



# CATHOLIC NURSE JOURNAL

[www.catholicnurses.org.uk](http://www.catholicnurses.org.uk)

SPRING 2010



ACN Executive Officers at work in St Vincent's Convent, London .  
 Front row Nora McCarthy, Liz Cooney, Jacqui Hall, Fr Eric Mead, President Janet Muchengwa Back row Esther Mensah, Mary Farnan and Vice-President Gerry Yates.

<p><i>NATIONAL OFFICERS</i>  <i>As elected at AGM 2009</i></p>	<p><i>National President</i>          Janet Muchengwa  <i>National Vice-President</i>          Gerry Yates</p>
<p><i>National Chaplain</i>          Fr Eric Mead  <i>National Ecclesiastical Adviser</i></p>	<p><i>CICIAMS International Representative</i>          Jacqueline Hall  <i>Catholic Medical Association Representative</i>          Nora Mc Carthy</p>
<p><i>National Secretary/Website</i>          Mary Farnan  <i>National Treasurer</i>          Liz Cooney</p>	<p><i>Catholic Nurse Journals and Newsletters</i>          Jacqui Hall/ Nora McCarthy/ Christine Bentley          Mary Farnan  <i>Printing Liz Cooney</i></p>

# ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NURSES OF ENGLAND AND WALES

## Contents

### Page

- 2 Contents and Editorial.
- 3 The National President's Report.
- 4-5 CICIAMS and the Pontifical Council for Health and Pastoral Care.
- 6 Catholic Bishops' Conference -Health Care Reference Group.
- 7 The Order of St Camillus and the founding of the International Red Cross.
- 8 Dates for Diary 2010 .  
RCN Assisted suicide / Caritas Social Care Network DVD raising awareness  
of spiritual needs of people with dementia.

### Editorial

In March 2009 the CICIAMS World Congress was held in Mexico . On May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 Archbishop Vincent Nichols was installed as Archbishop of Westminster.

As the then President of ACN I was privileged to attend both of these events as your representative at these very auspicious occasions.

The consultation by the RCN regarding assisted suicide brought some interesting results. The RCN have taken a neutral stance, although there were some adverse sentiments by patients who considered that the RCN had failed the public in not being more forthright in proclaiming that they were against assisted suicide.

We have a new Pontifical Council President as Cardinal Lozano Barrigan retires from his position. He has been a very close friend to Catholic Nurses throughout the world and appeared to thoroughly enjoy his last attendance at the CICIAMS World Congress in Monterrey, Mexico, (his home town). His Eminence Archbishop Zimowski is to replace Cardinal Barrigan as the President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers.

With the ACN elections held in December 2009 the new Executive Board has a new President, Mrs Janet Muchengwa.

Jacqui Hall.

# NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I really feel honoured and privileged to be taking up office as the President of the Association of Catholic Nurses for England and Wales.

I am originally from Zambia, a land locked country in Southern Africa. I am currently working as a Junior Sister at Mayday University Hospital in Croydon. I qualified with a diploma in General Nursing from the University Teaching Hospital School of Nursing in Lusaka, Zambia and did a bachelors degree in Nursing Science, qualifying as a Nurse Educator and Health Services Manager from the University of South Africa.

I first joined the Catholic Nurses Guild in Botswana and upon arrival to this country, in 2002, I joined the St. Andrews branch in Thornton Heath, Croydon.

As Catholic nurses, I would urge every one of us to be conscientious and work within the teaching of the Catholic Church, be responsible and sensitive to our patients problems and the society at large. We have to display commitment and self application to peoples' needs.

I would also take this opportunity for us to revisit our association objectives as follows:

- To promote the spiritual well-being of its members and inspire the whole practice of Nursing with Christian principles.
- To promote activities designed to increase the knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Provide guidance on medico-moral problems thus enabling us to fulfill our specific vocation as Catholic Nurses.
- To further our knowledge on professional matters.
- To co-operate with others who share our ideals.
- 

I would also urge members to take part in the national pilgrimage to Walsingham which takes place every year in June to reinforce our commitments to our faith and the association, through prayer and spiritual support to the many health and social problems in our society. We also have to keep our prayer book handy and pray every day.

