

ecumenism, and dialogue as a way of life and as a means of resolving conflicts.

The Community has as its centre the Roman Church of Sant'Egidio, from which the Community takes its name. From its very beginnings, the Community has maintained, in the area of Trastevere and in Rome, a continuous presence of prayer and welcome for the poor and for pilgrims.

## **26 Base Communities**

Basic Christian communities sprang up firstly in Latin America. By the early 1980s there were an estimated 150,000 communities in Latin America, composed mainly of the poorest people. Elsewhere, the members may be mostly middle-class. It is essentially a no-residential lay movement, which is concerned with the basics of the Christian life, with simplicity, practicality and mutual support.

## **27 Retreat centres and retreat houses and places of pilgrimage**

Pilgrimage centres: Walsingham, Lindisfarne, Iona, Glastonbury, St David's

## **28 Lay communities, Solitaries,**

– including the Benedictine Lay Community, formerly Worth Abbey Lay Community

## **29 The Julian Meetings**

The aim of the Julian Meetings is to: foster the teaching and practise of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition; encourage people to practise contemplative prayer in their daily lives, and to explore ways of doing this which are appropriate for them; and support for the individual ecumenical Julian Meetings. <http://www.julianmeetings.org/>

## **30 Ecumenical and inter-denominational groups**

The Conference of Religious – a Roman Catholic organisation in which Anglican leaders can be associate members. Association of British Contemplatives – fosters solidarity and co-operation among women's contemplative communities. Kaire – an international group which emerged from a conference in 1971. Permanent International Ecumenical Consultation – founded in 1977 for religious superiors.

they also have a commitment to reach out to young people, from summer camps and college campuses to the inner city.

## **12 Assumptionists**

The Augustinians of the Assumption were founded in the south of France by Ven. Emmanuel d'Alzon (1810-1880), Vicar-General of the Diocese of Nîmes, in 1850 – he earned the title: 'Knight of God' for his fiery, impetuous dedication to God. Their main focus is on ecumenism, work with the poor and serious study, including running schools and colleges. Their motto is: '*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*' (Your Kingdom come). Involved in Eastern Europe since 1863, the Assumptionists spread throughout Europe, reaching England in 1928. They have members on all continents and five 'sister' congregations of women.<sup>2</sup>

## **13 Paulists**

The Paulists ('The Missionary Society of St Paul the Apostle in the State of New York'), were founded in 1858 by I. T. Hecker, with a rule based on that of the Redemptorists.

## **14 Salesians**

The Society of St Francis de Sales, founded near Turin in 1859 by St John Bosco for the Christian education of poor boys and young men, especially with a view to ordination, and living according to a rule drawn up by St John. A sister congregation of Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians was founded in 1872. The congregation now has around 18,500 members world-wide.

## **15 Anglican religious communities**

There are an estimated 2,600 religious in the Anglican Communion in a little over 100 communities. Supervisory and co-ordinating groups include: The Conference of the Leaders of Anglican Religious Communities; Advisory Council on the Relations of Bishops and Religious Communities; The Communities Consultative Council.

## **16 Bruderhof**

Founded in 1920 by Eberhard and Emmy Arnold in Germany as the Society of Brothers (Bruderhof = 'Place of Brothers'), the community looked back the primitive church and to the Anabaptist movement, and was influenced by the Hutterites in the United States of America. After Nazi persecution the community moved firstly to Paraguay and later the USA. They have a particular concern for morality and the peace movement. Membership is for life and for adults only, with baptism or re-baptism taking place at the time of life vows. A noviciate is entered into first, though. As of 1997 there were six communities in the United States, two in England, and one in

<sup>2</sup> The Religious of the Assumption ; The Little Sisters of the Assumption ; The Oblates of the Assumption ; The Orantes of the Assumption ; The Sisters of Saint Joan of Arc

## Month Three: Anglican Religious Communities

### 1 Community of All Hallows

Founded at Ditchingham in Suffolk in 1855, this women's order runs guest houses, retreat and conference centres, a day nursery, and nursing home, gives retreats and spiritual direction

#### All Saints Sisters of the Poor

in the UK & the USA. Founded at Oxford in 1851, ASSP works with homeless, unemployed, sick and elderly people. In the USA the order is based in Maryland.

