

Starting with Registration at 8.30 am, looking back, Ellen and I agreed that this had been a very busy and worthwhile day.

We began with a half hour introductory session for newcomers, (I went along as a spy for COR Executive to see what they did). We met the Executive and were introduced to the CORI purpose and plan. As we introduced ourselves it was surprising to note that about two thirds of the new leaders had recently come back from years overseas, one just a few days ago after forty years! What an adjustment. A good number spoke of themselves as representatives within new non-province congregational structures, all additional layers of learning to the role of leaders.



There are 130 congregations in CORI and 9,000 Religious in Ireland. About 200 were present. This was to be a particularly important meeting because we were to have a session with the Apostolic Visitors in the afternoon.

I attended my first CORI AGM 5 years ago. At that meeting there had been a mandate to simplify structures and there was a tense and quite emotional atmosphere as shock waves of the impact of Child Abuse was hitting the headlines and all knew that worse was to come. In today's meeting, Sr Conchita, in her president's address, referred to the journey of the cross and passion over the past years and that, while knowing this has not finished, Religious have entered into a Holy Saturday experience of darkness and waiting for the dawn. The situation is still grave but I felt there was a different kind of inner strength emerging in CORI.



Some of the business of the day included a firm instruction to leaders to comply with our Safeguarding obligations: policies, prompt returning of audits, training of members and delegates. There was an inspiring input on the Eucharistic Congress, initially to a rather luke-warm audience! Information was given regarding CORI's contribution to the UN review on Ireland due in March 2012. A question was raised and applauded asking how CORI can be a *voice for the voiceless* in these difficult times? Mr James Nugent praised Religious for their initiative and generosity in setting up *Faoiseamh*, a counselling service for victims of abuse, and gave an explanation of the new joint Religious and Diocesan service *Towards Healing*.



In the afternoon Archbishop Tobin for the Congregation of Religious and the four visitors introduced themselves as “fellow Religious” and gave a little of their backgrounds, so that we knew something of the people behind the names. They saw the visit as pastoral, similar to those “visitations” we experience in our own congregations. They wanted to explain the process and listen to comments and suggestions. In January all the leaders had returned a questionnaire broadly concerned with the impact and procedures around abuse and safeguarding within our own congregations in Ireland. I had asked Philippa and Bridget to help me complete this. The visitors had read these and were impressed by the thoroughness and care shown in them as well as sympathising with the pain, fears and hopes expressed. However, they had the impression that there was a rift between Religious and the Hierarchy, many had felt let down by their lack of support. There were murmurs of agreement. They told us that Cardinal Brady had assured them the day before that they needed Religious and their strong sense of identity.

The next step, in October and November, is to meet with some congregations, “any offers?” they asked. These meetings would be organised as the congregation concerned chooses. They also propose to speak to different groups e.g. victims and they asked for suggestions from the floor. One contemplative sister made an impassioned plea for a meeting with those who had been wrongly accused who are often in contact with the sisters asking for prayer.

The Visitors account of their Visit will be completed by December and in January there will be a synthetic report concerning Dioceses, Seminarians and Religious. Separate ones will come later. It was evident throughout the meeting that they had come, as they had stated, to listen and that those present had genuinely appreciated this opportunity to meet with them

## MESSAGE FROM ST JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL CHIVUNA

Sr Rosalia SHS

*Dear Sisters*

*Greetings from these parts of the world. I hope you are all well; we are well and just suffering from the withdrawal symptoms of the Jubilee.*

*Thank God we had a good day and that a lot of people came to celebrate with us. A lot of former St Joseph's girls from as early as 1962 were there and it was interesting to listen to the first head girl limping through the speech because she had to struggle with some words. Generally it was an enjoyable day with a lot of happy memories from those who have lived in Chivuna.*

*I write in particular to thank you for the donation that you gave towards the Jubilee fund. As I have indicated, our school has become old with age. It actually needs face lift. All these donations in their various magnitudes will go towards the make over.*

*May God bless each of you in all your needs.*



*Some of the photographs Lelia took at the celebrations!*

**TRANSITION TIME: To every season .....**

The two Councils will be meeting together from 30th August pm until 31<sup>st</sup> pm. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September there will be a ritual of thanksgiving and handing over followed by a meal, to which the London Communities are invited. This will take place at 11am in the Park. We know that you will be keeping us all in prayer during this time.





JPIC NEP

"More than Gold" is an ecumenical group of Christian Churches, an umbrella charity, dealing with six main points and working towards the Olympics.

