

75 years Sisters Thérèse and Betty

Sisters **Thérèse English** and **Betty Comerford** celebrated 75 years of Religious profession in the RSHM at Madonna House on 28 April. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a beautiful meal with the community. Fr Raymond Dempsey C.C. paid tribute to Thérèse and Betty in his homily:

‘The line from the Acts of the Apostles strikes me very much as we gather here to celebrate the Jubilee of Religious Profession for you, Sisters Thérèse and Betty, today. It speaks about Barnabas who was sent to the Church in Antioch urging them “to remain faithful to the Lord with heartfelt devotion”’.

What we celebrate here today is your remaining faithful to the Lord over 75 years of your religious life and allowing yourself to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that you could carry out the mission and the ministry that he has given to you 75 years ago and 1940 is not today or yesterday.



For some it is a figure they may never reach in their age – never mind in their commitment to a particular way of life... We stand in awe of and salute you, Sr Thérèse and Sr Betty, for an outstanding commitment to the Church and to the Lord himself.

*We give thanks todaya few days after celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday that you heard the voice of the Good Shepherd in your heart and that you not only heard it but responded to it. Jesus reminds us that “the sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me”. You came to know the Lord deep in your hearts and you followed him to many different ministries and to many different places over those many years. Of course your own founder Fr Gailhac had a great devotion to Jesus the Good Shepherd and chose for the motto of your Institute those lines and that spirit from John 10:10 “**that all may have life**”. Through the faithful living out of your religious vows both of you, Thérèse and Betty, have striven to bring that fullness of life to people wherever you have found yourselves and you have encouraged all people to see that they are called to the fullness of life. You carry on that mission today here in Madonna house with your prayer and intercession for the needs of your Congregation, for the needs of the Church and for the needs of all God’s people. We thank you for your faithfulness. We thank God who has called you and who has helped you to be faithful.’*

(selected from the homily)