#### Society of the Precious Blood

Founded in 1905, the SPB is a women's contemplative community in the Augustinian tradition with houses at Maidenhead and Peterborough. A community in Lesotho was started in 1957 and a house of prayer at Kimberley, South Africa in 1980.

### 2 Community of the Holy Spirit

A women's community based in New York, living by a modified Augustinian rule. They offer hospitality and carry out retreat work, spiritual direction, and education in sustainable living. [www.chssisters.org](http://www.chssisters.org)

#### Community of St Mary

A semi-enclosed order founded in 1865, the CSM has convents in Tennessee, California and the Philippines

### 3 Community of the Resurrection

In the UK the CR was founded in 1892 as a community of priests and laymen devoted to prayer, worship, work and study. The house at Mirfield includes a theological college and conference centre; there are other houses in London and Southdale, South Africa.

#### Community of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Founded in South Africa in 1884 by Bishop Allan Beecher Webb and Cecile Isherwood to undertake pastoral and educational work in Grahamstown, South Africa.

### 4 Community of Saint Francis & Society of Saint Francis

in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the UK & the USA. The SSF was founded in the USA (1919), UK (1921), and the CSF was founded in 1905. In the UK the SSF is based at Hilfield Friary, Dorset, with 10 other locations in the UK and 12 abroad; the CSF has houses at Brixton and four other UK locations, and one in the USA. Their emphasis is on hospitality, care for the poor, retreat work and mission. (CSF and SSF)

elementary school. They have developed into two branches: the Old Order Amish and the more liberal Amish Mennonites.

### 4 Cistercians of the Strict Observance

The main branch of this order is known as the Trappists, a reform of the Cistercians, introduced at La Trappe in 1662 by A. J. Le B. de Rancé, who became abbot in 1664. An austere order practising perpetual silence, abstinence from meat, fish and eggs, a night office at 2 a.m., shared dormitories, and compulsory manual labour; study, which was banned by de Rancé, is now encouraged, as is ecumenical activity. The Divine Office accounts for some seven hours a day. The habit is white, with a black scapular. (CSO)

### 5 Moravian Brethren *or* Herrnhuter

A reform of the Bohemian Brethren in 1722 under Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf at Herrnhut. There is a strong pietistic element, and a missionary emphasis. They influenced John Wesley.

### 6 Passionists

Founded by Paul Francis Daneo (1694-1775, later nicknamed 'Paul of the Cross'), who began to live a religious life in 1720; he received definitive Papal approval for his Rule in 1769. His followers became known as Passionists because of their devotion and preaching on the passion and death of Christ. Today, they carry out retreat and mission work. The Congregation of the Passion (CP), is better known as the Passionist Community.

### 7 Redemptorists

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer was established in 1732 at Scala, Italy by St Alphonsus Maria di Liguori. Its purpose is mission work among the poor and heathen, and it has resisted being involved in purely educational work. It was introduced into England in 1843.

### 8 Marists

The Marist Sisters were founded in 1816, and the Society of Mary in 1824 at Lyons by the Ven. Jean Claude Marie Colin (1790-1875). A Third Order was founded in 1850. Their special mission field was the west Pacific, but also spread elsewhere, being introduced into England in 1850. They are involved in educational and missionary work. Their rule, based on that of the Jesuits, aims especially at fostering devotion to the BVM.<sup>1</sup>

#### Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

In 1816, a young Frenchman, St. Eugene De Mazenod, O.M.I., founded the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, an order of priests and brothers dedicated to serving the poor and sharing the message of God's love with rural populations.

