

# Where we are

If you want to know a bit more about us, here you can find the places where we are present and find out about our history and day to day lives.

**CJ Cuba:** The CJ presence in Cuba is the result of interprovincial collaboration between the three Latin American provinces: Argentina, Chile and Brazil, the province of Spain and the current Latin European Province (union of the ex-provinces of Italy and Romania). The provinces collaborate either by sending members or by providing financial resources to support the life and mission of our sisters.

**CJ Chile:** In 1934, three sisters from Augsburg and Bamberg arrived in Chile, in the north of the country. They started a school for girls in the following year. Since then, other German sisters arrived as missionaries. In 1953 the small seed grew to become a tree-the Province of Chile. Currently they are present in Antofagasta, Santiago, Chillán, San Carlos, San Ignacio and San Fabián de Alico.

**CJ Argentina:** In 1939, seven sisters arrived in Argentina and founded a school in San Andrés de Giles. In 1951, two more sisters from the Hungarian province arrived in Argentina with the main goal of helping the Hungarian immigrants who had arrived in the country, fleeing the communist regime. They founded a school for the children of Hungarian families in Plátanos.

**CJ Brazil:** In Brazil, the Congregatio Jesu is present in São Paulo, Pará, Paraná e Piauí, and they are focused in Education, spiritual work and social and pastoral work. Sisters Placida, Francisca, Eligia and Michaela arrived in Brazil to plant the seed of Mary Ward's Charism in November 1934, coming from the German-speaking provinces. They began to work for education of the children in Sao Paulo and, later, they founded a hospital and started other apostolic ministries. Today, they are spread across the country from the south to the north.

**CJ Zimbabwe:** The Congregatio Jesu sisters arrived in Zimbabwe from Mainz, in Germany, in March 1951. It was thanks to the initiative, negotiations and sacrifices of Mother Edelburga and her desire to take an active part in the Mission apostolate. The decision was taken after the horrors of the Second World War. Zimbabwe has been a Region since 1998 and currently has 47 members, of whom 30 are finally professed sisters and 17 temporary professed. Currently there are four novices and two candidates as well.

**CJ Mozambique:** A new Mary Ward initiative and inspiration is launched in Mozambique by the CJ in Zimbabwe as they open a new page in serving the marginalized, caring for the sick and the young.

**CJ in Philippines:** Mary Ward women worldwide (IBVM and CJ) are making significant links with each other, and together, they established the Mary Ward Study House. This collaborative effort is significant. For over eight years, young Korean and Chinese Sisters have been a part of the community, together with Sisters from Australia, Vietnam, USA, Tanzania, and visitors from India, Kenya, England, Canada, Spain, and Hungary. They are studying theology and family counselling. Of the two older Sisters, one lectures at local theological colleges and workshops and is also involved in thesis supervision. The other is a great organiser and cares for the many aspects of daily life.

**CJ Myanmar:** In 2017 the Korean Province began a process of discernment regarding the possibility of establishing a mission in Myanmar. Sr Cecilia Lee and Sr Martha Park were assigned to the mission in Myanmar in March 2019, after having done exploratory travels and meeting people of different areas to learn about their felt needs in 2018.



**CJ Nepal:** There has been a CJ presence in Nepal since the 1950s when sisters from India moved there to establish a Girls' High School in Kathmandu. Since then other communities have been founded and in 2006 Nepal was established as a separate CJ Region.

**CJ India:** The history of the CJ Foundation in India in 1853 is intertwined with the history of the Munich foundation, as it was a response to the plea of the Bishop of the city to send missionaries to India. They did their first foundation in Bankipore (Patna), considered the mother house of the Institute in India. From the mid-20th century, Indian candidates joined the CJ and, as numbers grew, the Provincial house and novitiate were set up in Allahabad. In 1991 Patna was established as a separate province. Today, they are divided into three provinces and one region: Delhi, Allahabad and Patna Provinces, and the Region of Bangalore. The main ministry of the provinces continues to be education, especially schools for girls both fee- and non-fee paying. More recently social ministries - such as social work and pastoral care - have developed along with new spiritual ministries.

**CJ South Korea:** The first CJ house was opened in Seoul in 1964 with a group of Korean sisters who had done their initial religious formation in the Middle European Province. Shortly afterwards, a second house was opened in Daejeon. The development of the CJ in South Korea has been rapid. By 1973 the Korean mission and membership had grown sufficiently strong to become a province with a Korean sister as the provincial superior.

**CJ Mongolia:** The mission in Mongolia was founded by the Korean Province in 2004. Currently three Korean sisters are involved in the CJ Mission in Ulaanbaatar. The apostolic mission is being carried out through Mary Ward Centre, CMM Library and Catholic Scout.

