was the fifth child and only daughter of Joseph Daly, an Irish Eurasian planter and Beatrice Matilda Martin, a French-Eurasian midwife. Sybil met and eventually married Dr. Arumugan K. Pillay, a second generation Malayan Tamil Indian and graduate of Singapore Medical School, a Hindu who was christened Roman Catholic taking the name Abdon Clement Kathigasu, one of Malaysia's World War II heroes. Please pray for her beatification and canonization. For her biography: <https://dcbasia.org/biography/kathigasu-sybil-m>



Mrs Sybil Kathigasu (left), Sybil Kathigasu and her husband, Dr. AC Kathigasu on their wedding day. Photo credit: NST, Going Places via The Rakyat Post



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From the CICIAMS Asia Region  
CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant and President, CICIAMS Asia Region  
visit Catholic Medical Association and Korean Catholic Nurses Association

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7-9 November 2024

**CICIAMS International Ecclesiastical Assistant, Rev. Kenneth G. Sleyman, MM and Asia Regional President Visited Korean Catholic Nursing Association.**

Hiroko Shimizu, RN, PhD., President of CICIAMS Asia Regional and Japan Catholic Nurses Association.

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

Sr Park Anna Gratia Hyun Sook, MSN, RN, President of Korean Catholic Nurses Association, Vice President for Nursing, Department of the Catholic University of Korea, Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (SOLPH), Headquarter: 222 Banpo-daero, Seocho-gu, Seoul 06591, Korea



*KCNG members and Fr. Ken, Dr. Shimizu*

*Front row from the right, Vice president Mrs. Kim Sook, President Sr. Hyun Sook, Back row, fourth from the right, Vice president and CICIAMS Ethics Committee Sr. Mihyun Park*

Association. There, Fr. Sleyman and Dr. Shimizu interacted with the President and executive members of the Korean Catholic Nurses Association. The Korean Catholic Nurses Association has 3,741 members, of which 1,870 are in Seoul city. The population of Korea is 51.71 million, and Catholics make up 11% or about 5 million. Catholicism was first introduced to Korea in the 18th century, so it is not a very long history. However, in the 19th century, martyrs appeared and a persecution occurred in 1866, which seems to have given rise to a strong faith in the hearts of the people.

The nursing activities at St. Mary's Hospital were particularly noteworthy. They wrote the words "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be blessed" on the thin aluminum pipes of the curtain rails that recovery room patients look up at, sending a verse of scripture to those who are suffering. Also, on the glass doors of the angiography examination room, a prayer is written for the doctors and nurses who enter the room: "May Almighty God make up for my lacking abilities." She was touched by the wonderful sight of medical professionals immersed in humility at all times. She prays for the glory of God for the activities of Korean Catholic nurses.



*With nurses working in front of the operation room*



**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)

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## From the CICIAMS Africa Region

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### Eswatini Catholic Nurses Guild (ECNG) – Dignity Packs to School Children

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On February 12, 2025, members of the Eswatini Catholic Nurses Guild visited a primary school to distribute dignity packs, sanitary towels and provide health services to the pupils and teachers in the school. Look for more information on the CICIAMS Africa Region Menstrual Hygiene Project in the May 2025 edition of CICIAMS News.



**Left Photo:** CICIAMS International President, Dr. Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN; Thabisile Dlamini, ECNG Treasurer and members Gcinile Buthelezi, RN and Njuleto Mthethwa, Nursing Assistant, providing Dignity Packs and Health Education to school children, February 12, 2025; **Right Photo:** School children with Dignity Packs, Kingdom of Eswatini

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## From The Vatican

### 38<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick

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#### **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS XXXIII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

11 February 2025

**“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5),  
but strengthens us in times of trial**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

We are celebrating the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Day of the Sick in the Jubilee Year 2025, in which the Church invites us to become “pilgrims of hope”. The word of God accompanies us and offers us, in the words of Saint Paul, an encouraging message: “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5); indeed, it strengthens us in times of trial.

These are comforting words, but they can also prove perplexing, especially for those who are suffering. How can we be strong, for example, when our bodies are prey to severe, debilitating illnesses that require costly treatment that we may not be able to afford? How can we show strength when, in addition to our own sufferings, we see those of our loved ones who support us yet feel powerless to help us? In these situations, we sense our need for a strength greater than our own. We realize that we need God’s help, his grace, his Providence, and the strength that is the gift of his Spirit (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1808).

