

EXCHANGE JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2015

From the Provincial Council

Greetings

to everyone as we celebrate our Foundation during the week of 24 February.

We will be united with one another throughout the province in prayer and action as we reach out to our sisters and brothers in need.



to Mary Jo McElroy on her appointment as Institute JPIC Co-ordinator. She will be participating in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN from 9 – 20 March 2015.

and to Bernadette McNamara and Brigitte Dalton who have been appointed President and Vice-President of the Association Source SCM at the recent Assemblée Générale in Béziers on 6 February.

There have been many messages of support to sisters in the NEP. Sr Ana Helena Andreão , (*Provincial of the Brazilian Province*) asked especially that this message would be communicated to all the sisters.

Dear Sisters in the NEP,

I am following with interest and concern the recent happenings in France and in Europe. In the name of the Sisters of the Brazilian Province, I express our solidarity, assurance of our prayers and union with the sisters of your province.

We ask God to help us to strengthen and defend the values of freedom of expression and respect for cultural, racial and religious diversity, present in the ideals they represent.

United with you in prayer,

Ana Helena Andreão (*Provincial of the Brazilian Province*)

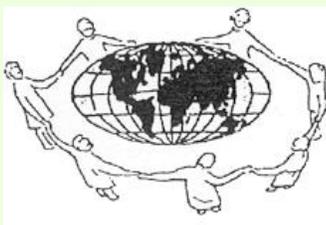
A MOMENT OF GRACE AN UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT

On December 24th.2014, I was privileged and honored to be with homeless women at our Day Shelter to share Christmas Eve dinner. Together we, members of the personnel and welcome women, prepared with loving care the meal and the room. A magnificent table with a nice tablecloth and flowers was set up. Coming from different horizons and cultures, this festive meal brought us together and enabled us to experience a unique moment of fraternity and human warmth. The lady in charge made it a point to address the women before beginning the meal encouraging them to forget momentarily their daily turmoils and stress and to live fully the present moment of this celebration. They graciously lived up to that invitation all through the evening. It was simply amazing and gratifying to see them enjoying one another, the food, the music and the dancing. The personnel served at table and did the washing-up at the end. So it can be said that these women were truly our guests of honour.

I would like add that the Head of Marymount, Neuilly, the teachers and the staff contributed generously by giving me food vouchers and money towards the many needs of the shelter. This contribution made it possible for me in the afternoon to visit some women who live in tents and to offer them some of the vouchers for a hot meal on Christmas day and to simply have a chat with them. The Provincial Council also made an offering for which I am very grateful. It is an expression of their solidarity with the poor and their support to my ministry.

I must admit I am lost for words to express the impact of this whole experience. The most suitable keyword would be reciprocity which took on a vital dimension for all of us present. A lot of deep thoughts and feelings were shared and remain treasured.

Paris, January 25th. 2015
Sr. Brigitte Dalton



Earth Hour started in 2007 as a 'lights off' event to raise awareness about climate change.

Earth hour 2015 is from 8.30 – 9.30 pm
on Saturday 28 March.



BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathies are with:

The Madonna House Community on the death of Sr Margaret Mary Walsh who died on Saturday 3 January 2015 in Madonna House, Ferrybank, Waterford at the age of 91 years and in the 62nd year of her Religious Profession.

The Sisters of the EAP on the death of **Sr Mary Bernarde Holohan** who died on 3 Dec 2014 in Tarrytown, aged 97 years and in the 77th year of her religious profession and

Sister Rita Arthur who died on 16 January 2015 at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. Her sister Loretta who has been her companion these last few months and her nephew were at her side.

The Sisters of the WAP on the death of **Sister Mildred Inks, RSHM** who died on Sunday 28 December 2014, at Regina Residence in Orange. Her sister, Janice, as well as many RSHM were at her bedside when she died. She was 80 years of age and in the 59th year of her Religious Profession.

The Sisters of the Portuguese Province on the death of Irmã Laurinda Ferreira da Costa who died on 11 January 2015 in Braga at the age of 94 years and in the 65th year of her Religious Profession and Irmã Elvira Gomes de Aquina who died on 13 January 2015 in Braga at the age of 98 years and in the 72nd year of her Religious Profession.



