

There will be a short service with Religious while the Pope is in London. There is only room for two hundred and fifty at the venue, St Mary's College, Twickenham. The gathering is meant to include Religious, including contemplatives, from Scotland, Wales and England. Places will be limited to one representative per congregation (there are four hundred and fifty congregations in the UK) and will be allocated on a first come basis. I shall be going as part of the COR executive, so am unable to offer the opportunity out to tender!

As the service is part of a morning devoted to Education it will also be relayed to Catholic Schools.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CONFERENCE: A TIME OF CHANGE

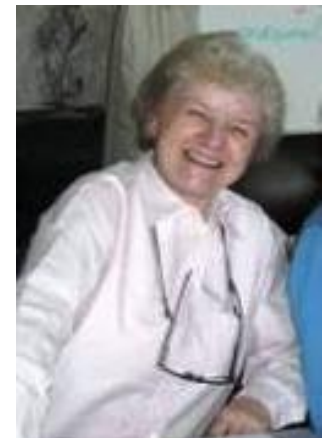
Barbara

This annual event took place on 19th May in Westminster Church House and was attended by over two hundred and sixty delegates from a variety of backgrounds: those with professional expertise and representatives from Dioceses, organisations such as CAFOD and several Religious, with their lay trustees and financial personnel. The first Session entitled **Assessing your Effectiveness**, addressed some important questions for us as a Charity: **How might the Charity Commission assess you? Are you effective trustees? What do you tell the public?** The second session, **Prediction and change** spoke to the growing need to employ lay personnel and some of the implications for good practice that this might involve.



Our Sharon gave input on **Life as a Lay Bursar**. She had just the right balance of humour and seriousness and we were proud of her. There was also input on the topic **Are you (too) charitable to your staff?** exploring some of the boundaries and legalities involved around employment. All of this was shown in the context of the present and past financial fluctuations and the growing complexity of Charity Law. It was an informative and stimulating day and, with so many aspects to take in, I can see how it is annual. It was good to recognise that, thanks to Mary Jo, Sharon, previous bursars/provincial teams, and some long standing financial advisors we are pretty well on track. We have now to see how this develops in Ireland and Scotland.

Mary Jo led the Morning Prayer and the grace before meals, after which we were addressed by Archbishop Vincent Nichols. His first words warmly thanked Religious for their contribution to Catholic life in the country in the past and the present. He then spoke about the Pope's visit. Not surprisingly the question of financing this arose from the gathering. He pointed out that as it is both a state and pastoral visit at least two thirds is paid for by the State and that includes all the security and policing.



Further information from www.catholiccharityconference.org.uk
www.thepapalvisit.org.uk

CORI WEBSITE www.corl.ie

Visit the CORI Website for Thought for the Day and to keep up to date on CORI news and events, also articles on Religious Life, Education & Justice. The Website also contains the Talks from our International Conference as well as the Address by the President of Ireland.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our Sympathy and prayers have been with:

The Bon Pasteur Community on the death of **Sr Sabine Marie Décamps** who died in Béziers on 2nd June at the age of 78 years and in the 58th year of her religious profession.

The Sisters of the Eastern American Province on the deaths of:

Sr. Margaret Finnan who died in Tarrytown on 3rd May at the age of 92 years and in the 72nd year of her religious profession

Sr Eulalia Villarino who died in Tarrytown on 5th June at the age of 87 years and in the 55th year of her religious profession.

The Sisters of the Brazilian Province on the deaths of:

Ir Maria do Carmo Carneiro de Miranda who died on the 18 May in Ubá at the age of 82 years and in the 60th year of her religious profession.

Ir Helena Inglêsias who died on 1st June in São Paulo at the age of 92 years and in the 75th years of her religious profession.

“Our concern to be attuned to contemporary spiritual experience calls us to attentiveness to avoid imposing familiar melodies on the Spirit’s new rhythm, but rather to learn the new dance which has the flexibility capable of moving in motion with this pneumatological outpouring.”

Dr Bernadette Flanagan PBVM CORI CONFERENCE April 2010

LONDON CITIZENS’ ASSEMBLY 3rd MAY 2010

Breda Byrne

As a member of TELCO, The East London Communities Organisation, a group of us, from the parish of St. Stephen and St. Nicholas in Manor Park, joined with the 2500 people who attended the Citizens Assembly on the 3rd of May in the Methodist Hall in Westminster. This was history in the making for London Citizens for it was the first time they met with the three main party leaders, and gave them the unique opportunity to call the politicians to account.