<sup>1</sup> Marist Sisters, Our Lady's Homestead, Nympsfield, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3TY

**Order of Julian of Norwich**

in the USA. Waukesha WI: founded 1985, a semi-enclosed order; contemplative prayer, retreats, spiritual direction, study, writing

**9 Community of St Denys**

in the UK. Warminster: founded in 1879 for mission work, now parish work, retreats and spiritual direction

**Community of the Divine Compassion**

at Nyanga, in Zimbabwe. Men's community. (CDC)

**Society of the Sacred Advent**

in Australia. Albion, QLD: founded 1892, centred on prayer, silence and work; there are two kinds of schools, but the sisters no longer have day-to-day involvement.

**10 Community of St Laurence**

in the UK. Belper, Derby: founded 1874, a women's community originally caring for the poor, now concentrating on retreat work.

**Chita che Zita Renoyera** (Holy Name Community)

in Zimbabwe. Penhalonga: founded in 1935 by Fr Baker of CR, the sisters now work in the clinic and in secondary schools.

**Chita che Zvipo Zve Moto** (Community of the Gifts of the Holy Fire)

at Gokwe in Zimbabwe. Founded in 1977 by the Revd Canon Lazarus Tashaya; a mixed community of nuns and friars. There are vows of love, compassion and spiritual poverty. The sisters run an orphanage and crafts are produced. (CZM)

**11 Order of St Benedict** in independent Abbeys and Priors

in Australia, Korea, the UK & the USA. Bartonville, IL: founded in 1985, Spanish-speaking; Burford, founded 1941, now a mixed community; St Mary at the Cross, Edgware: founded 1866 by the Revd Henry Nihill and Mother Monnica Skinner, runs a nursing home; Elmore Abbey, Speen, Newbury: founded 1914, traditional monastic balance between work, worship and study; Mallory Abbey, Kent: founded in 1891, women's community; Servants of Christ Priory, Phoenix, AZ: founded 1968; Three Rivers, MI: founded 1939.

**Benedictine Community of the Holy Cross**

in the UK. Rempstone, nr Loughborough: founded 1857 by Elizabeth Neale, sister of John Mason Neale, at the invitation of Charles Fuge Lowder, intended for parish mission work, but developed into a traditional Benedictine community.

**Benedictine Community of Christ the King**

founded 1993, and based at South Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia; an enclosed contemplative female order

**26 Capuchins**

The Capuchins are one of the three main branches of the Franciscans. The reform was established by Matteo di Bassi of Urbino (d. 1552), from a desire to return to the primitive simplicity of the order. Its members wear a pointed cowl (capuche), similar to that of St Francis, a beard, and sandals. The Rule, emphasising poverty and austerity, was drawn up in 1529. (OFM Cap)

**27 Barnabites**

Founded by St Anthony Mary Zaccaria (1502-39) as sons of St Paul and approved by the Pope in 1533, they were soon called Barnabites after their mother house of St Barnabas in Milan, Italy. Since their Constitution of 1579 they have been known officially as Clerics Regular of St Paul (CRSP) and have spread throughout Europe, with a mission to Burma, but mainly exist in Italy. They carry out educational and scholarly work.

**28 Jesuits**

The Society of Jesus was founded in 1534 in Paris by St Ignatius Loyola (1491or5–1556) with six companions, with the aim of fostering reform in the Church and undertaking missionary work amongst the heathen. The order was placed under direct control of the Pope. Their work has particularly involved teaching, catechesis, conducting the *Spiritual Exercises*, and administering the sacraments. Members of the order wear no distinct habit. There are about 27,000 members world-wide. (SJ)

**29 Hutterites, Hutterian Brethren**

A community which originated in Moravia under the leadership of Jacob Hutter (d.1536). They practice the common ownership of property and believers baptism. They settled eventually in the USA, where there are three separate groupings in a number of communities.

