

## Exchange March 2012

### NEWS FROM KARINA KELLY

Karina wrote to say that she felt she had a good start to her time in Belo Horizonte. She appreciated the warm welcome and the time for prayer in the Novitiate and enjoyed seeing the football match when Zambia won the Africa Cup.



Karina was received as a Novice on 24<sup>th</sup> February with Agnes Mwaamba (Z), Marilia Lopes Amorim (B) and Rosineia Aparecida dos Reis (B). She wrote “the ceremony was lovely, a really special day for all of us. Later we went over to the convent next door to celebrate Foundation day with the Sisters there. I am very happy to have officially started my novitiate and I am really looking forward to the two years to come.”

She says the schedule is packed with lots to do - the inter-novitiate programme, reading, direction and taking turn to prepare meals. She asks us to keep her in our prayers.

Bernadette McNamara will be putting pictures and a video on the web.

### RSHM on BBC 4

Some of you may have seen the recent three part documentary made by the BBC on ‘Catholics’. The first part was focussed on the London Seminary, Allen Hall. While the programme concentrated on the men in training for the priesthood, we were delighted to see our own André Dullaghan featuring in it. André was shown teaching singing to a seminarian. Well done, André!

*The series began on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and is available on BBC iplayer.*

### RSHM BEREAVEMENTS

The Madonna House Community on the death of **Sr Monica Woulfe** who died on 7<sup>th</sup> February at the age of 88 years and in the 67<sup>th</sup> year of her Religious Profession.



## SUNFLOWERS' MEETING

REMINDER: The next meeting will be 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> April in Noddfa. Please would you let the Noddfa Community know in good time if you intend to be present.

Each Province has been asked to have a meeting with the 'Younger Sisters'. Can we use some of the time at the Sunflower Group meeting to discuss how we see the future of the province and Institute from our perspective? If you have ideas about how to do this please get in touch with Mary Jo or any member of the council.

## MILLENNIUM MEETING

*Clare O'Keeffe*

**Agenda for May meeting! Some suggestions have been gratefully received.**

Day 1. Spiritual input from DVD. Following coffee break, informal chat in small groups sharing about '**What is happening where you are.**'

Day 2. Spiritual input offered by Céline. Following break, meet in large group for an ad lib sharing about an **item** or an **event** you found interesting and **why**? In the meantime collect from memory and the group will be enriched by the sharing.

The evening of second day will include Mass and celebratory meal for our eight Jubilarians, courtesy of the staff in Noddfa followed by DVD/STORYTELLING/CHAT!

Finally, so as to facilitate accommodation arrangements, kindly let Bernadette know in good time if you intend coming to the meeting.



## ECHO FROM BELO HORIZONTE: *Bernadette McNamara*

A blazing sun is flooding into my room as I write these few lines. Our profession ceremony was beautiful and you will see the pictures up on the web site very soon. As you can imagine it is a privilege to experience firsthand those moments of celebration. They reminded us too of our own commitment....giving us a sense of renewal.

I am reminded of the song “journeys ended journeys begun”, as we prepare for the four women who will arrive as of today and we are getting organized in view of that. Say good bye to the four newly professed and welcome Agnes, Karina, Marilia and Rosineia ...in the one week is a challenge but ....one that brings in new life.



## NEWS FROM THE REFLECTION GROUPS

### FAZAKERLEY

*Patsy Butler*

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February our Reflection group gathered once again in Fazakerley. Before we shared our thoughts on ‘Fire in these Ashes’ we had a brain-storming on

### The value of meeting in this particular group

The following words/phrases surfaced regarding the group, it was found to be:

- Life-giving
- Stimulating
- Enriching
- Prayerful

There is a sharing of:

- Interests
- Resources; Books DVDs Music Good Food Fun

It is:

- Non threatening
- Affords a natural opportunity to share where there are no barriers
- Open Non confrontational Respectful Accepting
- This group is already set up, ready to handle items/issues for discussion/reflection from Province



