



“Make us sensitive to the needs of your people,
mark us with the fidelity of Gailhac”

*We thank God for the vision of our founder
Le Père Jean Gailhac
and wish you all a joyous celebration
on the anniversary of his birth 13 November*

Ursula Kathleen
Bernadette Mary
Ellen Rosemary



ALUMBWE LEZA!
Let us praise God



'Kusekelela myaka mucilinga ca Moyo Wamaria Musante mu Zambia'

(Celebrating 50 years of the SHM Sisters in Zambia)

Next year 2016 will be a memorable one for the Institute and for all of us in the Zambezi Region as we hope to celebrate joyously fifty years of our presence in Zambia. Many Sisters have served over those fifty years and we want to thank God for all their giftedness, generosity and above all their dedication to the service of God and the people of Zambia at so many levels. We want to remember each one and in a special way the pioneers Sisters Odile and Vincent (Agnes) who set out into the unknown in January 66. They were followed in November of the same year by Sisters Josepha and Veronica. We are blessed that Sr Agnes is still alive and with us and will be able to look back on those early years with great gratitude for the growth of what was in 1966 a tiny seed. To-day, like the mustard seed, there is growth into a tree of life and we have experienced amongst the people we came to serve a call to some young women to respond to our SHM charism “that all may have life”. ALUMBWE LEZA! Let us praise God.

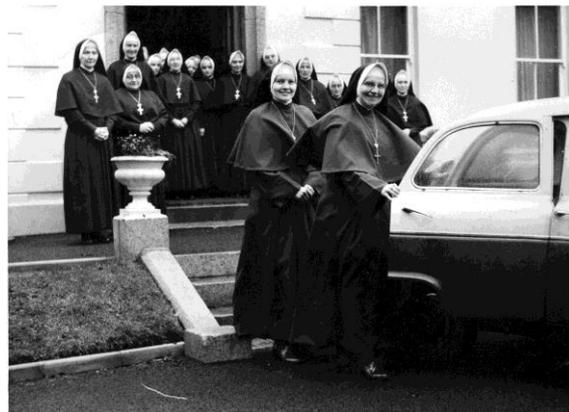
The day chosen for the celebration is Saturday the 14th May - the eve of Pentecost. The actual date of arrival of the first two Sisters being January would not be suitable as the rainy season will have set in and the Chivuna road is never too inviting in that season!! As we move forward in faith and hope we know that you will all join with us in saying 'ALUMBWE LEZA!
Sr Virginia Mullane

THE S. H. M. SISTERS' MISSION TO ZAMBIA

On 6th January 2016 the Province is marking 50 years of our Mission in Zambia. Here Sr Agnes Hunt recalls the invitation of Bishop J. Corboy SJ, prompted by Bishop Birch of Ossory, to open up for us a new calling to education in the developing world. A year later M. Odile and Agnes (Vincent) were in the throes of preparations and Agnes describes the highlights of the journey that would take the mission of the Province to Sub-Saharan Africa.....

The 5th of September 1965 saw the start of a new academic year in Good Counsel School, Ferrybank. All our plans for the academic year and for extra-curricular activities had been worked out. Three days later, 8th September, I was called to M. Odile's office to hear a sentence in a letter from M. Canice read out to me, "I am sending you to Zambia". I could not mention it to anyone even to my Headmistress, Sr Bernard. We got on with our work in the school. On 24th September on returning to the convent for lunch, the community were out to congratulate me. They had been told that I was accompanying M. Odile to Zambia.

The Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters' decision to go on mission to Zambia was the result of a visit from Bishop Corboy in 1964 during a break in the Vatican 11 Council. Vatican 11 had opened up new horizons for him in his new diocese of Monze. Zambia independence was celebrated on 24th October 1964. He needed Sisters since schools would enable Zambian girls to be educated. Following the visit, letters came from the Bishop and his secretary, Fr J. Counihan SJ. The proposal was that we would run a Secondary School in Choma, not yet built. In the meantime, we would spend a year with the Religious Sisters of Charity in Chivuna, where one class would be earmarked for our school in Choma.



M Odile and Agnes set out for Zambia from Ferrybank Convent, Waterford 1966

The next three months were helter-skelter in Ferrybank: a six weeks course in Tonga in the College of African-Oriental studies in U.C. London, passing a driving test, all of the Sisters involved in making white habits including pelerines etc to last a life-time and packing a crate with everything from a tabernacle to a tool box.



The 6th of January came, the feast of the Epiphany. With a Missionary Mass behind us and Annie Brophy taking her last photographs, we set off for the station.