Homelessness  
Human Trafficking and prostitution and sex trade  
Fair Trade

The Environment  
Child Labour  
Sacred Truce of Olympic Peace

For more information: [www.morethangold.org.uk](http://www.morethangold.org.uk) [www.peacelegact.org.uk](http://www.peacelegact.org.uk)

The Catholic Church's National Director for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games is James Parker  
E.Mail [james.parker@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:james.parker@cbcew.org.uk)

JPIC - TALITHA KUM MEETING IN ROME

Catherine Dunne

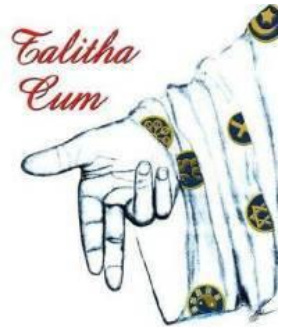


“Talitha Kum’. And her spirit returned and she got up at once”.(Lk 21.)

A group of religious, representatives from Religious Conferences across the globe, met in Rome, June 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> to reconstruct a network between religious who work against Human Trafficking. ‘Talitha Kum’ is not the mere title of the group but a way of life and spirituality.

On the opening of the conference the Archbishop spoke reassuringly saying this work of countering Human Trafficking witnesses to religious life being true to its charism. He continued saying that in the Church many good things die and

many better things are not reborn because religious congregations do not talk to each other. UISG is trying to communicate with USG (Men’s Congregations) in particular.



The meeting during the following days varied from reports around the globe to setting up a structured network with a representative from each continent net- working in turn with all the leaders of religious conferences in each of their countries. The reports varied from impressive stories of shelters for trafficked women to training centres to political corruption and advocacy work.



IOM South Africa Launches a Campaign Against Human Trafficking Prior to FIFA World Cup 2010

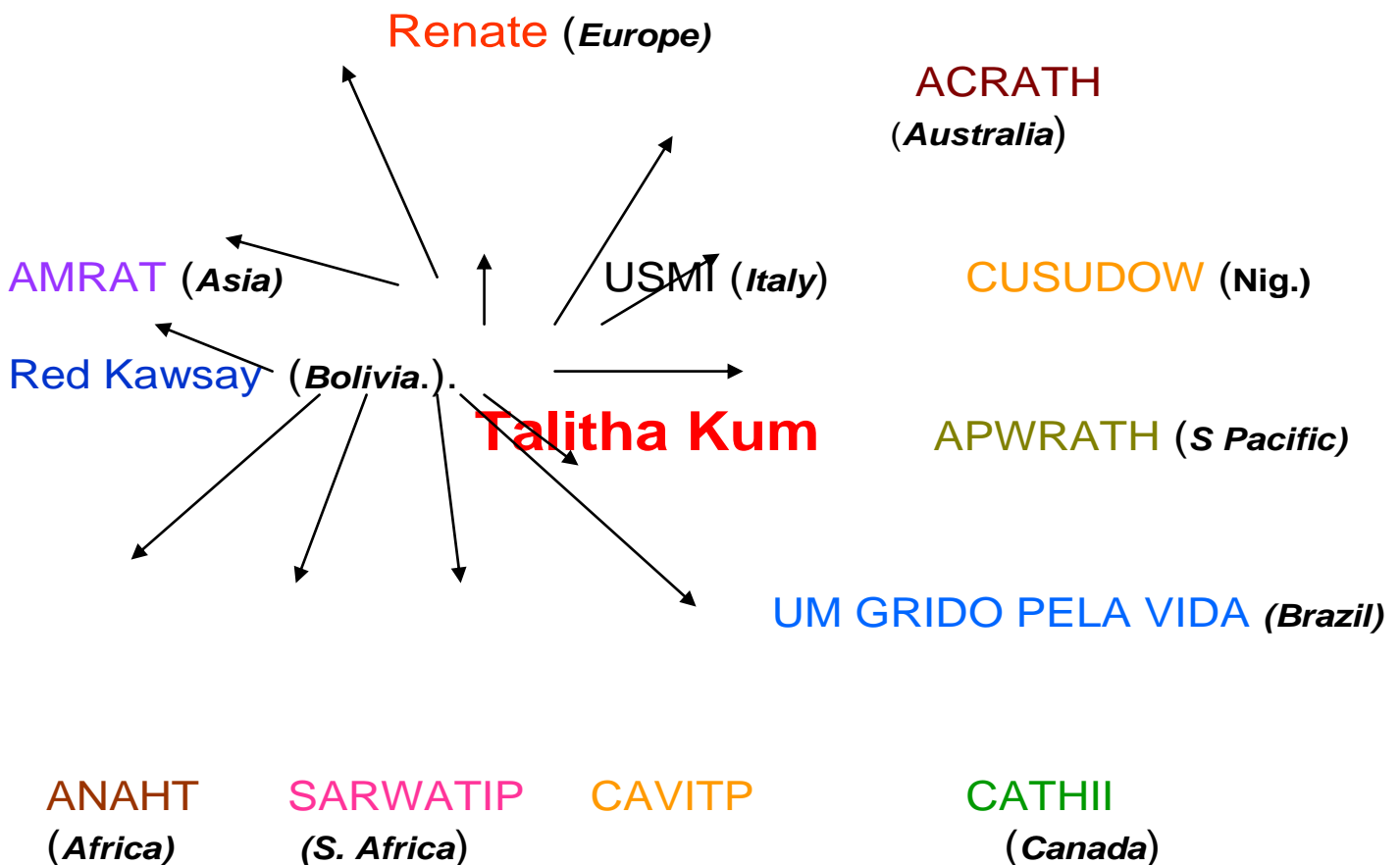
The report from S. Africa on the World Cup period was particularly uplifting and entertaining. The Sisters got the bishops to march with them to Government buildings in the soccer colours and had videos in buses and posters in every possible place. They succeeded in ‘kicking out Trafficking’ but it was as bad as ever when the games finished.

