

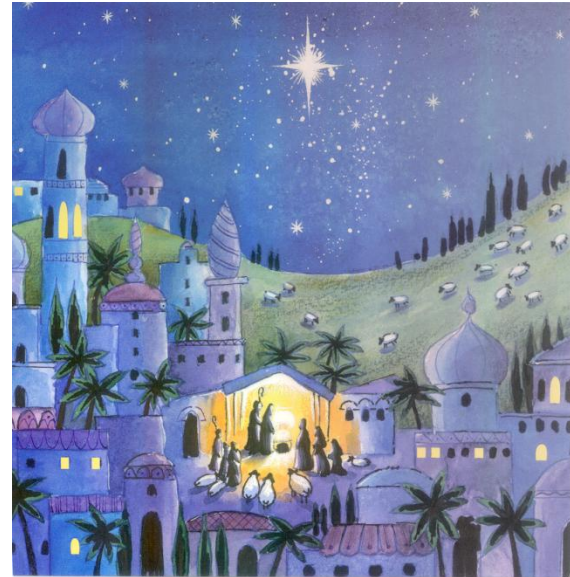
FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

*May the peace and joy of the Christmas Season
be with you all and may 2014 bring you many blessings.*

With love and best wishes

from

The Provincial Team



GOOD BYE TO OUR VISITORS

Eugênia and Sandra will be returning to Portugal and Brazil this month.
We assure them of our prayers for their time in the novitiate.
We thank the communities for the warm welcome they extended to both of them.

FIRST PROFESSION

Karina Kelly

will be making First Profession

on 25th January 2014.



BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers are with:

The Huntstown and Madonna House communities on the death of **Sr Helen Courtney** who died in Ferrybank on 9th November at the age of 79 years and in the 61st year of her Religious Profession.

Sr Constance O'Sullivan on the death of her nephew-in-law, **Alan Maher**, who died on 15th November.

Sr M. Jean Barthès, on the death of her niece, **Geneviève Mesnage**, at the age of 72 years.

The Sisters of the Eastern American Province on the death of **Sr. Mary Elizabeth Mulligan** who died in Tarrytown on 6th December at the age of 87 years and in the 69th year of her Religious Profession.

Supplying slaves to fill demand

Article from the *Metro* Weds 13 November 2013, page 14



JPIC NEP

See the JPIC section for details

GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ZAMBIA *Catherine Dunne*

There is a special request for prayers for the Holy Spirit Sisters as they prepare to go into Chapter on the 9th December. Sr Mariana says she is finishing her leadership as General so as well as the work on the future life of the Congregation there will be leadership elections as well.

I promised that we would keep them in our prayers during that week and they are most appreciative of our support.



NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES: The Mother Butler Guild at the time of the Typhoon

A letter from Henrietta de Villa to Kathleen Connell

Dear Sr. Kathleen,

Your prayers and your thoughtfulness console us. Yes, some of our most active members in the Mother Butler Guild are there in Eastern Visayas hardest hit by the killer Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan's local name). In Tacloban, up to now we have not heard anything about any of our *Mother Butlers* there. All communication lines have been destroyed and we here in Metro Manila have been advised not to try going there so as not to add to the confusion prevailing in the places devastated by the typhoon.

One of our priest-friends who also helped me very much extend the MBG apostolate in Eastern Visayas some years back managed to send me yesterday a message "before the battery of my mobile phone dies out", he said. My heart bled and tears flowed as I read his message. I am translating it for you: It is so bleak here, all desolation. I do not know which is worse, the terrifying fear when Yolanda was beating us to the pulp with her howling winds and tsunami waves, or her aftermath which stares you with death all around, hunger and thirst (since we have no more food and fresh water to drink) consuming you, and hopelessness at a future that is all darkness. I am lucky to find a small space in our prayer room – the roof of the church has been blown away – that at least managed to keep a 4th of its roof where I can sleep. But it is no blessing since sleep is intermittently punctuated by nightmares ... where to find those near and dear to us ... are they alive or dead ... where and how do we begin again. The church which was a refugee center is now filled with cadavers. Please pray for us, for me. It seems so hard to pray now, tho I know God is here. I believe and trust.

Dear, dear Sr. Kathleen, our MBG National Board has started an MBG prayer – assistance – relief outreach program PAR-OP for our Mother Butlers in Leyte and Samar, particularly in the dioceses of Palo, Borongan, and Calbayog. They are still unlocated and unreachable. But we are determined to find them and help them start anew. Most of our members there are simple lay women, poor even. I cling to the Lord's mercy that they, who take care of Him in the sanctuary/on the altar, are enfolded by his love and providential care. I know our Blessed Mother is assisting them. Please help us pray for them. Will let you know when we have touched base with them ... when all are accounted for.

Please God let them live.

Much love,

Henrietta



A WORD OF REFLECTION AFTER RETURNING FROM THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE COLLÈGE JEANNE D'ARC IN CAMBRAI

Marie Paule Petit (a past pupil and former teacher)

November 12 was a beautiful day even though there was some rain. At the beginning of the day, all the students gathered in front of the City Hall for a short parade (“flash mob”), their safety being guaranteed by the presence of the city security services. Then at ten o'clock it was back to school for a normal day. “What would a school be without its students?” someone remarked to me.

Pupils preparing to sing (in the rain) on the steps of the school



RSHM attended from various places: from England and Ireland: Mary Jo McElroy and Ursula Canavan; from Béziers: Thérèse Marie Potelle and myself; and from Paris: Brigitte Dalton, former Principal. I was delighted to meet old acquaintances among the priests and former teachers and supervisors present. Sr Cécile Pommier and Monsieur Renault, the present Headmaster, did a great job in organising the celebrations.

Vine that Mary Jo (with the help of 2 pupils) planted to symbolise the arrival of the sisters from Béziers

For me, it was a wonderful day during which I saw clearly that the values brought by the first RSHM are still lived out today: openness to all, everyone's warm welcome and availability, the presence of the “little ones” from a class which welcomes pupils with special needs.

Yes, the Jeanne d'Arc is thriving; it has changed to meet the needs of the times, and lives on because it has done so. Everyone feels at home there and says they are very happy to be able to work in such a family atmosphere.

May Jeanne d'Arc be a living force in the heart of the St. Luke complex (three schools). That can and should be our wish and our prayer.

RSHM (Brigitte, Ursula, Marie-Paule, Thérèse-Marie, Mary Jo and Cécile) in the newly refurbished chapel of St Jean

