

JUBILEES

Congratulations to:

Srs Betty Comerford and Thérèse English
who celebrate their **Platinum Jubilees** on 27th April

Srs Patricia Barry and Brendan O'Donoghue
who celebrate **75 years** of religious profession on 4th May

Srs Madeleine Fitzpatrick and Martin Murray
who celebrate their **Golden Jubilee** on 7th May



JUBILEES

Congratulations to:

Srs Maureen Breen, Pierre Dullaghan, Mary Eithne
Kissane, Immaculé Morris, Anne O'Connell, Carmel
O'Neill and Constance O'Sullivan who celebrate their
Diamond Jubilee on the 3rd June



EGC PENMAENMAWR 12/24th MARCH

Patsy



EGC opening

It was a great experience to be present at the EGC meeting, to hear the reports from each Province and Region, to get a view of the situation in each place and to know that we have so much in common.

It was enlightening to see the numbers of sisters in each area...ranging from between 23 in the Zambezi Region to 312 in Portugal. On hearing the number of Sisters in Portugal we were a bit envious...but listening to their report we realised that there are similar concerns everywhere ... sometimes multiplied, even though the Regions may not have concerns re care of their elderly Sisters yet.

Everyone was aware of the need for LIFE Long Formation, support for the international novitiate in Brazil, care of our elderly and vocations awareness.

It was a joy to observe the spirit of commitment, faith, courage, hope, patient listening and the sharing of differences of opinion with honesty, respect and courtesy....

It was impressive to see how the General Council worked as a team... each one contributing from her giftedness...



Anne Murphy speaking on the UN internship



Visit to the Roman Catholic Cathedral

Those who went to Liverpool for the planned day out were delighted with the experience of Mass in the Metropolitan Cathedral, lunch in Seafield and Arrowsmith, a visit to Sacred Heart College (old Seafield) a tour of our first foundations in Liverpool, and a quick visit to the Anglican Cathedral.



Visit to Seafield during the EGC



Lisby and Gertrude in Seafield

Sacred Heart School (Seafield) chapel

*Principial John Sommerfield,
Marie Clune and RSHM*





Elizabeth giving Catherine Patten a word of advice;



Teresa and Margaret Mary;

Time for ritual



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day during the EGC



Patsy with Angela (Brazil and Margaret Treacy with Marie France

The community in Penmaenmawr excelled themselves, as usual, in their welcome and care for all involved in the EGC meeting. We are always so proud of their warm welcome, hospitality and inclusiveness (or should it be inclusivity?)



The 24th March came and having hugged and said fond farewells...all went home to "auld clothes and porridge" as they say in Scotland.



Now its all fond memories and down to brass tacks and keeping promises.....

You will have received the letter from the General Council outlining the many topics covered.

The Provincial Council hopes to be able to answer questions and share further at our age group meetings and informal contacts with communities.

COR: Prophetic voices: “Leaven for Good in a hurting World”

Barbara

This was the title of the COR AGM 24th – 26th March Swanwick. Because of the EGC I was unable to attend this but as a member of the COR executive I have been involved in the planning and in viewing the very enthusiastic evaluations.

The title was taken from the main speaker Sr Deirdre Mullan RSM who works at the UN. Very much within this overall theme two members of the CORI Executive were invited to share something of the experiences of Religious in Ireland at this time and also input from Bill Kilgallon “Safeguarding with Confidence” and Sr Jane Bertelsen FMDM “From Law to Gospel”. Letters expressing solidarity were sent to Religious in Ireland and also United States. COR also gathered addresses of communities who would be willing to host two or three sisters from Ireland who might need a break during these stressful times. Any offers?

CORI: WALKING THE WAY: 50th Anniversary Celebration. Dublin.

