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## **NEWS UPDATES**

**ROME JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> 2014**

We take the opportunity of the Feast of Our Lady of Apostles to update you with some news from Rome. It is not long since our last update so we have just a few 'news' items.

**Collaboration with SMA:** As recommended by General Chapter 2013 we have begun the process of exploring at General Council level the possibilities for collaboration with the SMA. Our first meeting in January was an introductory one, simply getting to know each other as Councils. In May our second meeting focussed more on possible areas for collaboration. We shared our visions for the current mandates and then noted areas with possibilities for collaboration such as Ongoing Formation, Spirituality and Safeguarding to mention just a few.

The SMA have set up a number of Commissions in which they have invited some OLA Sisters to participate. Srs. Marta Pettenazzo and Irini Chenouda are members of the Commission for Spirituality while Sr. Kathleen McGarvey is a member of the Commission to promote Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue. We commend our brothers for this initiative and thank the three Sisters for agreeing to work on these Commissions.

Similarly Srs Denise and Daniela - as the General Councillors with responsibility for our Formation Commissions - were invited to attend a meeting of the SMA Formation Committee, a meeting which both groups found very informative and useful.

**District of Holland:** Thanks to Sr Irini Chenouda who has taken time out from her Sabbatical to be with the Sisters in Sittard for one month. Sr. Felicia will go to Holland for the Parish Celebration on June 15<sup>th</sup> and be with the Sisters until their move to Cadir-en-Keer on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We continue to hold the Sisters of the District in prayer.

**Preparation for Final Vows:** This session will take place in Maryland Centre, Lagos, Nigeria from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 8<sup>th</sup>. Twenty Sisters will participate in the programme. Let us keep them in our prayers as they begin this period of intense reflection and preparation for their perpetual commitment.

**Intercultural Session:** The programme for all those preparing for Mission Ad Extra will take place in Brafuyaw, Cape Coast from September 2<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Plenary Council:** The first Plenary Council in this mandate will take place November 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> in Cotonou, Republic of Benin.