

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Being a Compassionate,
Healing, and
Liberating Presence
for Two Centuries!

January, 2024
Vol. 9, Number 5



"We are called by God and sent by the Church to reproduce in ourselves
Christ healing... Christ consoling... Christ always aware of the needs of others."
(CBS Constitutions)

At the root of each vocation is a deep and uniquely personal experience which involves an encounter with God: a divine call, a response, and a special consecration. Two hundred years ago twelve young women in France with hearts aflame for God responded to God's call and under the leadership of Josephine Potel the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours was established to participate in the healing ministry of Jesus. Over these past two centuries hundreds of other women from France and beyond caught the charism of Bon Secours and have brought "Good help to those in need" not only in homes, hospitals and in health systems but in board rooms, schools, clinics, parishes, retreat centers and many other places. Most recently, the emerging expression of the Bon Secours charism – compassion, healing and liberation – finds the Sisters bringing Christ's healing to those who suffer in other ways: from the injustices of human trafficking, domestic violence, gun violence, failed immigration policies, and poverty as well as to Earth herself who suffers the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse. In this 200th Anniversary year we celebrate the gift and goodness of each and every Sister of Bon Secours for the blessing they have been to the Church and the world and wait in joyful hope to see what "new life" God will call forth for the Congregation of Bon Secours in 2024 and beyond.

Honoring the Past

From 1824: Caring for patients in homes through nursing ministry



In Paris of the 1820s, twelve young women under the leadership of Mother Josephine Potel, age twenty-two, formed a religious order of women to care, at home, for the sick and dying.

To 2023: Caring for our common home through JPIC Ministry

- 2009: Chapter focus: Women of Healing - Defending and caring for all creation
- 2013: Congregation water statement
- 2014: Chapter focus: ending violence, addressing human trafficking and promoting ecological health
- 2015: International JPIC Office established
- 2016: Participation in the Talitha Kum Network to address human trafficking
- 2017: Membership in Pax Christi International Involvement in Shareholder Advocacy (USA)
- 2018: Focus on ecological conversion
- 2019: Financially supported the Synod on the Amazon through REPAM
- 2020: UISG Sowing Hope for the Planet initiatives
- 2021: JPIC Area Teams formed
Congregation commitment to the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP)
- 2022: Created SMART actions to address LSAP
- 2023: Congregation retreat on Ecological Spirituality

January JPIC Days of Remembrance

January 1
56th World Day of Peace
(Catholic Church)

January 17
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USA)

January 24
Foundation Day
Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris



*In the spirit of our Foundress,
Josephine Potel,
may we be a healing,
compassionate and liberating
presence as we care for each other
and care for Earth,
our common home.*

January 27
International Commemoration
for Victims of the Holocaust

Sisters of Bon Secours...Women of healing...defending and caring for all creation (Mission Focus)

Public Witness for **Immigration Reform**
Washington, DC 2019



Supporting Black Lives Matter – **Addressing Racism**
Cork, Ireland 2020



Promoting **Children's Health** Peru 2022



"As Sisters of Bon Secours the struggle for a more humane world is not an option; it is an integral part of spreading the gospel and involvement in justice issues is an important part of who we are as Sisters of Bon Secours."
(CBS Constitutions)



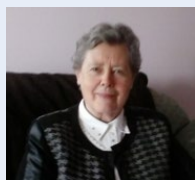
Caring for Earth. Peru 2022



Addressing Human Trafficking, Cork 2019



March for Our Lives against Gun Violence
Washington, DC 2018



**Thank you, Sr. Mary Leamy,
for a Gold Star Performance!**



We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sr. Mary Leamy for her 8 ½ years of faithful service to the International JPIC Committee. For those of us who know Mary, it is not surprising that she was always the first to submit reports, respond to emails, and meet deadlines! During Mary's time on the International JPIC Committee she has amassed so many gold stars for her first-place responses that her star card is filled to overflowing! Well done, good and faithful servant – for your passion for justice and your positive presence to us! We will miss you!



Education for a Sustainable Lifestyle
Cooking workshop with local products. (above)
Teaching gardening to children (left)
Vendome, France 2023



**And with hearts aflame,
Embracing the future...**

New International JPIC Committee Members – 2024

The Congregation Team has appointed the following members to the International JPIC Committee: Sr. Gumerinda Cordova Cordova (Peru), Sr. Margaret Mary Hanafin (Ireland/GB), Beatrice Lesourd (France), and Sr. Nathalie Lundolo (France). We are grateful for the generous "yes" of these new members!

Welcome, Simone!

The Congregation of Bon Secours is excited to welcome Simone Blanchard as the new Director of the JPIC Office. Simone comes to us with stellar credentials. She has over 25 years' experience creating and leading poverty alleviation education, advocacy, and direct service programs for local, national, international and faith-based non-profits. She has experience managing diverse teams with a collaborative supportive and empowering approach to leadership. Her experience includes recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to engage in legislative advocacy on a range of social issues consistent with Catholic teaching. Simone is also fluent in Spanish. Simone has worked with Catholic Relief Services for the past 17 years and prior to that was Director of Parish Social Ministries at Catholic Charities in Atlanta, GA.

We are truly blessed to have someone with Simone's expertise assume the role of Director of JPIC and we look forward to the leadership she will offer the Bon Secours Family.

International Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee

Simone Blanchard, Chair
Sr. Gumerinda Cordova Cordova, CBS
Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada Escobar, CBS
Sr. Margaret Mary Hanafin, CBS
Beatrice Lesourd
Sr. Nathalie Lundolo, CBS
Rachel Moccia
Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS - Co-chair
Nicholas Stein
Sr. Chris Webb, CBS

Observer

Sr. Marianne Falanka (DRC)



Simone Blanchard!
Director: JPIC