Let us stop for a moment to reflect on how God remains close to those who are suffering in three particular ways: through *encounter*, *gift* and *sharing*.

1. *Encounter*. When Jesus sent the seventy-two disciples out on mission (cf. *Lk* 10:1-9), he told them to proclaim to the sick: “The kingdom of God has come near to you” (v. 9). He asks them, in other words, to help the sick to see their infirmity, however painful and incomprehensible it may be, as an opportunity to encounter the Lord. In times of illness, we sense our human frailty on the physical, psychological and spiritual levels. Yet we also experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering. God does not abandon us and often amazes us by granting us a strength that we never expected, and would never have found on our own.

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## MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS, XXXIII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK (cont'd)

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Sickness, then, becomes an occasion for a transformative encounter, the discovery of a solid rock to which we can hold fast amid the tempests of life, an experience that, even at great cost, makes us all the stronger because it teaches us that we are not alone. Suffering always brings with it a mysterious promise of salvation, for it makes us experience the closeness and reality of God's consoling presence. In this way, we come to know "the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life" (SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Address to Young People*, New Orleans, 12 September 1987).

2. This brings us to the second way that God is close to the suffering: as *gift*. More than anything else, suffering makes us aware that hope comes from the Lord. It is thus, first and foremost, a gift to be received and cultivated, by remaining "faithful to the faithfulness of God", in the fine expression of Madeleine Delbr el (cf. *La speranza   una luce nella notte*, Vatican City 2024, Preface).

Indeed, only in Christ's resurrection does our own life and destiny find its place within the infinite horizon of eternity. In Jesus' paschal mystery alone do we attain the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God" (*Rom* 8:38-39). This "great hope" is the source of all those small glimmers of light that help us to see our way through the trials and obstacles of life (cf. BENEDICT XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 27, 31). The risen Lord goes so far as to walk beside us as our companion on the way, even as he did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (cf. *Lk* 24:13-53). Like them, we can share with him our anxieties, concerns and disappointments, and listen to his word, which enlightens us and warms our hearts. Like them too, we can recognize him present in the breaking of the bread and thus, even in the present, sense that "greater reality" which, by drawing near to us, restores our courage and confidence.

3. We now come to God's third way of being close to us: through *sharing*. Places of suffering are frequently also places of sharing and mutual enrichment. How often, at the bedside of the sick, do we learn to hope! How often, by our closeness to those who suffer, do we learn to have faith! How often, when we care for those in need, do we discover love! We realize that we are "angels" of hope and messengers of God for one another, all of us together: whether patients, physicians, nurses, family members, friends, priests, men and women religious, no matter where we are, whether in the family or in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals or medical centres.

We need to learn how to appreciate the beauty and significance of these grace-filled encounters. We need to learn how to cherish the gentle smile of a nurse, the gratitude and trust of a patient, the caring face of a doctor or volunteer, or the anxious and expectant look of a spouse, a child, a grandchild or a dear friend. All these are rays of light to be treasured; even amid the dark night of adversity, they give us strength, while at the same time teaching us the deeper meaning of life, in love and closeness (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37). Dear brothers and sisters who are ill or who care for the suffering, in this Jubilee you play an especially important part. Your journey together is a sign for everyone: "a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope" (*Spes Non Confundit*, 11). Its strains are heard far beyond the rooms and beds of health facilities, and serve to elicit in charity "the choral participation of society as a whole" (*ibid.*) in a harmony that is at times difficult to achieve, but for that very reason is so comforting and powerful, capable of bringing light and warmth wherever they are most needed.



The whole Church thanks you for this! I do as well, and I remember you always in my prayers. I entrust you to Our Lady, Health of the Sick, in the words that so many of our brothers and sisters have addressed to her in their hour of need:

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.  
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

I bless you, along with your families and loved ones, and I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 14 January 2025

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20250114-giornata-malato.html>

## From the Dicastery for Evangelization Jubilee 2025 – “Pilgrims of Hope”

**Logo** – The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moment.

The cross, **in the shape of a sail**, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

**The figures** represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The **rough sea** is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.\*



### What is the Jubilee?

The Jubilee has always been an event of the people. In fact, the first Holy Year of 1300 was born at the request of the People of God. In a climate of change of century; the faithful of Rome asked Pope Boniface VIII for “a pardon of sins which would not only be more abundant, but complete” as we read the Bull of Indiction.

