

Exchange December 2011

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER PLANNING TEAM

There will also be a Provincial Chapter Planning Team, consisting of the two facilitators – Srs Mary Harrington LSU and Gabrielle Stuart RSM, Mary Jo McElroy, Ursula, Ellen, Thérèse Marie Potelle and Mary Mullins. The first meeting of this team will be on 8th February 2012 in All Hallows.

'MEETINGS OF RELIGIOUS IN IRELAND WITH THE APOSTOLIC VISITATORS'

At the request of CORI, the Apostolic Visitors attended a large group-meeting in each of the four provinces of Ireland. They were: Sr Sharon Holland IHM, Fr Bob Maloney CM, Sr Máirín McDonagh RSM and Fr Gero McLoughlin SJ.

The theme most often repeated was gratitude for the spirit of respectful listening shown by the Visitors, along with the wish that this willingness for dialogue would also inform other parts of the Church.

FORMATION TEAM

The members of the Formation Team are Kathleen Buckley, Mary Dunne, Mary Gough, Margaret Lee and Dominique Treacy. You may like to add these names to your address book on Page 4 for further reference. The Provincial Council link person is Mary Jo McElroy.

13th NOVEMBER Gailhac's birthday

On 13th November, to celebrate Gailhac's birthday, the Ealing communities, with Patrice Power and Mary Mullins, who were visiting, met to pray, celebrate and plant a cherry tree in Grange Road.



BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers are with:

Sr Kathleen McCartan on the death of her brother, **Denis McCartan**, who died on 11th December.

The Sisters of the Portuguese Province on the death of **Irmã Maria de Fátima Oliveira Cardoso** who died in Braga on 16th November at the age of 82 years and in the 63rd year of her Religious Profession

EXTENDED FAMILY GET-TOGETHER, MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2011 *Ursula Canavan*

We had a wonderful evening with around thirty members of our Extended Family and our sisters from Béziers on Monday 14 November. The programme was organised by Marie Jean and Marion. Marie Jean spoke with passion about Father Gailhac, Mother St Jean and the first sisters, after which Marion showed a video of a poem written by Mary Milligan. It touched everyone as was evident from the tangible silence which followed.

We then broke into three small groups, each reflecting on a different part of the poem and discussing it in response to specific questions. After a closing prayer and hymn we had our meal. How good that was! – for everyone had brought a sweet or savoury dish and we were able to choose from a whole range of special recipes.

People appreciated the evening so much that they took home with them all the colourful handouts which Lucienne had created on the computer. Not one was left. Thanks to everyone for such an enjoyable evening!



Marie Jean sharing her enthusiasm
Philomène taking it all in



Can you pick out 4 RSHM?

One of the small groups



The Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) Dementia and Spirituality Project seeks to build on good practice from the faith communities with a particular focus on the Catholic Church. *'It's still Me'* is a DVD exploring dementia and spirituality and is available from this group.

For more information contact:-www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk

CAFOD: Message from Dorothy Ward*Advent Reflection on Hope*

A reflection given by Fr. Augusto Zampini Davies at CAFOD's Advent Day for Religious 2011
Website cafod.org.uk/worship

LAY VOLUNTEERS IN JOÃO PESSOA*Máire Concannon/Marie Fitzpatrick*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, for your varied and generous support in facilitating our return to João Pessoa.

Our journey with you began in 1994, when we were invited by your Irish/Scottish sisters, to participate in their diverse ministries in João Pessoa. We were privileged to have encountered such an open minded and supportive group, willing to share their profound knowledge and understanding of the problems facing the poor and marginalised. This proved to be a very enriching and life changing experience for us.

Before returning to Ireland in 1997 we were fortunate in securing funding from Irish Aid to open a crèche. All expenses are covered by our various fundraising campaigns in Ireland. It continues to be run successfully by 4 outstanding local women.

Through our close collaboration with the project on our return to Brazil each year, we felt further challenged to make a longer term commitment in João Pessoa.

Once again our RSHM friends have come to our aid, by inviting us to further collaborate in ministry. Without the steadfast support and constant encouragement of Sr. Kathleen O'Keeffe, with whom we successfully applied to Misesan Cara for an Integrated Community Project, our dream of returning to Brazil would never have become a reality.

Um abraço carinhoso,

Máire & Marie

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BELO HORIZONTE*Bernadette McNamara*

Christmas is fast approaching and I want to send to you my best wishes for a Happy Christmas. We will celebrate in so many ways ... our God amongst us and with us.



Christmas

by
John Betjeman



The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain.
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hooker's Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that villagers can say
'The Church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial public houses blaze
And Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steeped London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad,
And Christmas morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? and is it true?
The most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant.

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.

To all my sisters this Christmas
2011

Blessings and Peace

From Anne Murphy





*May the peace and joy
of the*

*Christmas Season
be with you all
and
may 2012
bring you many blessings.*

*Go raibh síocháin agus
lúcháir na féile seo
go domhain in bhur gcroí
agus go mbraithe sibh
Beannachtaí agus míorúiltí Dé
i rith na bliana seo chugainn*

*Que la paix et la joie
de ce temps de Noël
soient avec chacune de vous
et que 2012
vous comble de bénédictions.*

*With love and best wishes
From
The Provincial Team*

*Designed by Margaret Walsh RSHM for 72 Upper
Drumcondra Road and now adapted for Madonna House.*