**30 Ursulines**

Founded in 1535 by St Angela Merici (1474-1540) at Brescia, they are the oldest and largest Roman Catholic women's teaching order. Community life and simple vows were introduced in 1572, at the instigation of St Charles Borromeo. The Ursulines follow a modified Rule of St Augustine.

**31 Mennonites**

Followers of Menno Simons (1496-1561) around 1536, originating in Holland, with similarities to the Swiss Brethren, a stress on believers' baptism, rejection of Church organisation and Christian involvement in secular justice, and non-resistance. In 1980 there were estimated to be over 643,000, mostly in Europe, Russia and America.

engage in parish work, spiritual direction, retreats, creative work, healing ministry.

#### **Society of Our Lady St Mary**

in Canada – at Digby, Nova Scotia, affiliated to the Community of the Sisters of the Church.

#### **Society of Our Lady of the Isles**

in the UK – at Fetlar, Shetland Isles. (SOLI)

### **16 Order of the Teachers of the Children of God**

in the USA – at Tucson, AZ and 2 other locations. (TCG)

#### **Community of the Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd**

in the UK – at Clewer, Windsor. Founded in 1920, a female order started in South Devon, focussing on teaching moved to Windsor in 1996 to work with the Community of St John the Baptist.

#### **Community of the Good Shepherd**

in Malaysia – at Sabah; founded in 1978, originally part of CJGS, they use the Augustinian rule and engage mainly in parish work.

### **17 Melanesian Brotherhood**

in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands & Vanuatu. At Honiara, Solomon Islands, also Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu & Fiji; founded in 1925 by Ini Kopuria, for evangelism and work alongside others. They do not take life vows, but five-yearly vows can be renewed.

#### **Community of the Sisters of Melanesia**

in the Solomon Islands. At Honiaram Solomon Islands and 3 other locations; founded in 1980, developed as a women's order associated with the Melanesian Brotherhood

### **18 Oratory of the Good Shepherd**

in South Africa, the UK & the USA. At Cambridge, UK; founded in 1913 and now has provinces in UK, NAM, SAF, Australia. Members are celibate men who do not live in community but meet regularly for prayer and annual retreat and chapter.

#### **Oblates & Tertiaries, Associates & Companions**

### **19 Order of the Holy Paraclete**

in Ghana, South Africa, Swaziland & the UK. Whitby and 7 other UK houses, 4 in Africa. Founded in 1915, originally an educational order, but now focus on hospitality, development work overseas, inner city involvement, retreats and spiritual direction

#### **Community of the Holy Name**

in Australia. At Cheltenham, Victoria and 6 other locations; founded in 1888 by Emma Caroline Silcock, originally working

### **17 Dominicans**

Also known as the Friars Preachers (*Ordo Praedicatorum*, OP), or Black Friars, they are an order devoted to preaching and study, and were the first religious order to abandon manual work. Under St Dominic the order took shape around 1220. With their focus on learning and intellectual pursuits they have produced many leaders of European thought, including St Albertus Magnus and St Thomas Aquinas. They follow the Rule of St Augustine. Like the Franciscans, they have a second order (nuns, enclosed and purely contemplative) and a third order (who live the active life without enclosure). Among Dominican Tertiaries were St Catherine of Siena, St Rose of Lima, and St Grignon of Montfort. (OP)

### **18 Mercedarians**

A men's order founded in about 1220 by St Peter Nolasco (so also known as 'Nolascan') with the objects of tending the sick and rescuing Christians who had been taken captive by the Moors. They took their rule from St Raymond Peñafort. They were vowed to offer their own persons as hostage if need be to rescue Christian captives. They spread throughout western Europe and in Latin America. A corresponding order of nuns was founded in Seville in 1568. They have declined in recent years. Their name is derived from their dedication to Our Lady of Mercy.

### **19 Silvestrines**

Founded in 1231 on Monte Fano in Italy by St Silvester Gozzolini, a minor reform of the Benedictine order, according to a more cenobitic pattern. They elect their superiors not for life but for four years. Their particular emphasis is on poverty and abstinence.

