

**From the Provincial Team**

*A warm 'Thank You' to so many of you for your beautiful greeting cards, emails and personal messages, assuring us of your prayers and support as we begin our mandate of service to the province.*

*We are so grateful to Mary Jo for all she has done for the Province during the past three years and for her generous support to ourselves and the Ealing communities at this time of transition. We are also grateful to Margôt for her many years of service and for her meticulous preparations for the office handover. We were delighted to be able to share the actual handover with the London communities whose warmth and hospitality we truly appreciate.*

*Ursula, Bernadette, Ellen, Kathleen, Mary and Rosemary.*

**A SPECIAL MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE PROVINCE**

The communities in Ilford, Kerrison Road and The Park, together with the two Provincial Teams and Cathy O'Dwyer - Finance Manager, gathered in The Park for the Official Handover to the new Provincial Team.





The beautiful ceremony began with prayers of thanksgiving for what has been accomplished, and intercessory prayers for Wisdom, 'deep' Listening and Discernment for Ursula, Ellen, Kathleen, Bernadette, Rosemary and Mary as they received their candles and Chapter Documents to guide them on their journey.







A particular feature of the ceremony was the violin accompanied weaving on a loom with coloured wools symbolising the continuity in the leadership team and the involvement of ALL in the work of the Province.





The ceremony was followed by a 'scrumptious' buffet meal provided by the Council and the local communities. It was much appreciated and enjoyed by ALL.



It was indeed a 'special moment'







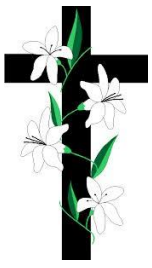
## CONGRATULATIONS GWEN – 90 years young!

Gwen celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in style on Fri 5<sup>th</sup> September. Grianán Community took Gwen and long-time friends Pauline and Aline out for a celebratory lunch which they all enjoyed.

Later in the evening the RSHMs in the locality – Madonna House and Castle Oaks – were invited to Grianán for high tea and it lived up to that name! Gwen herself had done all the baking of the ‘goodies’. The centrepiece was a magnificent cake which she had baked and iced as only Gwen can. She certainly has not lost her skills. Her niece, Joyce, joined the celebrations and was justly very proud of her aunt. Everyone enjoyed the feast and the chat. Congratulations again Gwen! You certainly don’t look 90!

*Mary Gough*





## BEREAVEMENTS:

Our sympathy and prayers are with:

**The Sisters of the Portuguese Province** on the death of **Ir Ana Lopes Martins** who died in Fatima on 12th August at the age of 65 years and in the 43rd year of her Religious Profession

**Anne O'Connell** and her family on the death of her **brother John** who died on 11th August

**Mary Eithne Klssane** and her family on the death of her **sister Eileen Frances** who died on 20th August

**Marie Pierre and André Dullaghan** and their family on the death of their **brother Charles** who died on 23rd August

**Dorothy Ward** and her family on the death of her **brother Anthony** who died in Germany on 23rd August

**The Eastern American Province** on the death of Sr. Virginia McNally who died on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, in Tarrytown, New York. Virginia was 85 years and in the 62<sup>nd</sup> year of her Religious Profession. We rejoice with Virginia as she shares eternal life with God she loved and served so well



the



**The Madonna House Community** and the many friends of Consilio - RSHM Sisters and people with whom she worked – on her recent death at the age of 92 years and in the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of her Religious Profession

**We extend profound sympathy to the Sisters of Mercy in the Northern Province on the tragic death of two of their sisters in a car crash recently. They were well known to some RSHM sisters in Northern Ireland.**

## MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE



*I'd like to say a big thank you to all my sisters in the province for your kindness in sending me such lovely cards, gifts and especially the masses for my Diamond Jubilee. I had a lovely celebration here in Madonna House with my Community and sisters from Castle Oaks and Grianán. Patricia came from Barrow and my sister Anne, her husband and their family joined us for Mass and the meal afterwards. I pray that the Lord will bless you all abundantly. Mass will be offered for your intentions. Deirdre Kavanagh*

*My very sincere thanks to everyone who sent cards, good wishes and had Mass said for me on my jubilee. I had a great celebration with the sisters in Ferrybank, my family and a few friends. The sisters and staff in Madonna House, Grianán and Castle Oaks could not have done more to make the day memorable. I will have Mass offered for all your intentions. Philippa*



*Pierre and André wish to say a sincere thank you for the many Masses and messages of sympathy received on the occasion of Charlie's death. R.I.P. Charlie was 94 and we and all the family are so grateful that he lived life fully to the end, never having lost his vibrant sense of humour. The last sound of his voice, heard by his daughter Elaine as she left the ward was a song, 'Show me the way to go home'! The Lord took him at his word and brought him home to Heaven. He never spoke again. We were so happy and grateful that so many Sisters joined with us for the consoling Requiem Mass. Elaine and all the family wish to convey their thanks for all the masses and prayers.  
Pierre and André*

*A very sincere thanks to all of you who sent messages of sympathy and had Masses said for John R.I.P. I was disappointed that I was not with him when he died - but I was assured by the priest and others who were with him, that he died very peacefully at the end of a decade of the Rosary, - the result of all your prayers for him over the past year. May God bless you all. Anne O'Connell*

