

Biannual Meeting

of the Council of Unanima International

One of the two working annual Sessions of UNANIMA was held on the 22, 23, and 24 of September.

Sister Kathleen Scanlon RJM, from the Province of the United States, who was member of the Council of Unanima during several years, came with me the first day. Then, after that I replaced Sister Kathleen.

And there, I began to meet the 26 other religious who participated the three days of the meeting: 3 Australians, 2 other Canadians, 2 British, 1 Nigerian, 2 Brazilians, 1 Colombian, 1 Irish, 1 from New Zealander and the other 13 from 4 corners of the United States.

My first impression was very positive and it continues to be very positive after 3 days of meetings and of formation. The climate was very cordial and fraternal. Each one having the desire to grasp better the reality of the other and to open herself to the more urgent challenges for the well-being of women and children.

Throughout these three days I used all my energy to grasp better what a NGO before the UNO is and which is the mission of UNANIMA. In fact, UNANIMA International is a non-governmental organization (NGO) which defends women and children (particularly those who live in poverty), the migrants and the refugees, as well as the environment intervening especially before the different committees or commissions of the UNO.

The content of the meeting was quite diversified:

- Quinquennial report of the Coordinator;
- Approbation of the budget;
- Choice of the « woman of courage 2016 »;
- « Flash points »: each participant presents an action lived and carried out by a member of her Congregation related to the field of action of UNANIMA;
- Time of prayer;
- Listening to a video on women traffic and sharing.

- Thanksgiving and paying homage to the outgoing coordinator: S. Michele Morek, osu, United States;
- Welcome and acceptance of the future coordinator: S. Jean Quinn fs, Ireland;
- Prospective for the coming year;
- Visit to the Office of UNANIMA at 845, 3rd avenue, Manhattan and formation for the new members

What I liked best is the fact that the members of the Council desire to have the balance between the work at the UNO and the « concrete field » there where the true persons live and struggle. This reality is well expressed in the Web of UNANIMA:

"Our work is especially concentrated at the headquarters of the Organization of the United Nations in New York, where we and other members of the civil society intend to inform and exercise influence on political decision-makers at international level.

On the ground, our members distribute themselves between 21 Congregations of Catholic Sisters where the 22,000 constituents work in 81 countries. We bring to the attention of the Organization of the United Nations their voices, their concerns and their experiences as educators, providers of health care, social workers and works for development."

In summary, I can say that those 3 days of meetings were very enlightening, enriching and stimulating. And it is an opportunity for us, Religious of Jesus and Mary, to form part of this organization which can only help us to make this world more humane and as our Pope says it so well: "to take care of our common house"... and I would add of all those who dwell in it!

I thank the Congregation for the trust that they give me in delegating me to UNANIMA.

Josée Therrien RJM



**S. Michel Morek presents her quinquennial report
She is the second one beginning on the right**



A (partial!) view of the members of the Council of Unanima



S. Josée and S. Kathleen the 1st day of meetings



Sister Kathleen Scanlon is thanked by S. Michel Morek for all the years during which she served within the Council of Unanima.



The new Council of Unanima 2016-2017. In the front in the center: S. Michel Morek, the outgoing coordinator and on the right, the new coordinator, S. Jean Quinn.