**CJ Ukraine:** Ukraine is part of the Slovak Province. There are CJ sisters working in three places in Ukraine, all founded since the fall of communism. Two are close to the Slovak frontier, and the third is in the capital, Kiev. The sisters here are involved in pastoral work and teach Religion. In all the communities the main ministry is social work.

**CJ Romania:** The first Mary Ward sisters came to Romania from Bavaria in the mid-19th century. Up until the advent of communism they ran large schools for girls in Bucharest, Brăila, Craiova and Turnu Severin. Shortly after the installation of the Stalinist communist regime in Romania the sisters of German and other nationalities, and the Romanian sisters as well were expelled, and some sisters, mostly Romanians were imprisoned for refusing to hand over confidential information to the authorities.

**CJ Slovakia:** Mary Ward established a house in Pressburg, now Bratislava, in 1628 with the intention of establishing a school for girls. Just a few years later the institute was suppressed and the sisters departed. Not until 1882 was another foundation made this time in Prešov. From here other communities were founded including Bratislava. The Slovak Province was set up in April 1941.

**CJ Hungary:** CJ Sisters arrived in Buda from St Pölten in Austria in 1770 at the invitation of the Empress Maria Theresa. They looked after the holy relic of St Stephen and opened a school. A few years later, they moved to Pest on the other side of the river Danube and took over the present house and church which had previously been in the possession of the Dominicans.

**CJ Czech Republic:** Mary Ward had attempted, unsuccessfully, to found a house in Prague in 1628. It was not until 1921 that the CJ were able to re-establish a presence in this part of Europe. In 1949, with the onset of the communist regime, the sisters had to leave Štěkeň and go to Dobrá Voda. In 1989 they were able to return to Štěkeň and it is here that most of the sisters of Czech origin reside. There is a smaller, more apostolically active community in Prague.

**CJ Austria:** If there is somewhere where you can follow the long history of Mary Ward Women, that is here, in Austria. The Congregation of Jesus has been present here for over 300 years, and the oldest house was founded in 1706 in St Pölten (Linzer Straße).



**CJ Germany:** Some of the oldest foundations of the Congregatio Jesu were made by Mary Ward or by her companions in Germany. Bavaria- Munich in 1626, Augsburg in 1662, and Burghausen in 1683. Today, the Middle European Province consists of all the communities in Germany, Austria, and South Tyrol as the amalgamation of these eight German-speaking provinces was done in 2005. In 2017 the Hungarian province was also incorporated into the MEP.

**CJ in South Tyrol:** In 1723, the first CJ sisters went from Germany to Meran. Sixteen years later, a new foundation was started in Brixen. For Nearly 300 years the sisters took responsibility for schools and kindergartens, and they ran hostels for girls as the pupils came from the very remote villages in the Alps.

**CJ Italy:** The main houses and schools that were part of the former province of Italy were founded on the initiative of different people for the human and faith education of women and were entrusted to the English Ladies (Dami Inglesi). Rovereto was founded in 1782 on the initiative of the Noble Lady Agnese Fait. Lodi was founded in 1812 by Baroness Maria Hadfield, Vicenza was founded in 1837 by the will of Francesco I<sup>o</sup> Emperor of Austria and Merate was founded in 1889 at the invitation of Mons. Federico Colombo.

**CJ General House, Rome:** Mary Ward spent three different periods (1621-1626; 1629-1630; 1632-1637) of her life in Rome. Then Mary Ward's first successors lived here, except Mary Poyntz, who from 1662 to 1667 lived in Augsburg. After the confirmation of the 81 Rules in 1703, the then Superior General Anna Barbara Babthorpe closed the foundation in Rome which, since Mary Ward's time, had been situated near Santa Maria Maggiore. It was only in September 1897 that the "English Ladies" returned to Rome and opened a house on Via Nazionale and began teaching foreign languages and later opened a Primary School and a Kindergarten.

**CJ England:** The oldest religious house in England with continuous occupation is the Bar Convent in York, founded in 1686 by Frances Bedingfield, one of Mary Ward's first companions. It was from here that the Irish branch of the Institute was begun by Frances Teresa Ball in 1821. There are presently three CJ communities in England, one in Cambridge and two in York.

**CJ Spain:** The Congregation of Jesus has been present in Spain since 1939, when the sisters, coming from Germany, founded a house in Barcelona. The main ministry of the province is education. There are schools in Barcelona, Badalona and San Sebastian. In the CJ schools a lot of importance is given to pastoral work, supporting Mary Ward groups, preparing children to receive the sacraments and conducting workshops for both parents and pupils.