**No wonder we love to meet together!**

## LOCAL AREA GATHERINGS FOR RSHM *Aline Leonard*

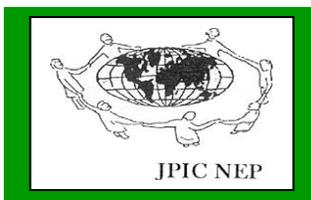
The recent gathering of our Sisters in the London area was held in Kerrison Road on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Towards the end of a very lively meeting I asked the Sisters to give me a word, phrase or a sentence that would 'say' what these gatherings mean to us. The following happened spontaneously:

It is a place where

1. We can develop a deeper understanding of what our role is in the life of the Church/World today.
2. We are helped and encouraged to see and understand where our 'witness' is needed today.
3. We are encouraged to listen to one another and share the lived experience and wisdom that supports us in daily life.
4. We can 'tap' into the spirit of the Institute and share that 'life' with others.
5. We receive the strength and support to be faithful, day by day.
6. We share spiritual nourishment.



All agree that these gatherings, in friendship and conviviality, are a vibrant support today.



**The JPIC Team** Ellen O'Leary

The first meeting of the new JPIC Team took place at Dublin Airport! Sounds exciting! It was actually to facilitate the fact that Thérèse Marie was in Ireland for a Chapter Planning Meeting and Patsy obligingly flew in from Liverpool to join us. Mary Jo also joined us briefly as she passed through the airport and offered us encouraging words.

We made a decision to take responsibility for different areas of the Province in relation to JPIC matters: Patsy UK, Thérèse Marie France and Ellen – Ireland. We will also link with the JPIC Networkers in our respective countries. Patsy is already linked in with TRAC (Traffic Awareness Raising Campaign) as is Dorothy. This group is raising awareness of the risk of human trafficking in London during the Olympics. I am over all co-ordinator of the JPIC as well as the link with the Provincial Council.

Following our meeting there was tremendous response to our invitation to sisters to become “antennae” people. The following sisters agreed to raise awareness: Teresa McCarthy, Moira Lever, Pierre Dullaghan, Eleanor Dalton, Pauline Stott, Dorothy Ward, Kathleen O’Donovan, Carmel O’Neill, Françoise Wyckaert, Marguerite Lyng, Teresina O’Byrne, Judith Penkert, Catherine Dunne, Paula Murray, Dolores Carroll, Kathleen McCartan and Maeve Kelly.

Our Prayer is that in the words of our General Chapter 2001, “we will all act together in effective corporate action for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation”.

We hope to keep you updated and “alerted” through Exchange/Echange and E-mails, and welcome your contribution in relation to your particular areas.

### **EVENING GATHERING OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY IN THE MOTHER HOUSE**

**6 February 2012,**

*Ursula Canavan*

We continued with the theme for the year, based on Mary Milligan’s poem « A Seed was Planted », which Marion and Marie Jean had established at the last meeting. We were delighted to welcome so many people from Béziers and the surrounding areas in spite of the severe cold.

The evening began with the Eucharist, celebrated by Father Charles Vernazobres for the deceased members of the Extended Family. It was a moving liturgy: Father Charles gave a touching homily, Lucienne had prepared the Prayers of the Faithful and Marie Jean led the singing. At the end of Mass she reminded us of the necessity of spreading the seed planted by Father Gailhac and encouraged us to pray for vocations.

There followed an enjoyable supper, as we savoured the tasty dishes and desserts which our guests had brought. It was indeed a lovely joyful meeting.



Marie Jean and her twin sister, Luce

On 2 February, Feast of the Presentation, like last year, we joined the priests, religious communities and lay people of Béziers and the surrounding areas in the Church of the Holy Family to celebrate Consecrated Life. Sister Marion, who is a member of the inter-parish pastoral team, coordinated the event and our sisters from Le Bon Pasteur and La Devèze took an active part.

