Who is Mary Ward?

In 1609, a young Yorkshire woman left England to follow God’s call. She broke new ground in her service to those who would otherwise lack sufficient care and nurture, especially in the education of women.

She gathered a growing number of young women who shared her vision and commitment for a ministry “in the world”. They took the same constitutions as The Society of Jesus, supported by a spirituality that sought freedom, justice and sincerity in all things.

This way of life emphasises both reflection and action to serve “wherever the need is greatest”. Her journey to this end was difficult and painful.

She died seeing little fruit for her toil. Referring all to God she encouraged everyone to be of good cheer.

Her gravestone reads: “To love the poor, persevere in the same, live, die, and rise with them, was all the aim of Mary Ward...”

“Be such as you appear and appear such as you be.”

“How happy a thing it is to love God and to seek him truly.”

“Do ordinary things well.”

“Love and speak the truth at all times.”

“I hope in God it will be seen that women in time to come will do much.”

-Sayings of Mary Ward

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Who we are?

The Friends of Mary Ward in Albania is a prayer directed group with a Christian and Gospel base. It shares a common leadership and is drawn into social action. The members follow the charism and mission of Mary Ward.

This spiritual group, pray, reflect and share together their thoughts and the ways in which God is guiding them through their feelings and insights.

The Friends of Mary Ward have made a commitment to integrate their mission into their daily spirituality.

A group of volunteers follow the mission of Mary Ward and lead social activities to help people in need, to serve “wherever the need is greatest”.

Our Mission:

The Friends of MW mission is praying and reflecting together as a group, having mini social projects and doing voluntary work to help people in need. All of this is in the light of the charism of Mary Ward.

The Future and hopes:

We are very happy to involve more people in our group and meetings every month, praying and reflecting on different issues. We have been invited to open a new group in another city in the North of Albania.

The Friends of Mary Ward dream to have a spirituality centre, when we can gather, pray and reflect together and draw more people into prayer through the Ignatian ways of praying.

“How happy a thing it is to love God and to seek him truly.” -Mary Ward