Among the ancient Hebrews, the Jubilee (called the year of the yobel, “of the goat” because the holiday was announced by the sound of a goat’s horn) was a year proclaimed holy. At that time, the Mosaic law prescribed that the land, of which God was the sole master, would return to its former owner and that slaves would receive back their freedom. It usually would fall every 50 years.

In the Christian era, after the first Jubilee, the recurrence for the jubilee celebration was set by Boniface VIII to be every 100 years. In 1342, following a petition from the Romans to Pope Clement VI, the period was reduced to 50 years. Subsequently, Pope Paul II, in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century, reduced the inter-jubilee period to 25 years.

The Jubilee consists of concrete gestures. The most emblematic and evocative one is the opening of the Holy Door. Pilgrims go there on pilgrimage, kiss it with devotion, and kneel at the door in prayer. In pilgrimages is found a concrete journey, during which the pilgrim toils and meets companions on the road.

In a pilgrimage, one finds the concreteness of the sacraments: reconciliation with God in confession – the Eucharist. There is the concreteness of the works of penance, fasting and charity. Pilgrimage is the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus that opens wide our own stories and shows that he is present among us: a concrete hope that can be touched.

The Jubilee did not come about as the intuition of Popes, pastors or theologians. It is the fruit of the faith of the People of God. It is the most popular event in the life of the Church: a time of pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles, the experience of the Holy Door, the time of conversion, of a special closeness to the sacraments.\*

### The Jubilee Prayer\*

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

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

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

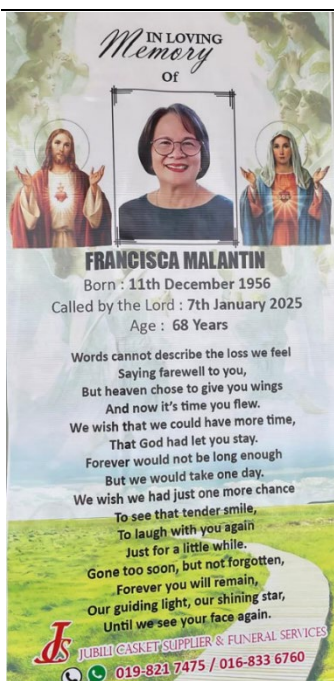
*His Holiness Pope Francis*

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The Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers is April 5 & 6, 2025 at the Vatican City. National Associations/Guilds who would like to attend the Jubilee should register at the website below and make travel and hotel arrangements early. <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025.html>; For questions: [info@iubilaeum2025.va](mailto:info@iubilaeum2025.va); The papal bull for the jubilee is available at: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/document/s/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/document/s/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)



\*excerpts from *On the Path towards the 2025 Jubilee*

## In Memoria



Eulogy for Our Late Beloved Sister in Christ  
**Mrs. Francisca Malantin**  
December 11, 1956 – January 7, 2025  
by Mrs. Daisy Stanislas, VP (Sabah) CNGM

The funeral service for our late beloved Sister in Christ, Francisca Malantin, was held on January 7, 2025, at the Church of the Immaculate Mary, Bukit Padang, Penampang, Sabah, Malaysia.

The service was attended by many, including individuals from all walks of life, as well as nurses—both in active service and retirees. The huge congregation present speaks volumes of her goodness. The service was presided by Rev. Father Aloysius CNGM spiritual chaplain during Francisca's tenure as president of CNGM.

The late Francisca made a lasting and positive impact on all of us. As nurses, we will continue to spread the love, inspiration, and invaluable lessons she left behind to other nurses. Her contributions as a leader—both nationally and internationally—as the past National President of the Catholic Nurses' Guild of Malaysia and the President, CICIAMS Asia Region will forever remain in our hearts.

We will honor her memory by continuing her legacy, guided by the wisdom and invaluable lessons she has imparted to us. To us, Francisca was a heroine who radiated hope, even when all seemed lost.

**\*\*We will miss you, but we will never forget you. Rest in peace, dear Sister in Christ.\*\***

Our deepest condolences go to her husband, Mr. Ronnie Ong Siang, and all her family members.

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**\*\*\*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."\*\*** — Numbers 6:24-26.



