Andrei Rublev’s Trinitarian icon shows the persons of the Trinity each with a pilgrim’s staff ready in hand.

Our God is exodus, journey, search, together, and we religious are caught up in this movement of communion which is mission.
On 8th December 1965, the closing day of the Vatican Council, the decree establishing the International Union of Superiors General was signed.

On December 12th, 2015, the UISG opened the celebrations of its Jubilee Year.
The AIMS of the UISG

The aims of UISG have remained the same since its foundation and you will see the desire for communion and solidarity expressed in various ways throughout these aims.
The AIMS of the UISG 1

• To bear witness to the CHARISM OF RELIGIOUS LIFE and to help support the development of Religious Life in the Church and the world.
What we did

• Year of Consecrated Life

• Attended **continental/local** meetings of religious and constellation meetings

• Attended conference for **Vocation Promoters**

• **UISG bulletin** – added Portuguese

• **Regina Mundi in Diaspora**: grants to study theology and 4 canon law grants (Acweca Region - GHR)

• **Press Conferences, interviews and articles**

• Launch of the annual **International Day against Trafficking** – requested by Pope Francis (2015)
The AIMS of the UISG 2

To promote deeper collaboration by providing opportunities for Superiors General to share experiences, exchange information and promote worldwide communication.
WHAT WE DID: Acknowledged that UISG needed a better **communication system** to serve members:

- Appointed a communications officer in 2015
- New **website, facebook and twitter**
- Reorganizing communication system so that we can use **Skype, email** Superiors General directly
- Reorganization of the staff to be more at the **direct service** of members
- Appointment of an Assistant Executive Director
UISG is Building a Global Community

Regular contact with the membership of UISG

✓ **UISG Bulletin** which is published three times a year in 7 Languages

✓ **Two Websites** have been developed:

  - **Vidimus Dominum**: a joint site of USG and UISG publishes regular updates in four languages about religious life in different parts of the world

  - the **UISG website** publishes periodic information particular to UISG
UISG is Building a Global Community of Sisters

Regular contact with the membership of UISG

- Regular email contact with the Delegates of the Worldwide Constellations and with member Superiors General. Please update your personal details with the UISG Office.
- Visits to the UISG Office by Congregational Leaders and their Councils.
- UISG, a home for members of Congregations. Many meetings happen here: JPIC, MMI, Days for Reflection of language, Leadership Training...
UISG is Building a Global Community of Sisters

Talking about Synod on the Family 2015
Sr. Carmmen Sammut
The AIMS of the UISG 3

- To reflect on today’s global challenges and to search for appropriate responses.

It’s a challenging global goal time!
Collaboration with the UNION of SUPERIORS GENERAL (USG)

The Executive Councils of the UISG and USG meet **twice a year** and have a joint meeting **twice a year** with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and the Congregations for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Joint commissions:
- Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
- Education Commission
- Commission for Health
- Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue
- Theological Commission
- Canon Law Commission

They represent the two Unions at meetings with various Vatican Departments and liaise with different Catholic organizations and International NGOs.

The two unions have helped organize the various meetings which took place during the Year of Consecrated Life.
To strengthen relationships and to engage in collaborative dialogue with the Holy See especially with CIVCSVA (The Congregation for Religious) Propaganda Fide and Pontifical Councils
What we did

✓ Acquiring representation at the Synod on the Family
✓ Mutuae Relationes (Council of 16)
✓ Establishing and accompaniment of new congregations (Council of 18)
✓ Relationships with Pontifical Councils: Justice and Peace, Migrants, PCPCU
✓ Pontifical Academy of Science

Sr. Berta María Porras F. Terciaria Capuchina (Costa Rica)
Sr. Carmen Sammut, Misionera Ntra Señora de África, president UISG (Malta)
Sr. Maureen Kelleher Religiosa del Sagrado Corazón de María (EEUU)
Year of Consacrated Life

Audience Pope Francis. February 1st, 2016
The AIMS of the UISG 5

• To provide a forum and a meeting place for all Superiors General of female congregations of Apostolic Life and of female Diocesan congregations.
Members: 1,856 female Superiors General/Congregational leaders
International and diocesan congregations
What we did

• Plenary Assemblies
• Meeting of Delegates
• Constellation Meetings
• Meetings with Continental Conferences
• Consultation for the Strategic Plan
• Consultation for Mutuae Relationes
The AIMS of the UISG 6

To express solidarity and collaborate in projects of general interest
What we did

**Strengthened the Talitha Kum office**
- Appoint a fulltime coordinator
- Visits to Local/Regional networks
- International Meeting of regional coordinators

**Solidarity with South Sudan**

**Regina Mundi**

**Launching the Migrants Project in Sicily**
- co-ordinating team
- Selection/training of community members
- Two communities established

**Zambian Research Project:**
- Formation and education of sisters for mission

**Theme of Assembly 2016**

**Canon Law Service**
The UISG anti-trafficking initiative was approved at the Assembly in 2004. Various training workshops were held in many parts of the world in coordination with the International Organization for Migrants (IOM).

