

News Flash

17th August 2025

Becoming One - Journeying Together: Day 1

BANGALORE 15th August 2025

All were warmly welcomed by Srs. Shradha CJ and Sudha IBVM on 14th August.

The tone of the day was set by Fr. Joe Mathias SJ at Mass on the Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. He spoke about champions of freedom, sincerity, and justice, referring to Venerable Mary Ward, Ignatius, and our freedom fighters. The grace of 'Becoming One' was what we sought for the day.

Faith Sharing based on the Gospel of the day resonated with the humility and fiat of Mary, the Mother of God.

After a brief introduction, we shared vocation stories in the smaller groups assigned for the day, thus enriching each other.

The evolution of both branches of Mary Ward's daughters was deliberated upon at length. The zeal of the Founding Sisters of the branches filled us with holy awe and admiration. The challenges they faced and overcame encouraged us to persevere in faith in our 'Becoming One'.



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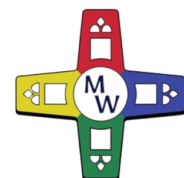
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Spiritual Conversations at the end of each session helped us delve deeper and internalize the legacy of our Founder's commitment and courageous response to God's will for her.

A CJ and IBVM sister were paired for an Emmaus walk during which we listened intently to our involvement in ministry and our feelings about merging.

We gathered the pearls of the day in our respective groups and then echoed with gratitude our takeaways of the day. We expressed our appreciation to each member of our group for their openness and generosity. All felt that we had been blessed with the grace of the day, 'Becoming One Body'.



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Becoming One - Journeying Together : Day 2

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At Mass, Fr. Joe Mathias SJ helped clarify the Core Identity of religious as discipleship of Jesus, and their charism as loving, serving, and glorifying God through their lives, as against their roles and functions in ministry, better known.

The Grace of the day we prayed for was 'To live our truth together for the mission'.

During Faith Sharing on the Gospel of the day, Mt. 19: 13 - 15, God's love for the simplicity and innocence of children evoked in each, a prayer for child-likeness in our approach to God, and that we grow in compassion.

The two sessions that followed revolved around 'Embracing the Present' - the mission of IBVM and CJ. IBVM spoke of enabling ministries under 3 heads, in addition to Education: Social action - Mary Ward Social Centres; Rainbow Homes; Formation for mission today, wherein GC 1986 mandates of preferential option for the poor and moving into areas of ministry congruous with the times were put into practice.



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The many CJ ministries also depicted a dynamic movement in response to reading the signs of the times, in addition to empowerment of girls and women through education, health care, care of children with disabilities, social action, counselling, pastoral, legal, and prison ministries. Many similarities in ministries indicated how the spirit of Mary Ward continued to guide both the branches.

A panel discussion wherein 3 Sisters, each of IBVM and CJ, participated and shared their feelings on the challenges of 'merger,' helping us understand what some Sisters have grappled with.

During the Emmaus Walk, paired IBVM and CJ Sisters shared their dreams, joys, and passions of serving the Lord in the congregation.

Gathering the pearls and Examen reflected the pain experienced by some IBVM Sisters during the initial stages when the merger was announced; this has since been replaced by different degrees of consolation, and the conviction that our Founder, Venerable Mary Ward is with us, this was especially experienced during and after attending the 'Becoming One' meeting in Bengaluru.

The participant Sisters expressed their gratitude to the Lord and the resource persons, Srs. Shradha CJ and Sudha IBVM for the well-organized, engaging, and spirit-filled sessions.

All felt the grace of the day, 'To live our truth together for the mission,' permeating us.



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Becoming One - Journeying Together : Day 3

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At Mass Fr. Joe Mathias SJ reminded all to live according to the core identity of religious, irrespective of the cultures from which we come.

The grace of the day was 'Move forward with consolation'.

At Pyramid Valley International, we were introduced to a way of meditation to encounter oneself.

All were enthralled by the chapel of Vidyavanam Ashram built aesthetically based on a deep understanding of the Word of God and Indian Philosophy. The significance of the inverted tree, the crucifix, the tabernacle struck us as meaningful.

After paying a joy-filled visit to Shanti Sadan, and later to Maria Sadan we dispersed with gratitude and hope in our hearts. Thanks was accorded to Sr. Shradha CJ for her generosity in hosting the 'Becoming One' programme in Bengaluru, for her kindness, warm hospitality, for going out of her way to ensure that the needs of all the participants were met for the meticulously planned event.

All look forward in anticipation, having been graced with divine consolation, to the official merger, when as Mary Ward's daughters we 'Become One'!



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