

FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



Congratulations to

Sr Bernard Fay
who celebrates her
Platinum Jubilee
on
28th October

Bernard celebrated her 95th birthday on 16th September.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



NEP PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2012
PEN CHAPITRE PROVINCIAL 2012

Each delegate will be receiving a letter, reports to the Chapter and the synthesis of our responses, so that these can be studied beforehand. There will also be information about the Role of General Chapter delegates and Criteria for electing them. Copies of all these will also be sent to each community where there are members who are not able to come to Birmingham, so that every Sister can accompany the process.

We ask you to meet in communities or area groups to discuss these as part of your preparation for the Chapter whether you are able to attend it or not. (No written feedback required.) There is limited time at the Chapter and any preparation we do beforehand will add to the richness of the reflection and help the Chapter to run smoothly.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers are with:

Sr Margaret Fielding on the sudden death of her sister-in-law, **Margaret Fielding**, who died on 13th August

Srs Marie and Christina Clune on the death of their brother, **Fr Francis Clune**, who died in Australia on 29th August

The Sisters of the Brazilian Province on the death of **Ir Leony Henriques** who died in Belo Horizonte at the age of 88 years and in the 64th year of her Religious Profession

The Sisters of the Eastern American Province on the death of **Sr. Monica Melvin** who died in Tarrytown on 9th September at the age of 74 years and in the 56th year of her Religious Profession.

Some months have gone by without me writing from the novitiate Belo Horizonte.

During my trip to Europe, Béziers in particular, I was ever so happy to participate in a local group meeting for the far off preparation for our Chapter. From the questions raised and some of the articles read, one can imagine how rich the chapter reflection will be. I was particularly happy to have that opportunity. Here in the novitiate we all follow from a distance and accompany you in prayer as you approach this new moment in the life of the province.



During these last couple of months, I had the chance of travelling to Vitória visiting one of our 2nd year novices, Naiara, there as she lives her 4 month community/apostolic experience in a small group of three sisters. In that context, I visited the community twice and enjoyed being a temporary member of this group inserted in a suburb. You will not be surprised that I rapidly recognized the RSHM community touch, the values that we share, the hospitality that we offer. One of the sisters is involved full time in the social project in a needy area. The project is supported by our RSHM College in Vitória.

As you may be aware during July and August, Mary Gough shared our life in the novitiate so the NEP was very present in our hearts and lives. Besides lots of informal sharing along the journey, Mary Gough gave us tremendous help to advance our Library project. All of the English books were catalogued by the time she was leaving. Many books sent by you, recently or further back, have now found a correct number for filing on the shelves....We are very grateful and happy about that.





SUSTAINABILITY - EAST LONDON BEFORE & AFTER THE OLYMPICS:

Teresina O'Byrne

Now that the OLYMPICS are over, I would like to go with you, as a JPIC old stager, to reflect on how, as it were, the scene was set in the months beforehand, in preparation for it all to happen.

Did you know that the ground preparations for the OLYMPICS were designed by LONDON 2012 SUSTAINABILITY and that 75% less steel was used in building the London Stadium than in building the “Bird’s Nest” in Beijing ?

The Sustainability element with the potential to become a SIGN of sustainable development, includes planning for future social housing for local people.

Christopher Jamison OSB, who served as chaplain to the Olympics Media, also served as one of hundreds of volunteers, collecting litter as one of the chores; hoping that people consciousness would make this easier. He calls our attention to how 2012 Sustainability worked, remarking “.....there’s a lot more going on here than the Games”

Statistics abound: 30.000 tons of silt removed from the River Lea; 10 hectares of wild flowers planted along the sloping banks that have replaced the lifeless concrete sides. There’s the legacy, with venues like the hockey, basketball and water-polo arenas dismantable for use elsewhere, and five permanent venues built with their subsequent use planned into them.

Seventy five pence in every pound has been spent on facilities that will be used after the Games. About rubbish: this is the first zero-waste Games, with nothing going to landfill and 70% of waste made into compost.



The Olympic Park is a remarkable project that has transformed a wasteland of breakers’ yards, polluted waterways and poisonous soil into a place of future delight for east London, a sustainable environment to live in.

Finally, Christopher Jamison reminds us that one of the fundamental aims of the OLYMPIC CHARTER is “To place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity”.

This makes a good reflection for all of us.....

(Based on an article in ‘The Tablet’)