Each Congregation with its particular charism was presented to the assembly before the Mass which was concelebrated by our auxiliary bishop Mgr Claude Azéma and eleven priests, assisted by two deacons. At the Offertory, the Constitutions of each Congregation were placed on the altar and we, the religious, went on to the sanctuary to renew our vows.

After the Eucharist we all went into the nearby hall to enjoy the pancakes and cider which the religious communities had brought. It was a very enjoyable celebration.

## NEWS FROM NODDFA

Pauline Stott

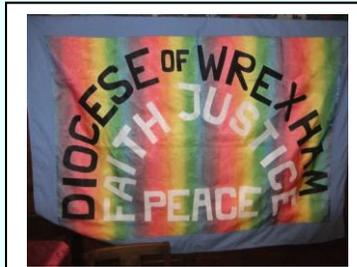
Our Justice and Peace Group from Llandudno Junction/Penmaenmawr/Conwy has been meeting monthly for three years. In 2011 we had a day at Noddfa on “Food for Thought” which involved research on where our food came from and how it was delivered. In 2012 we had another day at Noddfa which has been reported as follows in [www.independent catholic news.com](http://www.independentcatholicnews.com) (a good website)

### *Focus On Livesimply In North Wales* By Ellen Teague

*Noddfa, a centre run by the sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Penmaenmawr, on the North Wales coast, was a perfect venue for the Wrexham Diocese LiveSimply Day on 16 February. Noddfa is a Welsh word meaning ‘place of welcome and peace’ and as people gathered for a day organised by the Llandudno Junction, Conwy and Llanfairfechan Justice and Peace Group, the hospitality of the sisters and the surrounding beauty of the hills and sea were recalled in an opening prayer giving thanks for God’s gifts.*

*A welcome was extended by both the sisters and Maria Pizzoni, the Wrexham Justice and Peace worker, as an enthusiastic group of around 30 participants from around the diocese reflected on the imperative to live simply. Maria pointed out that the LiveSimply initiative, involving more than 60 Catholic organisations, grew out of a CAFOD project to mark the 40th anniversary of Populorum Progressio in 2007.*

*“We are called to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor”, she said. In these times of economic downturn, she suggested, the focus on always having more and on constant acquisition regardless of the social and environmental impact is being seriously challenged. “We are called to read the signs of our times” she continued, and in a world of greed, selfishness and consumerism “we are called to be good news for the poor, and being engaged in social justice work is an essential part of our faith”.*



*In her presentation, Ellen Teague of the Columban JPIC pointed to international problems, particularly climate change and global poverty, which challenge our affluent consumer society. 'The Story of Stuff', an animated documentary about the lifecycle of material goods, had earlier stimulated group discussion about excessive consumerism and the necessity of promoting sustainability and reducing carbon emissions. She pointed to Scripture, particularly the life and teaching of Jesus, and Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the option for the poor and care of creation, as inspirations for living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with our sisters and brothers throughout the world, millions of whom live in crushing poverty.*

*Extreme weather events like the devastating floods in Australia and Brazil in 2011 and Pakistan in 2010 are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change. In other areas, persistent droughts are becoming the norm, and it is predicted that by 2025 3.4 billion people will live in water-scarce countries. "Yet" she said, "there is much we can do in terms of reducing our own carbon footprints, advocacy work with political and economic powers, and raising awareness with the wider community".*

*"Wales was the first fairtrade country in the world", pointed out Katya Jewell of CAFOD North Wales, "and Wrexham is a fair-trade diocese". As well as promoting fairtrade and CAFOD's new 'Thirst for Justice' campaign on Water, she runs an annual 'Potato Day', after learning to appreciate potatoes during a trip to Bolivia, and has recently completed a course in bee-keeping. Katja explained the LiveSimply award scheme, which is being promoted by CAFOD. It is a national prize for Catholic parishes putting their faith into action, recognising ways in which churches make a difference in their communities and in the world. Parishes are encouraged to make a plan incorporating three significant actions and at least six supporting ones they will take over a given time to move the parish in the direction of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. Actions already taken by a parish can be included. The Franciscan Friary at Pantasaph was one of those parishes where a lay group is currently preparing to make a start on the award programme.*

