

## BON PASTEUR: NEW ARRANGEMENTS

We are happy to welcome Mme Viviane Gison as Care Manager (Maîtresse de Maison) in Bon Pasteur. Viviane has already been working there at nights so, although her role will be different, she is familiar with the sisters and situation there.

Françoise will ensure the pastoral care of the sisters. In order to give continuity and variety in this, and to relieve Françoise regularly, other NEP RSHM in Béziers and France are arranging to form a network to work with her. Marie Jean continues to be there every Monday and once again Dorothy Ward will go for three weeks in July.

Many thanks to Cécile, André and Françoise who have laboured for nine months to bring this to birth! They liaised with professionals and the other carers in order to ensure that the full time care of our sisters has a sound basis.

We are sure that Bon Pasteur, as well as Arrowsmith and Madonna House, will continue to be a place of hospitality, welcome and inspiration to all who visit there.

## FAITH AND HEALTH CONFERENCE

*Patsy Butler*

Chris Clowery, Patricia Seward and I attended this conference at HOPE University from 24th - 26th June. It was organised by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. About 140 people from various walks of the caring professions attended.

The Theme of the conference was "Beginnings and Endings - caring for the whole person".. caring for the elderly, especially their spiritual needs, particularly those who suffer from dementia.

### Some of my memories of the time would include:

1. excellent lectures
2. interesting workshops
3. great exchange of information and experiences of the participants
4. the commitment and unity of the participants in their desire to care for the Whole person, especially the elderly.

### Some of the key points throughout the sessions were:

1. There are over 200 forms of dementia and dementia can begin in the early 30s
2. Start where a person is and not where you THINK they should be.
3. Compassion can not be indexed.
4. Youth and Old Age are NOT just biological conditions but are socially related and inter- dependent on each other.

His and many of the lectures can be downloaded on the internet...

[www.Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales](http://www.Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales) and then go to [Faith in Health](#)

Also worth a buy, perhaps between a few communities, are:

**"Petals of Prayer"** A CD of prayers and reflections for people with dementia and those who care for them compiled by and available from Sr Siobhan O'Keeffe SSHJM... [siobhansshjm@aol.com](mailto:siobhansshjm@aol.com)

**"Its still me Lord "** a DVD on dementia available from Caritas Social Action Network  
[www.csan.org.uk](http://www.csan.org.uk)

## EXTENDED FAMILY

Moira Lever has come to the end of her term as coordinator of the NEP Extended Family. We wish to thank her and the core group for their hard work and dedication in developing the Extended Family in the Province thus far. We are grateful to Patrick Black and Catherine Dolan who have accepted to be joint coordinators for the next three years starting September 2010.



## BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers have been with

Madonna House Community on the death of **Sr Monica Saul** who died in Ferrybank on 29<sup>th</sup> June at the age of 89 years and in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of her religious profession.

The Community at 37 Castle Oaks on the death of **Sr Anne Frances Fitzgerald** who died in Ferrybank on 8<sup>th</sup> July at the age of 78 years and in the 59<sup>th</sup> year of her religious profession.

## PILGRIMAGE TO COMPOSTELLA *Marie Dominique Treacy*



Dear Sisters of the NEP,

The day of departure for my six weeks pilgrimage and 800 km walk has come: Friday July 16th. I feel very much accompanied by all of you through your very generous donations for HAITI who will benefit from your sponsorship and that of the parish and some friends: two thousand euro (2,000). As I said, the money will be divided up equally between three religious congregations and the Boy Scouts of Haiti. There will be no intermediaries.

I wish you all a restful summer, refreshing and enlivening.

"Marcher, toujours marcher" !

## STAR TREK MIDNIGHT WALK *Rosemary Lenehan*



It was a very warm night as 664 women gathered in Romford Market on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. All were there to walk 10km in aid of St Francis Hospice – some were walking in memory of relatives who died in the care of the hospice, others, like me, work at the hospice and many others just wanted to raise funds for a very worthy cause.

I want to thank all of you throughout the province who sponsored me for this walk – I appreciate your great support. With the help of many generous people I have managed to raise over £3,000 for the hospice – in fact, I'm told that I'm

the champion fundraiser for this event! I have to say that I was absolutely shattered on Sunday but it was worth the effort to raise so much money. We hope to have at least £80,000 when all the money is collected – not a bad result!

## FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY WITH A DIFFERENCE *Mary Murray*

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, our Feast Day, the Council of priests in the diocese of Down and Connor invited all the religious of the Diocese to come to a "Listening Session". This Council of Priests is organising a series of these meetings. The priests of the Diocese have already had three such sessions and have drawn up their Report which makes very interesting reading. The Council will consult all Parishes during Lent 2011. These meetings are being held as preparation for a future Diocesan Synod. If it occurs, it will be a landmark event in the history of the Diocese as it envisages lay consultation and participation and a Pastoral Plan based on such sound preparation. . The scandals in the Church are certainly bringing in much needed change and hopefully a new breath of the Spirit.

Seventy two religious including seven RSHMs were present on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. Our facilitator was a Jesuit, Fr Alan Mc Guckian who is a member of the Jesuit community in North Belfast. We considered two questions:

- What kind of church do we want to be part of with and for the future?
- List in order of importance the three priorities we would like to see included in a Pastoral Plan

There was a real buzz of energy in the hall and a rich variety of views expressed. It certainly showed that religious men and women are alive with the desire to see the Church in our diocese renewed. People want a more compassionate, listening to the Word of God, collaborative, inclusive Church. All our reflections were written up on flip charts by two priests who could hardly keep up with writing all the suggestions expressed. Religious women and men can and do make a real contribution to the life of the Church through the living out of their charisms.

Our two and a half hour session ended with a lovely lunch at the expense of the Diocese. We RSHMs thought that this particular meeting on our Feast Day was significant and worthwhile.

***“Because women and children are those most affected by the negative aspects of globalisation, they will be the focus of our action for justice”.***

*General Chapter 2001*

***“You must not be harsh with the orphans or they will cry out to me and be sure, I shall hear their cry.”*** Ex 22.22

UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children, victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.



### Child Poverty

is the result of the Poverty Trap. Children grow up in homes where there are no means of bettering themselves because of the great lack of resources around them. In the developing world one in three children do not have adequate shelter, no access to safe water or health care, many are orphans, do not receive education and have to work hard for a living or are trafficked for various reasons.

### Child Hunger:

*“When I was hungry you fed me.” Matt 25*

Because of poverty, illness etc. there is no food in the home and many children and parents search rubbish tips to find objects to sell in order to buy food otherwise they starve e.g. The Philippines. Many illnesses and deaths are brought about as the children have not sufficient to eat and are therefore unable to fight infection and their weakness become fatal.



### Child Health:

*“I was sick and you looked after me.”*

There are many reasons why child health is inadequate; much of it being based on the ability to pay. Poor countries lack the money for the necessary health care and education. Health services are expensive and inadequate vaccinations programmes are encouraged in many areas especially when dealing with HIV & AIDS. Many children, who are disabled, received little or no help and in some circumstances are hidden by the family.

## Child Education:

“To train and educate the rising generation will at all times be the first object of society to which every other will be subordinate.” *Robert Owen 1818*

121 million children do not receive any education. Because of the need to pay for education, families just do not have the money. Many wish they could go and often turn up for school but are turned away because they have no money. Other children are carers at home, maybe they are the sole bread winner or orphaned, often because of HIV & AIDS and have younger brothers and sisters to look after. Others are trafficked and enslaved and have to work.



## Child Trafficking:

“I was in prison and you visited me”.

Children are exploited in many ways. After disasters children are easily separated from their families and are happy to be made feel secure e.g. Haiti. Child traffickers know that during these times children are often lost or alone and so are more easily approached by strangers. The children are taken and sold on as child workers, child labourers, child soldiers and child sex toys. Children are often sold by their own parents so as to receive money to buy food for the rest of the family. Child protection

committees build safe play areas in villages and warn parents of the dangers to their children and what can be done to protect them.

## Child Refugees:

“Take the child and his mother into a safe country.”

For many reasons children become refugees in another country, usually with their families. Housing, work, health, education are often quite fragile things in a host country or are available on a limited scale. When families arrive in a host country they are given asylum in a detention centre which is often like a prison. Later, if a child is not accepted in the host country, while waiting for repatriation, he returns to the detention centre often without caring or familiar adults, he often suffers from this trauma.

