

On the 13th January, 14 Sisters, in the presence of Terezinha and Marie France, assembled in the Round Chapel of the Motherhouse to take part in a missioning ceremony for Bernadette.

The four-candled wrought-iron globe, adorned with a Brazilian symbol, was central to the chapel, and four Sisters spontaneously came forward to light a candle and offer thoughts of thanks and good wishes to Bernadette.

A rousing mission song, '*Allez-vous en sur les places et sur les parvis*' followed, and this led to a benediction of our Founder, John Gailhac, taken from his missioning ceremony for the first Sisters who set sail for Sag Harbour in 1877. Bernadette stood by the globe, the Sisters encircled her, and with outstretched hands recited together the Benediction. " . . . *my dear child, my spirit and my heart will be with you in this new mission* . . . "



The ceremony was very emotional, especially for Bernadette, but it was also very beautiful. Bernadette leaves Béziers for Brazil on 16th February.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Anne Wells on the publication of the book which she co-authored: "*The Pendulum Culture?*": *Integration of Young Muslim Immigrants in East London*. The main purpose of the publication is to help people from different cultures to understand each other better. A reviewer writes: "It opens our eyes to what young Muslims in London think about a number of key issues that shape their thoughts, ambitions and daily routines. The probing questions asked of these young Muslims zoom in on family matters, present and future within wider religious, political and social contexts. What comes across is the intense awareness of these young people of the plurality of pluralities within Britain, but also within Islam".

If you would like more information or wish to purchase a copy (£12) please contact Anne. She is also happy to give a power point presentation based on the book.

SOME QUOTES: TAKEN FROM RESPONSES BY COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUAL SISTERS TO THE REFLECTION PAPER OCTOBER 2010

..... *To reclaim the positive contagion of viewing life/religious life as an arena for growth and enthusiasm.*

..... *I commit myself to transcend personal, cultural and national boundaries and to support networks that promote this new vision of a global community.*

..... *Live Community as a shared journey with a common vision...welcoming our differences.*

..... *Welcome life's transition as possibilities of transformation.*

..... *The challenge today therefore for us as Religious in post Ryan Ireland is to witness to the values of compassion and honesty.*

..... *The new cosmology has been seriously and enthusiastically taken on board at Local and Province levels – evident at age group and other gatherings and in other ways.*



JPIC MEETING - SEAFIELD JANUARY 11TH/12TH

Catherine Dunne

The members of JPIC agreed that there is a definite growing awareness of Human Trafficking. The number of convictions, the documentaries and news items on the media bear testimony to this. At the same time we have to admit that the extent of this modern form of slavery is by no means decreasing. A major contributing factor, as is well known, is that world poverty; a systemic global injustice fuels it across all borders.

The team discussed the three goals from the international meeting in Belo Horizonte and set them as goals for the coming year, [See attachment: *Planning 2010-2011*] Efforts will continue to work towards prevention of Human Trafficking, to development of the Millennium goals through the lens of gender issues and to networking at all possible levels.

In the next few weeks the team would like to put together a synthesis of the work of JPIC in the province.

A brief questionnaire will be sent to Communities and replies will be collated and shared with the Province.



QUESTIONS FOR ELECTIONS CANDIDATES REGARDING JPIC

Election time is an opportunity to challenge candidates on their willingness to work for justice issues. An election looms in Ireland but an opportunity may arise anytime elsewhere to question politicians. We could ask them what they intend doing for better legislation to protect people who have been trafficked. We could also ask about their awareness of the extent of this issue in the country and what they suggest could be done to alleviate it. Some may consider it an issue of immigration rather than an issue of injustice against human rights. The opportunity of questioning a canvassing candidate may help to highlight the issue with a few more people to say the least



'A Big Step on a Long Journey for Priory Institute Graduates.' This was how The Universe carried the story of a very brave venture initiated by the Dominicans in Tallaght at their Provincial Chapter held in 2000, and culminating this year in BTh degrees for thirty-seven students and Certificates or Diplomas of Higher Education in Theology for a further forty-five students.

Prior to the big step of the graduation on 13 November 2010, a number of tentative steps had to be taken at the start of the previous ten years. These exploratory steps led to the assurance that there was a hunger for theology out across the island. The Priory Institute, then, was founded on the Dominican tradition with almost a thousand years of theology behind it. As the Distance Learning brochure explains, 'Following the example of St. Thomas Aquinas, it seeks to engage with the best rational thinking of our times and brings the insights of different philosophical and religious thinkers to bear on the study of theology.'



Set on a firm foundation and with students eager to get to grips with the whys, hows and wherefores of life, the task of providing the study of theology by distance learning was undertaken. Customised text books, attractively presented, were written up by authors well known in Ireland's theological circles. Tutors and examiners from universities, e.g. Queens, Trinity, DCU were engaged to present the launch days, study days and tutorials which were an integral part of each fifteen week semester. John Littleton of Cashel & Emly, the Head of Distance Learning and Joe Kavanagh o.p., the Moderator, reside here at the Priory and are readily available for reassurance and encouragement. While a Reading Room and Study Board are provided on the website, the Priory Reading Room and Library are accessible to all and next-door for me. The first port of call for anyone in difficulty was Catherine Dunne rsh the coordinator for the Dublin region.

The students included women and men of every age - farmers, housewives, couples, retired professionals, religious, teachers, unemployed - all interested in exploring the fascinating subject which is theology. Listening to the accents on the meeting days, accents as wide -ranging as Cork to Donegal and Sligo to Dublin, we par-took of homemade Priory soup and rolls, thus creating a homely community atmosphere. Of course, one of the main topics of conversation was the assignments when accents assumed their unique colourful flair. The excitement of these days was life-giving and the friendships formed were essential to dispel the loneliness inherent in distance learning.

The Priory Institute's programme of distance learning is undertaken for academic credit and is accredited by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (Lampeter). It can also be undertaken for its own rich content. On the recent graduation day, Dr. Medwyn Hughes, Vice- Chancellor, presented parchments to eighty-two capped and gowned students in St. Marys Priory Church, Tallaght, in the presence of hundreds of family members, the academic staff,

Dominican Community and parish community. It was a good-news celebration that portrayed without any doubt that theology is no longer the exclusive preserve of the hierarchical church but open to all who dare to pose the basic questions pertaining to the church in Ireland today



Meeting a student afterwards who is on his way to graduation, I asked him how he enjoyed the ceremony. He answered, 'You know I have been present at my children's graduations and they were wonderful occasions, but this,' he said, 'this is different, this is awesome, this is awe-inspiring.' That about sums it all up.