



CASA LORETO

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*What is important is not the present size of the mustard seed within us, but that we allow it to germinate.
(Gerard Hughes S.J.)*

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Dear Sisters,

In John C. Olin's introduction to the biography of St. Ignatius, he speaks of Ignatius's story as an interior history, one of inward transformation and spiritual growth. This experience was dynamic, changing Ignatius and moving him to do 'something for the glory of God out of love for God.' He paid deep attention to the context, and mission was at the heart of his quest. He wanted to work alongside this God, who is in and through all of creation, to help souls.

This is the essence of Becoming One for us. We are all on an inner journey as we travel this creative, spirit led path. 'We acknowledge our vulnerability' (GC calls) and accept losing something of ourselves to become greater. We need time to ponder on what it has meant to be an IBVM woman up to now. Doing so will help us to embrace what Becoming One will bring. So let us stay with the heart, knowing and trusting that the practical issues – time line, finances, Constitutions and the canonical act of Becoming One - will be taken care of when the time is right.

The CJs are on this inner journey too. Congregation-wide, because of their many languages, their pace is slightly slower. In their reflections, they, too, are experiencing various highs and lows. They are not passive 'receivers' but active participants who rejoice in all that IBVM will bring.

Over the coming months let us share together our IBVM stories, believing that Becoming One is the on-going work of the Holy Spirit. As faithful followers of Mary Ward, when the moment comes for each one of us, as members of the joining institute, to sign the document stating our intention, we will have grown in our understanding that there is a thirst for oneness at the heart of the universe and our coming together with CJs is a new thing for the church and religious life.

In the meantime, we continue to foster meaningful relationships with our CJ Sisters and harness the goodwill which is so evident on both sides.

Wishing you many graces on this blessed feast of St. Ignatius.

Much love,

Camel