The whole journey from Ferrybank to Chivuna was a series of near catastrophes. We had to disembark in Dublin due to a wing of the plane going on fire; in Zurich we had to change flights for the same reason. Leaving Rome the plane was overbooked and I was the one standing fully-habited waiting to be put into first class. There was a forced landing in Benghazi due to a desert storm and we missed our connection from Nairobi to Lusaka after another electric storm.

M Odile and Agnes in Zambia

We arrived at the airport in Lusaka expecting nobody there to meet us. The only contact we had was the phone number of the Sisters in Umtali in Zimbabwe six hundred miles away. Fr J. McCarthy SJ had met every flight from Nairobi. "Are you Ferrybank?" we heard over the barbed wire fence. We had arrived, 16th January 1965.

The following day we got to Chivuna in the dark. The children were returning to school and on 18th January we were in our classes. We had left a frosty Ireland and now we were teaching nine periods each day in 30 degrees heat.



Sr Agnes Hunt The road leading in to the Chivuna Mission

News from the Synod in Rome

Many of you will know that Sr Maureen Kelleher RSHM from the EAP was a non-voting participant at the recent Synod. She communicated with the sisters of the EAP through their weekly bulletin and, with the kind permission of the EAP, we reproduce her communications here. Her intervention is very interesting.

From October 14 – Week 1

Well, week one is over. Since I took a bad fall on my first day in Rome, I travel around with a crutch...not so bad since the Pope himself held the elevator so I could ride up with him. Since several cardinals piled on I ended up in the back corner and there was no converse with Pope Francis for me. The task of the synod is both to study and to make proposals for improvement of paragraphs in the Instrumentum Laboris, the draft document sent out ahead of time. Part I was on Challenges for Families, Part II the Family Vocation and Part III the Mission of the Family today. We work 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and reconvene 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm, 6 days a week. In the plenary sessions a participant with voice gives a timed 3-minute presentation with his recommendations. Then the next person is called on; however, there is no discussion between presentations. The Pope stays through all these sessions and mingles during the coffee break. Some days we work in small groups and I get to speak. I think the process is working well, and I recommend it for our US Congressional

hearings...especially the adherence to 3 minutes. No votes have been taken yet so it is too early to see the strength of any idea. The Pope has stressed this is not a legislative body but a consultative one, and asked us not to give the press our synopsis of the discussions. Certainly the final writing committee will face a daunting job. The Generalate where I am staying has been so welcoming. I am putting Sisters Rosario and Joanne up for canonization. They have been so attentive to me as I limp along. I do pray the elevator gets fixed.
Maureen Kelleher



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October 22 - Week 2

Well another week and still no sense of the final product which may come out. This week I went by invitation to the North American college for a special lunch. On my left was Archbishop Chaput, on my left Bishop Wuerl, and Cardinal De Nardo. Each of course very gracious. Luckily we cannot read one another's minds.

Today we finished listening to interventions of bishops from all over the world which last 3 minutes each. We are such a diverse population and the problems vary so. My heart goes out to those bishops from the war ravaged areas. One pled for all to do everything to stop the money flowing into Isis. One tonight asked us to pray for what he should say to the thousands of refugees in his diocese in Iraq whether he should encourage them to flee or stay. The bishops from northern Africa tell of the polygamy problem and the problems with mixed marriages of Catholic and Muslim.

Some speak so forcefully of the permanence of marriage, while others emphasize pastoral care to the divorced and remarried. I know the Pope in September simplified annulments and said they must be affordable. Apart from that, I cannot fathom how this Church plans to deal with the huge percent of those remarried after divorce. Ideas I have heard are leave it to local bishops to shape their pastoral approach, or leave it for a special commission, or hold fast to doctrine. No one can say now what may be the final view. My friend, a professor from Perth Australia, says what she sees at home parishes is "don't ask and don't tell."

Only one bishop brought up the need to study improved roles for women in the church, something I will say if I get my 3 minute intervention in. The "interventions" of auditors began this evening. Couples have told of their work on marriage encounter, and others on their family life (one had 12 children). I will be talking

about domestic violence and education of priests such that they can better use the pulpit as well as get training in listening and not advising women to return to the spouse. There is in canon law a section advising this return to the marriage once the problem stops; (as if it does).

The Pope is with us all days when we have a plenary session, and he sits and patiently listens. I feel he will need everyone's prayers. Whatever comes out as a product will land on his desk.

Intervention at the Synod

The following is what I wrote for my 3 min intervention at Synod plenary session on Friday morning. My 3 minutes went so quickly I never got to say it exactly like this and I had to leave out last paragraph...alas.

Holy Father, brothers and sisters,

At paragraph 72 we read "The Church must instil in families a sense of we in which no member is forgotten. Everyone ought to be encouraged to develop their skills and accomplish their personal plan of life in service of the Kingdom of God."

