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27th October 2025

Dear Sisters, Principals & Directors

Subject: Announcement of the Canonical Merger of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ)

With a deep sense of gratitude to God's ways in history and in our time, I write to inform you that the Holy See has formally affirmed the long-discerned merger of the Congregatio Jesu (CJ) and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), the two Institutes founded in the charism of Venerable Mary Ward.

The decree granting the canonical merger was received with joy by the leadership of both Institutes on **23 October 2025**.

The decree will be publicly proclaimed during the Eucharistic Celebration to be held in **Loyola, Spain, on 4th November 2025**. At this moment, Mary Ward's enduring desire "*that they may be completely one*" finds fulfilment in the life of the Church.

We give thanks to God for His fidelity and for the grace of this historic union for mission — "*The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever.*"

We humbly request your prayers and blessings upon this renewed body, that, united in one charism, we may serve the Church with deeper fidelity and apostolic availability.

With respect and gratitude,

Sr. Monica Suchiang

Province Leader

Loreto South Asia Province

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Kolkata

APPROACHING MERGER!



About 130 participants from five continents are preparing to travel to Loyola to celebrate together the Merger of the two last Branches that have Mary Ward as Foundress, CJ and IBVM.

On 4 November 2025 at 11am (CET) there will be a solemn **Eucharistic Celebration** presided over by the General of the Society of Jesus, Fr Arturo Sosa SJ. The Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica in Loyola.

On 5 November 2025 at 9.30am (CET) there will be a **Symposium** with Pat Murray IBVM on “**Women of the dawn: On the threshold of new beginnings**” in the auditorium of the Spirituality Centre in Loyola.

Below is the link to participate in the live streaming of these two important events. You can share it with the whole Mary Ward Family and all your friends around the world.

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCSZE-ZQ7AOw0FnjVmgojQAQ>

United in joy and gratitude
Communications Team



“That they may become
completely one.”

Mary Ward

Merger of Congregatio Jesu (CJ) and Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) affirmed by Decree

The decree granting the merger of Mary Ward's Institutes, the Congregatio Jesu (CJ) and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) has been received with joy and gratitude by the leadership of both Institutes.

The official merger decree will be publicly proclaimed at a Eucharistic Celebration in Loyola, Spain on November 4 2025. Mary Ward's desire that all may be one will be realized.



Deo gratias.



23 October 2025

Veronica Fuhmann CJ

Carmel Andrews

“The mercies of the Lord
I will sing forever.”

Teresa Ball