Finally, to echo what my predecessors have said, I would like to encourage as many Catholic Nurses as possible to join the association as we need the voice to continue on topical and professional issues and it's my hope and prayer that through your support and co-operation, I will serve you as best as I can.

Thank you  
God Bless

Janet Nsofwa Muchengwa



Archbishop Vincent Nichols Mass for the Sick Westminster February 2010

'A culture of true compassion and healing fosters a deep respect and attentive care of the whole person, it promotes genuine care characterised by a sense of humility, a profound respect for others, and a refusal to see them as no more than a medical or behavioural problem to be tackled and resolved'



**CICIAMS** The CICIAMS international congress March 2009 ‘PROFESSIONAL NURSING: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS EXCELLENCE’ was hosted by Mexico and attended by Jacqui Hall CICIAMS international representative for the Association of Catholic Nurses in England and Wales . Marylee Meehan international President of CICIAMS in Congress report congratulated ‘the collaboration of the dynamic leadership of Mary Vilchez, President of the Movement of Nurses of Catholic Action (MEAC), Carolina Vessic, MEAC’s Chairperson of the World Congress Planning Committee, the members of Mexico Catholic Action (ACM), CICIAMS Executive Board members plus the vigilance of pastoral care and guidance overseen by Fr. Fernandez and Fr. Valdivia, Ecclesiastical Advisors to MEAC and ACM respectively’ .The Congress was a huge success. Attended by representatives of twenty-four countries. The full report of and photographs of the Congress can be viewed on [www.ciciams.org/](http://www.ciciams.org/)



**PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH PASTORAL CARE**  
**Archbishop Zimowski replaces Cardinal Barrigan as the President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers.**



<http://www.healthpastoral.org/>

In 2009 The pope selected Bishop Zygmunt Zimowski of Radom to replace Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, who retired as council president at the age of 76. With the appointment, the Polish prelate was also named an archbishop. The Catholic News Agency October 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 produced the following article

‘Writing in the context of the Year for Priests Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, has sent a letter to those who are sick and suffering, asking them to pray for priests and the beatification of Pope John Paul II. The purpose of the Year is to call the whole Christian community to “rediscover the beauty of the priestly vocation and thus to pray for

priests,” the archbishop said, noting that this includes the sick.

Archbishop Zimowski reminded sick people in his 1 October 2009 letter that priests play an important role in their lives. “A priest at the bedside of a sick person represents Christ himself, the Divine Physician, who is not indifferent to the fate of those who suffer. Indeed, through the sacraments of the Church, administered by a priest, Jesus Christ offers to a sick person healing through reconciliation and the forgiveness of sins, through anointing with holy oil and lastly in the Eucharist, in the viaticum in which Christ himself becomes, as Giovanni Leonardi used to say, ‘the medicine of immortality’ by which ‘we are comforted, nourished, transformed into God, and participants in the divine nature,” he wrote.

The head of the Council for Health Care Workers also pointed out that the conclusion of the Year for Priests coincides with the 25th anniversary of the founding of Pontifical Council. Pope John Paul II, he recalled, founded the Council on the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes to demonstrate the Church's care for the sick.

“Because of this providential anniversary,” Archbishop Zimowski wrote, “I am near to each one of you and I invite you, dear sick brothers and sisters, to unceasingly address your prayers and the offering up of your sufferings to the Lord of life for the holiness of your well loved priests, so that they can with devotion and pastoral charity perform the ministry that is entrusted to them by Christ, the physician of bodies and souls.”