*Francisca Malantin with Fr. Ken Sleyman, MM (RN) and CNGM (Sabah) members, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
June 24, 2024*



*Daisy Stanislas, VP (Sabah) CNGM and Hiroko Shimizu, President, CICIAMS Asia Region with Francisca Malantin, President, CICIAMS Asia Region (2020-2024) with Francisca's husband, Ronnie Ong Siang and daughter-Imogen Ong,  
June 23, 2024*

*"Christmas is all about the miracle of love. Have a blessed and holy Christmas everyone!"*

Francisca's final words to the Asia Region Group on December 27, 2024

→ 転送されたメッセージ

Hi Mary, I m taking it one day at a time... I pray for God's will. 17:29

Francisca's last words sent to Malaysian President Mary, January 2, 2025



*Francisca Malantin with CNGM members and Dr. Patricia Sayers, President NACN-USA at the CICIAMS XXI World Congress, Shrine of Our Lady of*

*Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, USA, August 2022*

## Calendar of Events



### -----2025 – Jubilee Year----- “Pilgrims of Hope”

58<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace (Vatican) – 1 Jan  
Word of God Sunday (Vatican) - 26Jan  
“I hope in your Word” (Psalm 119:74)  
72<sup>nd</sup> World Leprosy Day – 26 Jan 2025

6<sup>th</sup> World NTD (Neglected Tropical Diseases) Day,  
30 January 2025

- 33<sup>rd</sup> World Day of the Sick-11Feb2025 (Vatican)
- 18<sup>th</sup> World Rare Disease Day – 28 Feb 2025
- World Water Day – 22 Mar 2025 (UN est. 1993 Goal #6: water and sanitation for all by 2030). Vatican DPIHD project: WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) to all Catholic healthcare facilities.
- **CICIAMS Executive Board Meeting 3 & 4 Apr2025**
- Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers (Vatican)-5-6April2025
- World Health Day (est. by the 1<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly in 1948) – 7 April 2025
- International Day of the Midwife, 5 May 2025
- International Nurses Day –Friday, 12 May 2025
- 38<sup>th</sup> World No Tobacco Day (WHO)–31May2025
- 2025 – DLFL Meeting with the Moderators of Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, 4-5 June 2025 (Wed/Th) at Aula Nuova of the Synod, Vatican City [Optional remain for Jubilee of Movements, Associations and New Communities, 7-8 June (Sat/Sun)].
- World Refugee Day (UN) – 20 June 2025
- 26 June 2025 – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (UN est. 1989)
- 5<sup>th</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 27 July 2025 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of July, close to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus) “Happy is he who does not see his hope fade away” (Vatican)
- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Theme: “Pending” – 1 Sept 2025 (Vatican)
- International Day of Peace–21Sep2025 (UN est. 1981)
- 111<sup>st</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), 28Sep2025 (Vatican est. 1914)
- XXXX World Youth Day, celebrated in the particular Churches in 2025, & 2026 on the Solemnity of Christ the King 23Nov2025 “You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me” John 15:27, (Vatican)
- World Mental Health Day, 10 Oct 2025 (WHO est. 1992)
- 8<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor, 16Nov25 (Vatican est 2017)
- **2026 – CICIAMS XXII World Congress, Thailand**
  - 9Nov2026-CICIAM Executive Board Meeting
  - 10Nov2026 CICIAMS General Council Meeting
  - 11-13Nov2026 CICIAMS XXII World Congress

- 2026 – 41<sup>st</sup> World Youth Day (diocesan celebrations)
- 2027 – 42<sup>nd</sup> World Youth Day, Seoul, South Korea. Theme: “Take courage! I have overcome the world!” Jn 16:33

## CICIAMS Official Documents & Links

CICIAMS 2023 Statutes & Standing Orders:

<http://www.ciciams.org/ciciamsreports.html>

CICIAMS Ethics Guidelines and Principles of Practices for Catholic Nurses:

[www.ciciams.org/ethicscommittee.html](http://www.ciciams.org/ethicscommittee.html)



## CICIAMS Mission

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

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



## CICIAMS AIMS

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

Send articles, photographs and information to the CICIAMS Secretary General by April 15, 2025 for May 2025 CICIAMS News at:  
[CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com](mailto:CICIAMSInternational12@gmail.com)