### **20 Servites**

The Order of Servites was founded in 1240 by seven wealthy Florentine city councillors who wished to devote themselves to the service of the BVM. The second order (nuns), founded about 1285 is mainly contemplative, and the third order (nuns) founded by St Juliana Falconieri in 1306 care for the sick and the poor and educate children. They follow the Rule of St Augustine, with some Dominican adaptations, and wear a black habit. Their principal devotion is to the Sorrowful Virgin, including reciting the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows.

### **21 Celestines**

Pietro di Murrone (before he became Pope Celestine V) lived as a hermit from 1240, first in the Abruzzi hills and then on Mount Majella. The order, a reform of the Benedictines with a more severe discipline, was founded in 1264. Summoned to be pope in 1294, he abdicated a few months later and returned to his hermitage. He was sought out and captured, and at the time of his death in 1294 600 monks belonged to the order. The

**24 Community of St John Baptist**

in the UK & the USA. Founded in 1852 by Harriet Monsell and Thomas Thelluson Carter to help women rejected by the rest of society; now parish and retreat work, and social care.

**Community of St John the Baptist**

in South Africa. Eastern Cape: for women. (CSJB)

**25 Community of St Paul**

in Mozambique. At Maciene: for women. (CSP)

**Society of St Paul**

in the USA. At Palm Desert, CA: founded 1958 in Oregon, a male order whose early ministry included nursing homes, a school and work in Middle East and Africa. Now the emphasis is on ministry and prayer.

**Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity**

in the USA. at Fond du Lac, WI, and Santa Barbara, CA. Founded in 1882, combining contemplative prayer with outside ministry, and following the Augustinian rule.

**26 Order of St Anne at Bethany**

in the USA. – Arlington, MA; founded in 1910, a small multicultural women's community.

**Community of the Sisters of the Love of God**

in New Zealand & the UK. Based at Fairacres, Oxford; founded in 1906, a Carmelite style women's community, with guest facilities.

**27 Community of St John the Divine**

in the UK, at Birmingham; founded in 1848, originally specialising in nursing and midwifery, now broader aspects of health, healing and reconciliation

**Sisterhood of St John the Divine**

in Canada. At Toronto and 3 other locations; founded in 1884, providing pastoral ministry, retreats, spiritual direction, writing and crafts.

**Society of St John the Divine**

in South Africa. at Durban; founded in 1887, originally running schools and orphanages, now parish and retreat work.

**Community of St John the Evangelist**

in the Republic of Ireland. at Ballsbridge, Dublin; founded in 1912, moving the mother house to Wales in 1967, then back to Dublin in 1996, where the remaining sisters live in a nursing and residential home.

**Society of St John the Evangelist**

in the UK & the USA. at Westminster, UK and Cambridge, MA; founded in 1866, the oldest men's religious community in the Anglican Communion. Runs educational, social and spiritual

congregations. They suffered a severe decline after the French Revolution but have revived more recently and are especially strong in Belgium, with their headquarters at Tongerlo.

**10 Beguines, Berghards**

The Beguines were founded in the 12th century in the Netherlands; a sisterhood who live a semi-religious and austere communal life, in which there are no vows and members are free to leave and marry. Their main work is philanthropic, but they also spend time in contemplation. The equivalent men's order, the Berghards, has died out but the Beguines still exist in the Low Countries.

**Gilbertines**

The only English Order, founded by Gilbert of Sempringham, Lincolnshire, in 1131. Originally a women's order on the Cistercian model, the Cistercians at Cîteaux did not wish to govern communities of women, so Gilbert placed them under some Augustinian canons, thus beginning a tradition of men's and women's orders alongside each other. They were from then on mainly double monasteries, but came to an end at the dissolution.