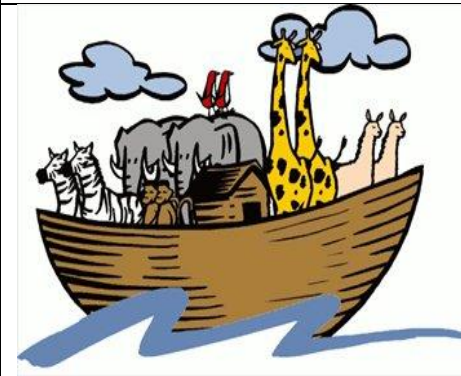
During the Year for Priests, he encouraged the faithful who are sick and suffering to “rediscover the beauty of the prayer of the Holy Rosary for the spiritual benefit of priests, in a special way during the month of October.” He also exhorted the sick to participate in Mass and adoration of the Eucharist, “every first Thursday and every first Friday of the month, which are respectively dedicated to devotion to the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.” “I would like to remind you that in praying for priests one can obtain special indulgences this year,” the archbishop added. Looking ahead to April 2010, the Polish archbishop asked for their prayers for the pilgrimage of hospital chaplains that is being first in the French towns of Lourdes and Ars to mark the Pontifical Council's anniversary.

Archbishop Zimowski summed up his prayer requests by saying, To you, therefore, dear sick and suffering brothers and sisters, I entrust the Church which needs your prayers and sufferings, the person of the Holy Father

Pope Benedict XVI, and all the bishops and priests in the world, who strive every day for your sanctification. I ask from you a special prayer for priests who are sick and afflicted in their bodies who every day experience, like you, the weight of pain, together with the force of saving grace which comforts and heals the soul.”

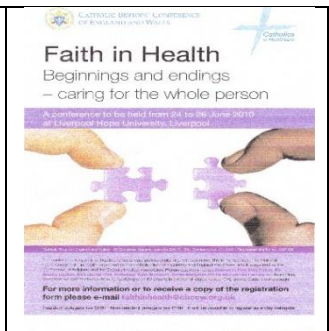
The Polish prelate also urged the sick to pray for “the beatification and canonization of the Servant of God John Paul II” recommending that they offer a prayer for the needs of the Church, authored by the late Pontiff.’

## *10 New Year's Resolutions to think about for next year*



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old you might get asked to do something big.
5. Don't listen to critics. Get on with the job.
6. Build your hopes and future on high ground.
7. For safety travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage . Snails boarded the ark .
9. When you're stressed let things float.
10. Remember the ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by experts.

# CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE ENGLAND AND WALES Health Care Reference Group



The Health Care Reference Group have been meeting both at St Vincent's Centre and via Teleconferencing to organise their latest offering of guidance and support to Health Care workers and Chaplains. The next Conference is planned to be delivered at Liverpool Hope University 24-26 June 2010. Full residential conference fee £260. Details and application forms will be on the HCRG website. The conference is open to all health and social care professionals, of all faiths or none. This is the second of the National Conferences 'Faith in Health' organised by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and is supported by the Conference of Religious and the Catholic Medical Association. Plenary speakers include Archbishop Vincent Nichols Baroness Flora Finlay, Mr Martin Lupton, Sister Margaret Atkins, Professor Kath McCourt head of Policy RCN, and James Hanvey SJ and Mrs Jacqui Hall Association of Catholic Nurses speaking about her experiences of serving in a military hospital in Afghanistan. Delegates are able to choose from 14 workshops led by experts in a range of related topics. CPD accreditation is being sought.

## ***THINK AGAIN AGAIN!!!!!!!***

A preacher and his wife are very very poor. They already have 14 kids. She finds out she is pregnant with a 15<sup>th</sup>. They are living in tremendous poverty. Considering their poverty and the excessive world population would you consider recommending an abortion?

A father is sick and the mother has TB. They have 4 children. The first is blind, the 2<sup>nd</sup> has died, the 3<sup>rd</sup> is deaf and the 4<sup>th</sup> has TB. She is pregnant again. Given the extreme situation would you consider recommending an abortion?