*It was clear that a great deal is already underway in North Wales regarding living simply and this was affirmed and celebrated. Participants in the day visited the Victorian walled garden at Noddfa which the sisters have given to the local community for allotments. Twelve plots are farmed organically and tools in a common shed are shared. The sisters themselves promote home grown produce and use eggs from their own chickens. Initiatives in the region which are supported by the Welsh government include community allotments, garden and car share schemes, and programmes for energy-saving in homes. A project at Bangor University is prompting students to live more sustainably. Children attending the day – which was timed during Half Term week – explored the theme of Livesimply through crafts and activities which were clearly enjoyable as well as educational. Families took away a flier on simple daily suggestions for Lent, produced by Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace.*

*Awareness of God's love for the poor and for Creation ran through the day. After a delicious home-made lunch of local produce, some explored the Cosmic Walk in the grounds which raises awareness of the Universe Story, going billions of years further back than human history and helping to nurture a sensitivity to our interdependence and communion with Planet Earth and with all living things. The day concluded late afternoon with a simple Circle Dance based on Mary's Magnificat.*

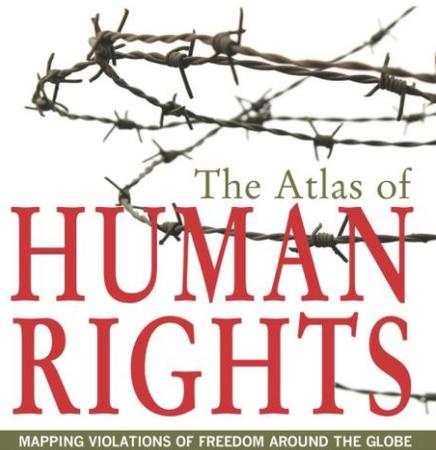
*Note: **"The Story of Stuff"***

*is available on the Web – a 20 minute You-Tube Film well worth looking at.*

**RECOMMENDED BOOK:**

**The Atlas of Human Rights**

Andrew Fagan, ISBN: 978-1-84971-146-3 published by Earthscan 2010. (£12.99 Waterstones)



Andrew Fagan  
Foreword by Clive Stafford Smith

Quotes from the back cover - “In the post 9/11 era, governments are using the threat of terrorism to justify tightening national security and restricting basic human rights. This timely atlas compares the level of human rights abuse in countries around the world, and reveals the consequences of these violations. Inspired by the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Andrew Fagan considers fundamental issues including: state, identity and citizenship, judicial violations and legal restrictions, freedom of expression and censorship, conflict and migration, women’s rights and children’s rights.”

“Vividly illustrated with full colour maps and graphics, and complete with data charts and profiles of over 150 countries, the atlas charts enshrined rights as well as documented cases of abuse. It explores both the progress and limitation of free expression and media censorship; the geographic status of sexual freedom, racism, religious freedom, and the rights of the disabled, and instances of genocide, torture, sex slavery, and police brutality. It also depicts areas ravaged by armed conflict, repression, and discrimination, and shows how entire communities are mired in poverty and social exclusion.”

“As intolerance threatens diversity on a global scale, The Atlas of Human Rights serves as an essential reference and crucial intervention for preserving and extending freedom.”

While informative, it is very readable, fascinating, and of course extremely shocking.

*[Anne Wells]*



**PANCAKE DAY**

Noddfa held their usual Pancake Evening on Shrove Tuesday. They made £320 for Cafod and the government has promised to double that, as with any donations during Lent.