The Sisters of the Zambezi Region on the death of Sr Cathrine Chitali RSHM who died on 19 January 2015.

She was 40 years of age and in the 14th year of her Religious Profession.

Sr Rosaline Sheridan on the death of her brother **Michael Sheridan** who died in Dublin, Ireland on Christmas Day.

Sr Maria do Rosario Durães, whose brother-in-law Antonio Rocha died on Sunday January 25 in Lisboa.

May they all rest in peace.

We remember all the deceased, their families and their friends in our prayers at this time.

Tribute to Sr Margaret Mary Walsh RSHM

We are told that love and kindness unlock the true nature of life. Love and kindness were the true hallmark of Sr Margaret Mary. Her great delight was in doing a good turn for somebody. If she said she would do something, you could be sure it would be done.



Margaret Mary's life was a life of prayer, whether at work in the laundry or in the kitchen the aspirations flowed constantly. Truly for her 'laborare est orare'. To work is to pray. This was not to say that the orare was in any way neglected. Much of her spare time was spent with the Blessed Sacrament and her devotion to the Rosary and Our Lady was a constant. The Sacred Heart, too, was a great friend of hers.

It was with great delight that Margaret Mary took charge of the sacristy and chapel, preparing for Mass and Benediction. On the other hand her use of words was rich and rare. She had a wonderful way of calling a spade a spade. Once when one of her sisters remarked on how cold it was, she was promptly told by Margaret Mary that if she was working she wouldn't feel the cold!!

When sickness and the frailty of old age confined her to bed, she remained faithful to all the devotions especially Morning and Evening Prayer. She edified all of us by her prayer life, her resignation and her appreciation of the Carers who looked after her with such love and devotion.

Margaret Mary was a special gift our community, loved and cherished by all of us. She slipped away very quietly from us on Saturday afternoon. She will be greatly missed by all our community, the Carers and all her many friends and relations.

Ar dheis De go raibh a hanam dilis. *Mary Dunne*

From the Homily by Fr. Ray Dempsey C.C. Ferrybank

“Sr Margaret Mary felt the call to religious life and approached Fr. Comerford who was one of the priests in Piltown at the time. Incidentally, Fr Comerford was an uncle of Sr Betty who of course is a member of the community here in Ferrybank. Fr Comerford directed her to the convent in Ferrybank and she entered as a late vocation in those days in her late 20's. In Ferrybank she spent all her religious life – caring for others, serving others. She was very much the friendly, hospitable face of the RSHM sisters here in Ferrybank. She was an institution in herself and had her own way of doing things, but nevertheless all was done with a generous and loving heart. Many of my colleagues in the Diocese who had served here in Ferrybank would often ask for her when I would meet them at meetings or gatherings in the Diocese. And indeed all of them spoke very highly of her. I'm sure she would have been thrilled – 3 priests on the day of her death.”

PRAY and FAST for CLIMATE

As Part of the preparation for the United Nations 21st Conference on Climate Change in Paris, December 2015 this proposal to 'pray and fast' for climate has been suggested by the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. It springs from the inspiration of Yeb Sano (Filipino) in 2013 (www.fastfortheclimate.org).



Normally when we talk about fasting we are talking about going without food. Another interpretation of fasting could be fasting from carbon consumption and production or anything that contributes to changing the climate. Another helpful website is www.ourvoices.net

St. Josephine Bakhita - Feast Day 8 February.

Prayer for an End to Human Trafficking -

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and the Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped on a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom people enslave, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.



Contemplative Listening - 2

Further suggestions to deepen our understanding of contemplative listening

“Our communities need members whom people experience as “gift” ... truly human people in the best sense - people who are whole and life-giving”

Kevin Dowling C.Ss.R



*“ to hear deeply enough what is going on in people’s lives so that I can try to understand **why** Jesus’ desire is that we see and discover together a different way of relating to God, to humanity, to the earth and all of creation”*

Kevin Dowling C.Ss.R



Mary kept all these words and pondered them in her heart
Lk 2:51

What do I hear God's voice saying to me in the world today?