**11 Carmelites**

The Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was founded in Palestine around 1154 by St Berthold (d.1195). The order has claimed continuity with hermits settled on Mount Carmel in earlier times. The first rule was very ascetic, prescribing absolute poverty, total abstinence from meat, and solitude. On returning to Europe after the Crusades the order was refashioned like the mendicant friars. An order of Carmelite Sisters (enclosed) was founded in the Low countries in 1452. St Teresa of Ávila reformed many of the houses, and her disciple St John of the Cross reformed the men's order. Those adopting the reform were called 'discalced', in contrast to the 'calced' Carmelites who continued to follow the 'mitigated rule'. The focus of the order is on contemplation, missionary work, and theology, the nuns devoting themselves to intercession for priests. The habit of the order is brown with a brown scapular and white mantle (hence their common name 'white friars'). The nuns wear a black veil. (OCarm)

**12 Order of St Augustine**

Founded in the Middle Ages from several Italian congregations of hermits coming together under the Rule of St Augustine, and known as Augustinian hermits or friars, the formal title Order of St Augustine was adopted in 1969. Martin Luther belonged to one of the German congregations (1493). They exist in parts of western Europe and South America where they carry out pastoral and educational work (OSA)

**Community of the Blessed Lady Mary**  
in Zimbabwe – at Harare; a women’s community (CBLM)

**Sisterhood of St Mary**  
at Mymensingh in Bangladesh. Founded in 1929, in Barisal at the Sisterhood of the Epiphany, and sent to work on the northern border of Bangladesh; the sisterhood has always been entirely indigenous. They take vows of poverty, purity and obedience, live in simplicity, and lead a life of prayer and the formation of girls. They also undertake some pastoral work.

***DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE***

*Setting a particular Sunday each year as a Day of Prayer for vocations to the Religious Life was begun in 1992. This is currently the Fifth Sunday after Trinity, the collect for which is:*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*Common Worship · Trinity 5*

**The Religious Life: Month One**

*We give thanks for the Religious Life in the Church, and today we pray for ...*

**1 Antoninians (Eastern Church)**

Small eremitic groups, around a spiritual guide, with an idiorhythmic (individual, personal) life, in the style of St Antony of Egypt (251?-356); the Antonians of the Maronite Church continue this tradition.

**2 Eastern cenobitic monasticism**

Cenobitic monks, who live separately, but in community; following in the tradition of the rules of St Pachomius (d.346) and of St Basil (d.379); they live a less austere but more disciplined life than that of the followers of St Antony.

**3 Mount Athos**

A focal centre for Eastern monasticism, which has undergone a revival in recent years, due to an influx of Orthodox religious from around the world. Both eremitic and cenobitic religious live on Mount Athos.

**4 Benedictines**

St Benedict (480-543) founded no order himself. However, his rule had become almost universal in the West by the eighth century. The particular emphasis of Benedictines (black monks) is on liturgical worship, with time for personal devotion, manual labour and community life. A major reform took place with the foundation of a house at Cluny in 910 by William, ninth Duke of Aquitaine. Under its second abbot, St Odo, the Cluniac system developed. Its jurisdiction came to cover 314 monasteries by the time of its fourth abbot, St Hugh de Semur (d.1109), and 825 by the end of the fifteenth century. (OSB)

**5 Camaldolese**

Founded about 1012 by St Romuald at Camaldoli near Arezzo, with the ideal of having the minimum of communal ties, with greater opportunity for interior prayer, thus becoming part-eremitical and part-coenobitical. Its primitive severity was gradually relaxed to more normal cenobitic practice, which varies to this day in different houses, as St Romuald left no written rule. Liturgical worship is lengthy but simple. The habit is a white tunic, with white hood and scapular.

**6 Vallumbrosans**

Founded around 1036 by St John Gualbert (c.990-1073), at Vallombrosa (*vallis umbrosa*) about twenty miles from Florence, and mixing the cenobitic and eremitic life. Their rule is based on that of St Benedictine, but with greater stress on austerity and penance. Abbots hold office for four years. Perpetual silence is observed, separation from the world and manual labour. A women’s order also exists, founded by St Humilitas