*I want to say 'Thank You' for all the happiness your Mass cards, prayers and loving wishes gave me when I celebrated my Diamond Jubilee in August. I am overwhelmed by the kindness I received. I especially thank the communities in Seafield and Arrowsmith for making my day so special. It would be impossible for me to thank you all individually. May God bless each one of you,  
Sincerely, Christine Clune.*

*I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everybody who sent me photographs of the sisters in Madonna House. I have compiled a powerpoint of these to evoke memories and remind people of the 'way we were'. They are a great talking point!*



JPIC NEP

## 17th October International day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Theme: **Working together towards a world without discrimination:** building on the experience and knowledge of people in extreme poverty.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE  
*eradication of poverty*



17 October

Ursula will be in New York for the EGC on the 17<sup>th</sup> October and will be present at the UN at this year's official commemoration of this event which was established by the UN General Assembly in 1993. Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October we are invited to join our voices throughout the world in raising awareness against poverty and the need to accelerate action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

OK, LET'S GET EDUCATED ABOUT POVERTY  
AND WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME IT.

ERADICATION of POVERTY DAY

## Bon Pasteur Community in Lourdes



Four excited RSHM, Françoise Thérèse, Philomène, Bernadette and Françoise, set out from Bon Pasteur, Béziers, in early August to go to Lourdes. As we speeded along the motorway, we discovered beautiful countryside and even enjoyed motorway snack stops...





In Lourdes, a warm welcome from the couple who run a small family hotel renewed our strength. Not too distant from the grotto, we could enjoy also the proximity of the river. Once we got two suitable wheel chairs, we were ready to face the crowded streets, slight rain and the many bumps of the streets. Our four days slipped by rapidly with visits to the grotto, Mass in various places, the new Way of the Cross ..... We remembered everyone in prayer.



More surprises awaited us as the days flew by. We were full of joy as Sr Monique received us for a gorgeous meal in her home in Arthez and accompanied us up the mountains through to a great scenic place, "a col" known on the Tour de France route!



One of our pictures show also another very moving encounter with Tatiana and her sister in law. Tatiana works as staff member in Bon Pasteur and was really delighted to meet us in Lourdes and push the chairs up hill....

Bernadette McNamara



Another fantastic joy awaited us as both Francoise Thérèse and Philomène received visits from their cousins living in the area.

Then a truly grateful four left Lourdes for our return journey.

**The following message was received from Joanne Safian, General Secretary:**

*There are some recent items on the Institute website ([rscm-gen.org](http://rscm-gen.org)): An account of Sr. Bernadette Crook's time with the novices at the SHM Novitiate; a slide show showing some celebrations of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Mary around the Institute; and a brief account of the JPIC Animators meeting at Penmaenmawr.*

*Thank you. Joanne, for the Institute Communications Team*

**Tomorrow missionary communities : Let us sow Fellowship...**



*"I invite the Catholics of Montpellier to put into practice the call of Jesus to live truly as brothers and sisters by creating missionary communities throughout the Department of L'Hérault."*

Pierre-Marie Carré, Archevêque de Montpellier



As of September, Bernadette will begin a part time ministry in Béziers, getting to know and accompanying this project of missionary communities in Beziers according to this vision. She will work in harmony with the 'EAP', the local pastoral team of the town. Later on more to follow .....



## WALK FOR PEACE IN IRAQ



On 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014, at the initiative of the Deputy of Béziers, Elie About, a walk for peace in Iraq took place in the centre of Béziers in order to say “No” to violence and express our support for the Christians and other minorities in that country. Everyone assembled on the Madeleine Square. As the Deputy did not want to make a speech, the crowd listened instead to a young woman playing the violin and another who read a passage from Charles Aznavour “They have fallen”.

The crowd numbered more than 1,000 people of diverse religions. They set out towards the town hall, then the Allées Paul Riquet and ended up at the Sub-Prefecture where the sub-prefect, Nicolas Lemer, received a delegation. He addressed the people

involved telling them, “I was anxious to welcome you because of the apolitical and ecumenical nature of this gathering”. Some of the RSHM from the Béziers communities participated. *Françoise Wyckaert*



## Our visit to the North of Ireland

We know Dublin and Waterford but had never visited the North of Ireland. We regarded it as a dangerous place where strife and injustice reigned. And then Ursula, a native of this part of Ireland, invited myself and Marie Paule to spend a week in her community in Dunmurry. What a warm welcome we received from them and also from the Lisburn community whom we visited. Thank you to all our sisters who made us feel so much at home. It was in Lisburn, in this country once dominated by Protestants, that our first foundation was made. It demanded all Father Gailhac’s courage. Ursula told us about the struggles our first sisters had to be accepted. It was vital that Catholic children receive an education, providing them with qualifications that would help them get jobs. The primary school still exists but the convent and secondary school buildings have been demolished. A new, larger secondary school came to birth – Rathmore - a magnificent school of 1,260 pupils where Ursula served as Principal for many years.

We visited some magnificent new churches. Surprise? No stained glass windows at ground level in the local parish church ... to shield it from ... missiles! But now there is peace and we remember the beautiful afternoon we spent in a park, an immense kingdom of a multitude of roses of every kind, of every colour ... A true haven of peace! Yes, peace! A precious gift, that is still fragile in many countries. Our international Congregation helps us to learn to live together, in spite of numerous differences. Thank you Ursula, thank you, Maeve, thank you Mary. God bless you



*Marie Paule and Marie- Jean*