A white man raped a 13 year old black girl and she became pregnant. Would you consider recommending an abortion?

A teenage girl is pregnant. She is not married. Her fiancé is not the father of the baby and wants to break from the relationship. Would you consider recommending an abortion?

Would you ????????

In the first case you would have killed John Wesley 19<sup>th</sup> century evangelist. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> case you would have killed Beethoven. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> case you would have killed Ethel Waters the famous American blues singer. In the 4<sup>th</sup> case you have just killed Jesus Christ, Our Lord.



## **THE ORDER OF ST CAMILLUS (CAMILLIANS) AND THE ORIGINS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**

The order of St Camillus (Camillians) describe themselves as an 'international Religious community of both Brothers and Priests whose ministry is to care for the sick , suffering , dying , marginalized and the poor. They were founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Italy and currently have Brothers and Priests working in 32 countries. It is believed St Camillus's mother experienced a vision at the time of his birth of a cross on his chest. At the age of 25, in Rome, following a leg wound sustained during military service that resulted in frequent hospitalizations ,Camillus experienced a vocation to dedicate himself to God and to the service of the sick and to call others to religious life and to serve the sick. Rome was infested with plague and other diseases. A red cross later worn on the black cassocks of the Camillian order became recognized as the symbol of the order .St Camillus died in 1614 and was canonized by Pope Benedict XIV in 1746.

The article below contains extracts of an interesting journal item supplied to us by Fr Eric Mead our national chaplain.

'A Swiss Protestant ,Henri Dunant (1828-1910) was an eye witness of the Camillian Brothers in action at the Battle of Solferino in June 1859 , where nearly 40,000 casualties were cared for by the Red Cross Brothers.He went on to write his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino* (1862) , in which he proposed the formation in all countries of voluntary relief societies , for the prevention and alleviation of suffering in war and peace without distinction of race and creed. This led to the formation of the international Red Cross Association, which has since used the emblem of the Camillian Brothers , slightly foreshortened as in the Swiss flag, and adopting of the same tradition of neutrality and service to all. However , nowhere in Henri Dunant's book does he mention the source of his inspiration...

After 144 years the Red Cross has established a worldwide organization in which the red cross emblem has become recognized as a symbol of humanitarian neutrality. However , it was first used in 1691 as a distinctly Christian symbol'

### **PRAYER TO ST CAMILLUS**

God ,Our Father, You chose St Camillus to bear witness in a special way to the love that Your Son Jesus Christ had for the sick and the dying. We pray, that through the loving intercession of St Camillus, You would send Your Spirit of consolation, encouragement strength and faith upon those who are burdened by illness , to heal them in mind, body and spirit. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our loving and healing saviour. Amen

## ASSISTED SUICIDE

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

## DIARY DATES 2010



### **NATIONAL ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE AND RETREAT AT WALSINGHAM 2010**

#### **TUESDAY 8TH JUNE**

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING 3.30PM

**5.00PM RECEPTION MASS -CHAPEL OF  
RECONCILIATION**

**8.00PM PILGRIM SERVICE -CHURCH OF  
THE ANNUNCIATION/RC PILGRIM BUREAU  
GROUNDS**

#### **WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE**

**10.00AM PROCESSION TO THE RC  
SHRINE**

**12MD MASS CHAPEL OF  
RECONCILIATION**

**8.00PM EVENING PILGRIM SERVICE  
CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION  
(OPTIONAL)**

### **NATIONAL AGM,MASS AND STUDY DAY**

**SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2010**

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING 10.30AM

**11.00AM-4.00PM**

**AGM /MASS/ TALK  
COOLOCH CONVENT, LONDON ROAD  
NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME**

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership subscriptions are due for those who have not yet paid for 2010 . Please forward to Mary Farnan National Secretary 26 Charnwood Road , Great Barr , Birmingham B42 1JR

£30 Full members NMC Registered  
£15 Retired members, students , and  
associate members (part time or non NMC  
registered healthcare workers)