David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Gordon Brown were presented with the Citizens Manifesto and asked to respond on how they will deal with the issues raised whichever party came to power. The issues identified by London citizens that need to be addressed are:

- 1) Recognition for civil society and a Working Relationship
- 2) Anti-Usury Regulations and Investment in our neighbourhoods
- 3) Housing and Community Land Trusts
- 4) Sanctuary Pledge
- 5) Living wage
- 6) Strangers into Citizens

Each party member was given 10 minutes to reply after which they were questioned on the gaps and finally asked if they would commit to meeting London Citizens at least 3 times a year. The three leaders gave a commitment to meet and work with London citizens and were in agreement that society can only be changed through groups such as London citizens who are inserted in the reality of the lives of people and can organise and develop leadership at the grassroots.

Those of us from the Brentwood Diocese were pleased to see Bishop McMahon, Fr. Sean Connolly and Mgr. John Armitage playing an important role in the proceedings.

We are glad as a parish to be involved with so many others in trying to make a difference to people's lives. The energy and enthusiasm of all those gathered for this assembly was inspiring.

LISBURN: Cross Community Group

The following is from the Presbyterian Magazine named **Wavelength** and the report was written by **Joyce Moran**.

The group met in February in St Pastoral Centre Lisburn when the speaker was Sister Mary Dunne, one of our own members. She informed and entertained us with her reflections on 60 years of the religious life.

From her birth place, Kilkenny, Sister Mary has travelled and worked widely. A photograph seen in a missionary magazine of a nun teaching a group of children in a land far away caught the attention and the imagination of a teenage girl who thought she would like to teach in China. Her parents advised her to leave the future with God. As the Leaving Cert examinations were nearing her head mistress suggested she should consider joining the Sacred Heart of Mary Order—the members of which had much work to do at home in Ireland.



Sister Mary took this advice and became a novice for two years, which was a testing time. She took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and trained as a primary school teacher.

Sister Mary taught in Waterford, and in two schools in Scotland. She opened a new mission in Glasgow in a housing estate which was very run down and poor and where the people were the “salt of the earth”. Here she lived among the people in a council house.

Later Zambia not China, had the benefit of her teaching skills and very warm personality. On her retirement Sister Mary came to Lisburn and we, in the Cross Community, have enjoyed her friendship, helpfulness and great sense of fun over many years.

Our final meeting for the year will take place on Thursday 15th April at St. Columba's. This will be our AGM plus our annual interchurch worship. The latter will have a liturgy composed by ourselves on the theme for the year which is “no turning back”.

A “Day Away” is planned for the Summer to keep us all in touch. As always we welcome you to join us for any of our activities.

Joyce Moran

Noddfa was bathed in sunshine when over 20 of the Sunflower group met. As always an air of excitement pervaded the place as we all gathered. Everyone was pleased to have three days together and we even got into holiday mood.

The reflective prayer services were led by Madeleine. Judith provided a DVD on Mindfulness (the power of Now by Eckhart Tolle) which we looked at on two mornings and discussed.

We took advantage of the glorious sunshine in the afternoons. On Friday we visited Bodnant Gardens where the Laburnum Arch was in bloom and on Saturday some went on a 3 mile cliff walk in Anglesey.



Brigitte & Thérèse Marie translated part of the funeral service and led us in a prayer remembrance of Sabine .

While in Bodnant Garden we gathered on a bridge crossing a stream at the time of Sabine's funeral and had a few moments silent prayer marking her transition. Thérèse Marie also shared a 15min video of her brother's recent ordination in Tahiti.



On Anglesea



Different forms of relaxation were interwoven throughout the weekend led by Mary Jo McElroy and Kathleen O'Donovan. It was pure delight turning and twisting on the sun drenched lawn.



'The Age of Stupid' set in 2055 was a wake up call about the urgency of our need to take care of our planet. The underlying question was 'why didn't we make the right decisions about the world's resources and our environment while there was still time. This is a video worth looking at.

With the hospitality as warm and welcoming as ever in Pen we are now looking forward to our next gathering: 10th – 13th June 2011.

MILLENNIUM MEETING - MAY 17 - 20 2010 NODDFA

Teresina O'Byrne



We came from north and south of Ireland, from north and south of England, from Scotland, and were warmly welcomed by our Welsh members in Noddfa, as well as by their community companions. We missed those of you who were unable to be with us because of illness, ashes or otherwise. You were thought of and included in prayer.

As always, in SHM gatherings, from the moment of arrival, greetings and meeting each other, the sights and sounds gave evidence of how we like to be in each others' company.

After, in true Noddfa style, a sumptuous evening meal, our Agenda was clarified with Bernadette. It would be CAPACITAR and TAI CHI, CORI Conference "Walking The Way"; Béziars Experience; Guidelines for Lifelong Formation; Sources Commission; Male Voice Choir Concert and the assurance that there would be plenty of FREE TIME for Retail Therapy, mountain climbing and shore walks. So at 10am for the next two mornings, we discovered, through experience what CAPACITAR is and revised our experience of TAI CHI energy exercises. And, by the way, if you want to know more there is a two day Course on Capacitar in Noddfa, Feb 2011, by Patricia Mathes Cane PH.D. Capacitar Founder/Co Director.