‘The children just disappear especially in rural places’, according to one Sister.

We had a social analyst, Stephano, who listened and then reflected back to us whether we were basically making sense or not! The main difficulty was to get us to grasp the meaning of a network. We seemed to want a core centre to support us and be there 'to manage' but he was at pains to explain that a network only exists virtually until the members make it a living organism. The proof of our understanding will be in the communicating now.

We got people, very able people I would say, who offered to represent their continents and countries. So 'Talitha Kum' is set up now with great passion and onwards we go! 'Talitha Kum' is our mission. It means we will have a contact in the Philippines, E. Europe or a country in Africa or S. America who will support us if needed.

It was a great experience and asks of us now to think and work globally as far as possible. At the sunflower meeting there was a lively response to a presentation. The emphasis seemed to be on addressing Demand. My hope is to speak about it at every opportunity. A taxi man in Dublin recently told me that he refuses to drive the women because he would not have it on his conscience. The power of the story of the snowflake told earlier by Ellen is never to be underestimated. We can effectively raise awareness in the most unlikely places and make a difference.



Talitha Kum is a networking organism of all these conferences of Religious.

**SUNFLOWERS MEETING: 10 – 13th June 2011 – Penmaenmawr**

Mary Gough



The sunflowers bloomed again in Pen – a little later this year. There were 22 of us in all and we were delighted to be joined by Kate from Brazil and Ursula and Thérèse Marie from France. We were blessed with good weather on the whole. The sun seems to shine for the sunflowers!

Many riches were shared: Catherine Dunne, freshly returned from the APT meeting in Rome, updated us on the issue of international trafficking of people. Kate, Mary Mullins and others shared interesting human stories from their own experiences and work to complement the facts provided by Catherine. Barbara and Mary Jo gave feedback on the EGC in Mozambique and had lots of pictures to give us a flavour of the meeting. Ellen and Madeleine reported on the May CORI Conference in Dublin: *“A Future with Hope”*. All of these inputs were very interesting and informative.

Every year we say that the time spent together sharing ideas and experiences is probably the most valuable aspect of the meeting and this year was no exception. It is great to meet and have the time together whether it is in walking, socialising, shopping or eating together. The informal sharing is as important as the formal sharing.



Eleanor, Madeleine and Martin prepared a very meaningful ritual on the Sunday morning. Eleanor, as usual, amazed us all with her creative skills in providing a centrepiece as a focal point. The ‘old’ province leadership team was blessed by the group and the ‘new’ team was similarly blessed and assured of support in their future service



of us all in the province.



Of course we had to remember significant birthdays and the Golden Jubilarians in the group. Any chance to celebrate has to be taken!

Once again all of us left Pen refreshed by our contact with one another and by the beauty that will always be Penmaenmawr.

Next years meeting will be 13<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> April in Noddfa

***Some Resources used:***

- Talks can be downloaded from the CORI web site, that of Br Philip Pinto and Sr Barbara Fiand were particularly recommended.
- **New teaching from The Centre for Action and Contemplation.**

**Loving the Two Halves of Life Conference** Father Richard, Father Ronald Rolheiser are joined by Edwina Gateley in this dynamic conference. These three spiritual guides share the fruit of their experiences to lead us through the stages of spiritual development.

More details <http://www.agapeministries.co.uk/node/258>