I am grateful for the social encyclicals of our church and her advocacy for immigrants and option for the poor. I am grateful for my Catholic education, for the nuns who taught me --Franciscans, Ursulines, Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary. They challenged me to give a life of service for the building of the Kingdom of God. As a Sister of the Sacred Heart of Mary since 1960 I serve now these past 31 years as a lawyer working for justice and the immigration needs of the migrant farm workers in south rural Florida.

I call on the Church, my family to live up to the challenge to instil in our family the church a sense of WE ...to encourage each person male or female to develop their skills to serve the Kingdom of God. I ask our Church leaders to recognize how many women who feel called to be in service of the Kingdom of God cannot find a place in our Church. Gifted though some may be many cannot bring their talents to the tables of decision making and pastoral planning. They must go elsewhere to be of service in building the Kingdom of God.

In 1974 at the Synod on Evangelization, one of our nuns, Sister Marguerite Marie, was one of two nuns appointed from the Union of Superiors General. Today, 40 years later, we are 3! I love my law practice with immigrants but find a high percent of my clients are victims of domestic violence sexual abuse, and parents of sexually abused children. I have yet to hear a homily in the wealthy or poor parishes in my area calling men to see their spouse as partner, as equal, and to stop their practices of power, domination, and violence, and to value the innocence of children.

I urge this silence to stop. Also I urge that priests receive better pastoral formation to accompany these victims. They need to know an abusive home is no place to raise a child.

I close with congratulations for all those cardinals inspired by the Holy Spirit who gave us Pope Francis. He is such a gift. Now people of all different faiths and some with no faith who know I am a sister stop me to say I love your pope.

NCR Interview

Maureen was interviewed by the National Catholic Reporter. The article, titled "Sister-auditor: Synod shows cultural divide between bishops, laypeople" (October 19, 2015) is posted on the NCR Online website. I am also sending a copy as a separate attachment.

Please click the following link for further information

<http://nronline.org/news/vatican/us-sister-auditor-synod-shows-cultural-divide-between-bishops-laypeople>



Response to the Refugee Crisis



Many of you as individuals and as communities have responded in various ways to this crisis and will continue to do so. There was a special appeal from CoR/CORI/IMU recently and the NEP province has given a donation, on our behalf. Kathleen, Breda and Dorothy, from Manor Park community joined the Citizens uk (www.citizensuk.org) in a candlelight demonstration outside parliament for the refugee crisis **1000b4Xmas**. It was to ask David Cameron to accept 1,000 refugees before Christmas. Shelter has been found for some of them from empty housing and some landlords and letting agents have offered them homes. David Cameron's response came less than a week later agreeing to do it.

Sr Ellen O'Leary

APT (Act To Prevent Trafficking) Marking 10 Years.

Later in December APT members will celebrate 10 years of our work in Mary Aikenhead House, Donnybrook - our present base. We are delighted, in reviewing our work, to say that there is a much greater awareness of Human Trafficking in the media and among people. We have visited many schools and Colleges and have spoken at some public events. We are particularly interested this year to work through dioceses. We had one training day for four diocesan representatives in March and we are preparing two others at present. I have gone as far as Longford, Ballyshannon and Armagh where there is tremendous enthusiasm to carry on our work.

The present Sexual Offences Bill is in the final stage going through the Dáil. We hope it will come into law during the term of the present government as the Minister and all parties in general support it. The Bill will criminalise the buyers of sex and we hope such a law will affect the demand market. Some schools have done wonderful projects on the topic and the debates in third level colleges are challenging and informative. We are following Amnesty International regarding their stance on prostitution but find it difficult to reconcile some of their decisions as a human rights organisation.

We are fast trying to have lay people take on our work and so we have prepared a Tool kit with all the support information on line for people to use in presentations. I would ask you all to support our work with prayer and follow our website and facebook page. www.aptireland.org

Sr Catherine Dunne

HERITAGE AND SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

21-24 September 2015



We, Luisa Maria Almendra, Kathleen Connell, Rosinha Pereira and Bernadette McNamara gathered for our first meeting in Kingston on Thames. With the warm welcome of the community and indeed the school staff, we felt we were in a good environment for our meeting.

The task was to understand our mandate, prioritize the areas we would focus on first, and share our gifts and experiences...

"The Group is asked to develop creative ways to share our history and to present our spirituality and Father Gailhac's faith vision as it relates to today's reality."

We spoke of our relationship with lay people (in the Extended Family or RSHM schools or social works) who are interested in the charism and mission of Gailhac and/or who wish to share in the RSHM mission in the various provinces.