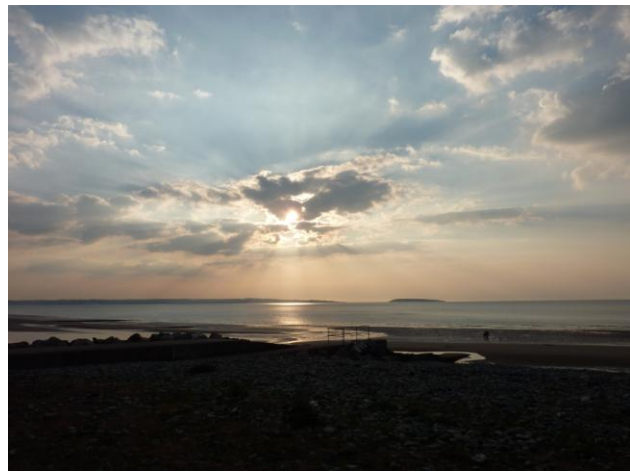
Mary Dunne followed with a report on the Cori Conference “Walking The Way” with the disciples walking no more, running away, giving up on Jesus, resonating with what is happening just now in the Irish Church and elsewhere. There was reflection on survival versus mission; visibility in Religious Life; engaging with the Media. Did you know that after prayer and renewal in one Congregation (Don’t know which) there are now 135 professional women in Formation. It is in the area of community and the sense of community that RL has something to offer today - and lots more. Full Conference Papers are said to be available from Veritas, but so far Veritas does not know this !!!

I think the three of us who went did justice to the BEZIERS experience, mainly through our photographic skills(non-digital) and much wall and board space was filled with our “SHOW” about who was there and from where; about the International Community who prepared everything to do with the Event; about their so well prepared inputs, giving us new insights into our beginnings, our charism, relationships, leadership, the gifts of unity and diversity; and French Spirituality which was Fr Gailhac’s inspiration, about the evident presence of the Extended Family, especially on March 4th in the Cathedral de St Nazaire, and for the Festive Celebration at the House afterwards.

On Tuesday evening some of us enjoyed the trip to Llandudno, and the Male Voice Choir Concert, which one only gets in Wales. After our Capacitar exercises on Wednesday we had a prayerful Ritual Presentation of the revised Guidelines for Lifelong Formation by our members of the Provincial Council. Andre brought us up to date on the work of the Sources Commission. Did you know that Kathleen Connell has Book 4 – A Journey in Faith and Time nearly ready for publication?

Apart from sharing on Books and writing to our absent sick members, that is it. But we still had Free Time mostly for shore walking, and chatting; not so much shopping – recession perhaps; not much climbing – something else perhaps!

As we socialised each evening, enjoyed the home-baking, our nature surroundings, the fine weather, and just being together we found Thursday morning coming round too soon. Before I forget – there will be a get together of the Millennium Group in 2011, same time of year, same venue. God Willing!



If religious consecration is to survive it has to be a distinct form of life. If that distinctiveness is to have meaning it must avoid denying what is valuable in human ordinariness and exalting false notions of holiness. It is to have an impact on the world it must be in dialogue with the crucial signs of our times.

Gemma Simmonds CSJ CORI CONFERENCE April 2010



JPIC MEETING

Catherine Dunne

On the 2nd/3rd June we had our meeting in Pen. We were delighted to welcome Dorothy Ward to join us. Dorothy is not new to JPIC and has much experience working with CAFOD. We evaluated our work in each area to counteract H. Trafficking and our support of the work of different agencies. All efforts now come down to counteracting the DEMAND. On Sept 16th there will be an international launch of a joint effort against DEMAND and we will be part of the preparation as far as we can.

The international JPIC meeting which is held every two years will be held in Belo Horizonte from Aug 12th to 21st. Catherine Dunne will attend.

In the meantime alerting us to any item of news on the Trafficking is welcome and joint prayer is also effective against this evil of our times.

RECOMMENDED READING: *From Ellen O'Leary*

“Enough is Plenty” Anne B. Ryan

This book poses serious questions about the future and devising solutions to problem of economy, ecology and social justice. The questions include:

- How can we live in harmony with nature?
- How do we stop global warming, associated climate change and the destruction of ecosystems?
- How can we eliminate poverty, provide security and create sufficiency for all the peoples of the earth?
- In short, how can we put human and planetary well-being at the centre of all our decision-making?