Barbara

This took place on 17th and 18th of April with the overall theme of the Emmaus story. Among the four hundred present were Mary Dunne (Formation Team) and myself. Braving the rail and ferry route to get there and the overnight bus and ferry route back was well worth the excellent input and worthwhile opportunity to share with individuals. The wider context of the difficulties of Religious and the Church in Ireland at this time was with us throughout. This was often referred to by the speakers who put before us hope and challenge regarding the future of Religious life. The speakers and topics were as follows:

“A Time of Blessing”, *Timothy Radcliffe OP*;

Address by the President of Ireland, *Mary McAleese*;

“Insights for Living in Middle Time”, *Lynn Levo CSJ*;

“The Living Resurrection”, *Mark Patrick Hederman OSB* ;

“Emergent Intentional Discipleship”, *Bernadette Flanagan PBVM*;

“Religious Life – a question of visibility”, *Gemma Simmons CSJ*;

“Urbi et Orbi – communicating religious vocation in the media age”, *Ms Sarah McDonald*;

“Assumptions – the future of religious life”, *Michael Crosby OFM Cap.*

The Provincial Council and Formation Team will have copies of the talks and will be happy to share them with you. As far as possible communities in Ireland who do not have access to them this way will also receive a copy. There is so much in the content that is encouraging and supportive of Religious in Ireland! Timothy Radcliffe (who had to link with us by phone) spoke much about the “conversations” on the way. One such conversation that has evolved over these conferences has been a growing commitment for the two conferences to work together in the future. Steps are already on way!

WELCOME TO THE NEP

We welcome Christina Caetano from the Brazilian Province who will be staying in 72 Drumcondra while she studies English in Dublin from June 6th until October. Hopefully she will have a chance to meet other sisters in the Province, especially Ireland. If you have any suggestions or invitations to extend please contact Kathleen O’Keeffe. Christina is coordinator of RSHM schools in Brazil and will be attending the RSHM schools international gathering in Rome.

Welcome too to Joan Treacy, from the WAP. Joan starts a sabbatical course at Hawkstone on 19th April She made a brief visit to us in the Ealing and Upminster communities last week and hopes to visit some other communities in England , especially the North, later in the term.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our thoughts and prayers have been with:

Sr Evelyn O'Reilly on the death of her brother, **Richard O'Reilly**, who died on 23rd March.

Sr Eleanor Dalton on the death of her mother, **Catherine Dalton**, who died on 31st March.

The Sisters of the Eastern American Province on the death **Sr Letizia Pappalardo** who died on 6th March in Rome at the age of 76 years and in the 51st year of her Religious Profession.

The Sisters of the Portuguese Province on the death of **Ir Maria Cecília F. Azevedo** who died in Fátima on 17th March at the age of 84 years and in the 53rd year of her Religious Profession

REFLECTION GROUP MEETING

LONDON AREA

Breda Byrne and Kathleen O' Donovan

Our recent Province Plan and our Formation Team suggested the setting up of Reflection Groups in different areas of the Province. We are aware of such groups in the Liverpool and Ferrybank areas, which are life giving for those who participate.

Our inaugural meeting in the London area was held at Upminster on Wednesday 21st April, and was well supported by sisters from the Ealing houses, Manor Park and Upminster. We reflected and shared on an article: "The Cosmic Christ" in a prayerful and relaxed setting. We all enjoyed the afternoon, and the opportunity to socialise afterwards.

We plan to meet three to four times a year in different houses, and the group decides on the topics for reflection. Our next meeting is at Kerrison Road on Wednesday 15th September, and we look forward to continuing our reflective and supportive journey together.

WORKING FOR A MORE COMPASSIONATE WORLD

Anne Murphy March 2010

The Granada Institute in Shankill, Dublin, is a service of the St. John of God Hospitaller Services in Ireland. It is a national forensic adult mental health service committed to the protection of children and the rehabilitation of adults. On Monday, 22nd March, a retirement lunch was hosted at Granada to honour the contribution of Bridget (Hussey) to the work and mission of that Institute over many years. Granada's small staff graciously welcomed Bridget's niece, Jo, who represented the Hussey family for the occasion; I was honoured to represent our RSHM family.

In these sad days for our church and for all religious, it was heartening to hear Bridget's colleagues speak of her commitment, her wisdom, her kindness, her warmth, her compassion; there were many references to her good humour and generosity as a team member. Her friendship was greatly valued by senior colleagues, and her guidance and mentoring of young members of staff was a recurring theme in the tributes.

