



Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales
International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants
On the commemoration of the International Nurses and Midwives Year 12th May 2021

Dear Nurses and Midwives,

I have a singular honor and privilege to address you during this very special day for us as nurses and midwives of the world. As I was thinking about these remarks, numerous thoughts and emotions flooded my brain and heart, because of what nurses and midwives are experiencing as a result of the pandemic. Although, we are different national groups facing different challenges, I have realized that the COVID-19 pandemic has united us in a special way.

Nurses and midwives have not only been on front lines of the pandemic, but have been in many cases, most at risk due to prolonged exposure to the Corona Virus, long working hours, excessive exhaustion due to little sleep, discrimination, stigmatization, and in some cases with shortages of personal protective equipment. Nurses lost their colleagues, relatives, and friends without opportunities to grieve and to receive emotional support to allow them to heal. They had to go on with their duties of saving lives with dedication and relentless commitment.

Drawing attention to the theme for this year “Nurses A Voice To Lead A Vision For Future HealthCare”, know that this event gives us the opportunity to devote special attention to the contribution made by nurses to humanity by keeping people healthy through the lifespan. Nurses led innovation by introducing new caring models to ensure continuity of essential health services during an unprecedented global health crisis.

Going forward it will be vital to change policies and develop new strategies and guidelines for health care provision and ensuring safety of patients and health care providers. As such I would like to reiterate the statement to the VI Congress of The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS) by His Holiness Pope Pío XII in 1958, “... arouse, among others, the collaboration ... to stop as soon as possible the epidemic and endemic diseases, which every year are hung over so many impotent victims (First Catholic World Health Conference, July 27, 1958).

I invite Catholic nurses everywhere to become members of CICIAMS and to join us during the 2022 CICIAMS XXI World Congress hosted by National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA in the United States of America (contact nacn-usa.org). I hope to see you there.

In closing, on behalf of the Catholic Nurses of CICIAMS, may I share the words of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowka, RN, the “Christ in us serves Christ in the other person.” Please keep nurses and midwives around the world in your prayers as we serve in our calling to promote, protect, and restore health, and well-being throughout the globe. And, may God bless you and keep you well during the extended second year celebration of “2020-2021 Years of the Nurse and Midwife” (WHO, 2021).

Thank you from Eswatini Kingdom,

Dr Khosi R. Mthethwa

International President, International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales (CICIAMS)

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