There are currently **17 networks of religious sisters** and their associates, worldwide working in over **70 countries**.

Direction: Sr. Gabriella Bottani cms

Feast of St. Bakhita, Rome. February 8th
The Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia (Rome)
Cardenal João BRÁZ DE AVIZ

Praying the Angelus with the Pope Francis in Vatican
Pourquoi cette recherche-action?

- Étapes du projet
- Conséquences attendues
- Actions renouvelables liées à ses thématiques
- Sujet complexe qui nécessite une approche sociologique et pratique, impliquant une recherche-action
- Recherche-action qui repose sur une analyse sociologique et l’implémentation active du réseau
- Cantor et ses partenaires
This project was initiated in 2006 by both the USG and UISG in response to an appeal from the Bishops of Southern Sudan.

In 2005, the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

There are over 30 religious from approx. 22 congregations living together in community.

...training teachers, nurses, midwives, pastoral workers and farmers.
Regina Mundi closed in 2006.

In 2012 the Executive Board established the “Regina Mundi in Diaspora Grant Programme.”

2015: **110 sisters**
Received a grant to study theology.

2015: **4 special grants**
were awarded to sisters in the **Eastern and Central region of Africa** to study **Canon Law** in Nairobi. At least 2 more will be awarded in 2016.
UISG has received funding to study the education needs of women’s congregations in the Global South in terms of **future congregational and ministry needs.**

### Zambia

To develop a planning tool that will be useful for congregations worldwide as they seek to plan their own educational needs into the future.

*This committee represents the stakeholders—donors, ACWECA, ZAS (Zambian Association of Sisters) and UISG.*
NEW PROJECTS

To mark the Jubilee of UISG in a practical way.

To set up an **international inter-congregational community** in **Sicily** with the various language, legal and counseling abilities needed to help migrants.

**UISG is appealing to its members to attend to the needs of refugees and migrants in every part of the world.**
International inter-congregational community in Sicily
NEW PROJECTS

CANON LAW SERVICE

“Women canonists: at the service of religious life”
Nemi, December 1-4, 2015
With the support of the Conrad Hilton Foundation UISG has been able.

To improve its communication capacity in order to improve relationships with members and with national, regional and continental conferences and with the different groups of religious who support.
How did we do this?

- Reorganization of the office
  - auditing of finances
  - departments
  - increase of full-time staff

- Financial Support in Solidarity from Congregations

- Major partnership: USG

- New relationship with Embassies to the Holy See: US, Australian, UK and Ireland.

- New Partners
  - Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
  - GHR
  - SC Ministry Foundation
  - Arise Foundation

- Other INGOs and Church based Organisations: Caritas Internationalis, WUCWO, JRS etc.
As an International body rooted in the Christ, and representing Congregations of Women Religious throughout the world, UISG seeks to witness to and proclaim the identity of apostolic religious life in all of its diversity. Through weaving global solidarity and opening new frontiers, we animate, support and stimulate leadership of religious to be a prophetic voice and witness in the Church and the world.
The work of UISG is carried out while always considering the following values:

- Discernment
- Collaboration
- Celebrating Differences
- Unity in Diversity
- Mutual Support
- Integrity and Transparency
- Rooted in the Word of God
That UISG will be a vibrant and recognised international organisation, with a prophetic voice within the church and the world. We will communicate effectively to support and offer hope to religious women. We will collaborate as a global community responding together to critical issues in today’s world.
SOME FUTURE HOPES

- Sustainable development goals
- Worldwide network of religious women theologians and biblical scholars
- ????
EXECUTIVE BOARD

In each Assembly the Council of Delegates meets and elects the Executive Board. Nominations for the Executive Board come from the Rome Constellation.

They are supported by the Executive Secretary and staff.
Pope Francis:

“witnesses to the love of Christ (by)…
giving a voice to the cry of the poor.”

To move us towards a new commitment to global solidarity where we will increasingly pray and work together, share resources and encourage each other to go to frontiers near and far.
“The commitment to global solidarity is a most beautiful and complex enterprise which needs patience, creativity and skill. And like weaving it starts with one stitch and goes on, one stitch after another, growing nearly imperceptibly.”

(Sr. Carmen Sammut msola)

Let us begin now at this Assembly to weave the future together.................