Listening to all that was said of Bridget and her work in Granada, I realised that she was in tune with the spirit of St John of God long before she found herself working in one of the Hospitaller services founded from his vision. Bridget has always seemed to gravitate towards the broken members of society, and they to her. The ripple effect of the sensitivity of John of God -the poor bookseller of Granada- to the poor and the suffering, whom he encountered in his life, is alive and ongoing today, even when unsung. It is a source of hope for all of us.

Bridget was at home in the St John of God family; her work amongst them gave us, as RSHM, a place there too. We are all working for the same goal: *'That they may have life'*. St John of God's dream of working towards a more compassionate world is just another way of expressing that same vision. It is no wonder that Bridget found a natural affinity with the ministry of Granada.

One doesn't retire from such a passion. Congratulations, Bridget. *Ad multos annos!*



FROM THE FORMATION TEAM *Mary Gough and Mary Dunne*

The Making of an Abbot - Would You Believe? DVD c. 25 mins.

This DVD features the circumstances surrounding the election of Mark Hederman as Abbot of Glenstal Abbey in Limerick. He has been a Benedictine monk there for over 40 years and has written numerous books on spirituality. (*I must be talking to myself; The Haunted Inkwell; Tarot: talisman or taboo?; Symbolism; Walkabout* etc) Considered a bit of a maverick in the church and quite provocative in his opinions it was a great surprise that he was elected Abbot in Dec 2008. He and the community saw this as the work of the Holy Spirit and all have welcomed his election as the election of the prophet among them. He had to be ordained as priest before he became Abbot.

In this DVD he says *"I always tried to work out why I was thrown into this world without my permission 65 years ago, and I vowed to solve this problem before I was 40. I wanted to know what it meant to live fully in this world, whether I was Chinese or Muslim, man or woman, rich or poor"*.

All of his life has been based on a deep experience he had of the real presence of God in his life at age 9 years of age in a ring fort on his father's stud farm. His story has a freshness about it that is inspirational and uplifting and it is very rooted in reality. It is very easy to listen to and has interesting insights on our relationship with God, on theology and prayer, our relationship with the world around us, the feminine principle in life and the role of the priest/minister in today's world. It is well worth viewing.

(Copies available from the Formation Team)

Mary Gough

Passion for the Possible Daniel J O’Leary
(A spirituality of hope for the New Millennium)

The title of this book is an apt summary of what this book is about – the fierce desire to explore the potential for self esteem arising from our divine beauty, for a sense of our capacity for finding the healing the light in our dark moments, for a new appreciation of our God implanted creativity, and finally for our calling to redeem humanity before it is too late. (From cover of book not too lucid)

I found the early chapters on the Incarnation at the beginning of the book very helpful around Christmastide, embracing every aspect of our lives, also very enriching insights on the Sacraments and the various seasons of the liturgical year as well as the seasons of our lives.

Mary Dunne



JPIC NEP

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Catherine Dunne

In two months, the World Cup as one tourism event will bring thousands of soccer fans to hotels in South Africa. That influx of people may also have the unintended consequence of creating opportunities for human trafficking.

It is good that a draft Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill was tabled in the South African Parliament on 16 March 2010 and is expected to come into law this year. Networking is going on to raise awareness in South Africa.

At Home

Let us remind ourselves that of the 2.5 million estimated people trafficked worldwide 500,000 – 800,000 are trafficked within Europe

Lobbying our elected leaders in the upcoming election campaigns:

Ask candidates to make Human Trafficking a priority and use the full resources of our governments to stop it, including passing better legislation to protect and provide for the women caught in the rape trade. Ask them,

- 1. What is your party’s position on Trafficking in People?**
- 2. How do you see the EU working to reduce demand for trafficking?**

“The only way for evil to thrive is for good people to do nothing”

Edmond Burke.

A new proposal to deal with human trafficking was put forward by the EU Home Affairs Commission on 29 March 2010 to build on a proposal made in 2009. The new rules would oblige member states to act on the three fronts of prosecution of human traffickers, protection of victims and prevention of the offences. It encourages sanctions against those who knowingly employ or buy services from trafficked persons. Further information is available on

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/fight_rape_trade_recurring/?v1