The committee members enthusiastically favoured the broader use of technology beginning with the creation of a common internet platform for all our resources. A major and very necessary project would be for the Committee to establish a link in the Web Page of the Generalate and gradually to build up a platform which might include history, spirituality and our various mission statements. We will start to gather materials but it is clear that the Institute needs to see about financing this. Another area of concern was about passing the Flame to Future Generations. Who are the RSHMS anxious to get involved?



We also insisted on the necessity to assist the Institute in planning a professional, virtual tour of the Motherhouse as of now. Bernadette suggested Béziers as the venue for our next meeting.

We will keep in touch with the progress of the other newly formed Committees, especially with the Institute Communications Team (through Rosinha who is also a member of that committee). Finally, we felt encouraged to work towards promoting a groundswell of devotion to Fr Gailhac and M Butler in some way, for instance, having a specific prayer to them. These prayers could be distributed worldwide.

Our next meeting will take place in Béziers hopefully in 2016.....

Sr Bernadette Mc N

Eulogy at Sr. André's funeral Mass:

by Sr. Pierre



It is very consoling having with us today so many of you who have lived and worked with André.

The news that she had severe cancer came as a great shock to her but she, very quickly, came to terms with it. Soon afterwards she said to me, 'We've got to look on death in a positive way - it is the doorway to a new life. We won't talk about my illness much. I

want to continue living life to the full....I have had 76 years with many wonderful experiences and if this is how God wants to end it, so be it... Meanwhile I take this slogan to heart *business as usual until pronounced dead!!*' and that is how it was.

André was the youngest in our family of seven, four girls and three boys. We were given a great love for music, singing and dancing. I remember our mother saying to me 'I have always planned to have at least one of my children play the violin'... André, being the youngest, she must have said 'Now is the time'. At the age of nine she was enrolled in the Municipal School of Music in Dublin – the beginning of her musical journey. I can remember her practising scales with typical care and enthusiasm, (they had to be correct) – also wrist exercises up and down on the back of a chair.

At the age of 18years André entered the Novitiate of our Institute in Ferrybank. She had the privilege of being chosen to spend her year as a novice in the Mother House in France – an experience which she loved and treasured. She often spoke of how much she loved that year – her love for Father Gailhac and the first

community was deeply rooted in her – setting her on the way of living our charism, ‘to know and love God and to make Him known and loved so that all may have life’. Our founder gave the following advice to some young sisters ‘When things are difficult and trying, do not look on them as problems but as challenges to be faced’. I think André followed that advice to the end of her journey and passed it on to those with whom she worked. It was the driving force of all she achieved with her studies, her teaching and especially with her training of choirs. She managed to bring these children to many countries, Switzerland, Germany, Rome, France, Portugal and New York. She used to say ‘if you really want to do something, or get somewhere, you will get there in spite of difficulties’. No doubt she challenged the young people with this advice.

In recent years her work in Allen Hall challenged her still further- teaching singing to adult men was something new so she asked for help – to be told she could study for a diploma. In order to do so it was necessary to have passed Grade 8 Singing Examination – another goal and in spite of failing health she succeeded. She said, ‘I am not aiming at getting top marks. I just want to do the exam.’ She passed with merit and was half way through the diploma Course, finding it fantastic and very helpful. Fantastic: how often she used that word: ‘How are you André?’ ‘fantastic.’ That CT scan you were dreading. How was it? - ‘fantastic’.

Yes she continued to live life to the full. All was packed and ready for our trip to Béziers, taxi ordered for the airport. We had a lively chat on the phone said ‘Good-night’ and that was it. God decided it was time to call her home, quietly while she was alone... and the rest is silence... but I am certain if she could speak to us about that final moment she would say ‘It was the ultimate fantastic experience of my wonderful life’.

Thank you Lord, thank you André. Rest in peace.

From Pierre and her family:

Many thanks to all of you who have had Masses offered for André. Your kind messages of sympathy, letters and phone calls are a great comfort to me, Tom and all the family. The suddenness of André's death was a great shock for us and for her community. Yet we are helped by the realisation that, being called from us in this way, she was spared a prolonged time of progressive suffering. God granted the wish she had, - to keep on living life to the full until, as she used to say, pronounced dead! May she rest in peace. A special Mass of thanksgiving will be offered for all of you.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathies are with

Sisters Christina and Marie Clune on the death of their sister-in-law
Mrs Anne Clune who died on 26 September after a long illness

Sister Rosaleen Cassidy on the death of her brother Tony Cassidy who died Thursday 8 October

Sr Marie France and Mme Andrée Lemire on the death of their father, Albert Correau, who died on 17 October.

May they all rest in peace

