

EXCHANGE - ECHANGE

PROVINCE DE L'EUROPE DU NORD * NORTHERN EUROPEAN PROVINCE

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June 2016



CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR JUBILARIANS



*GOLDEN
JUBILEES*



*Barbara Bailey and Margot Gaitskell
18 June 2016*

*Breda Byrne
22 August 2016*



*DIAMOND
JUBILEE
Paula Murray
22 August 2016*

'Kusekelela myaka muciiinga ca Moyo Wamaria Musante mu Zambia'

(Celebrating 50 years of the SHM Sisters in Zambia)

Extracts from Philippa's diary of the celebration

'I arrived with Flo Reilly the Tuesday before the celebration and Ursula, Patsy and Catherine arrived the next day ... On Thursday two cars set off for Chivuna - Florence driving Patsy, Ursula and Pam and Dominique driving Flo, Catherine Dunne and myself. The road from Kafue to Mazabuka is full of pot holes so it was a bit of a dodging trip. We drove to Chivuna wondering where on earth they were going to put us all. They gave us a great welcome and a lovely candlelight supper (electricity is often off). All the young ones went to the 'hotel' (a section kept mostly for visiting parents) and Sipiwe slept in the community room and most of the rest of us doubled up. We found Virginia, Coltridah, Margaret, newly professed, and Lelia with her pre-novices there so it was a very full house. The pre-novices did all the cooking so we were very well looked after. When we arrived we found a lovely blue and silver citenge and a white tshirt in our rooms with the crest 'RSHM sisters, 50 years in Zambia' on the front. When we got to Chivuna we were



told that we would all wear that on the day. The citenge was very stiff so I spent Friday morning turning mine up and in and adding strings so that it would stay up on me. I didn't have to wear a skirt under it then as it was quite hot. Friday was full of activity for the younger members - doing the cooking and hauling chairs to the hall. You would be thrilled to see the hall - it is better than anything you would see anywhere. It was funded by the parents and built by one parent from Monze who is a builder. The finish and everything is just

very professional. The altar was on the stage so Sipiwe decorated the front of it with beautifully pinned satin material and Virginia oversaw everything in the hall.



And then Saturday arrived. The catering was done by the Monze Homecraft people. They told the Chivuna sisters what to buy and then they came and cooked it. The food was to be in the hall after Mass but on the morning the sister in charge of the catering said it would be better to have it in the dining room. If the girls had been there that would not have been possible.



Lots of priests, including Conrad, whom many of you will remember, were there and of course the Bishop said the Mass. The Irish Ambassador and his wife travelled from Lusaka and lots of sisters, old friends and new, made the journey. The Holy Spirits were there in force and then lots of lay people - from Chivuna, Choma and. Elsewhere. The choir and the stellas were from the parish and the SHMs gave



them citenges and blue tshirts so they looked really lovely.



Florence welcomed everyone,

I read a letter from Roz



and Virginia gave a brief history of our coming and our time in Zambia - all before Mass!





The Mass lasted 3 hours - great dancing and singing and a fantastic atmosphere.

The two readings were done by a blind boy from St. Mulumba and John Baptiste – a Rwandan doctor friend from Lusaka.

At the end of Mass Evan Holy Spirit Sister, and Cornelius, one of the priests, gave an appreciation each of the RSHM

and Catherine Dunne had a wonderful message from Agnes Hunt. Mother Odile and Agnes were fondly remembered and the Bishop spoke at

length about the big sacrifice they had made in travelling to an unknown place and to taking up the challenge of running the school.

Off to the dining room then for the feast and feast it was.



It was all set out at two stations and you went up and were served by the pre-novices. They had cooked potatoes, rice, nshima, chicken, beef, vegetables and salads and cake for dessert. All the soft drinks and bottled water you wanted.

Philippa



ALUMBWE LEZA! Let us praise God

Glorious memories of Zambia - Ursula

What a privilege to have been invited to share in the celebrations marking our 50 years in Zambia!

My initial fears of snakes, mosquitoes and all sorts of strange creepy crawlies melted away before the delightful experience of vibrant colours, welcoming, smiling people and the warm and generous hospitality of our sisters in the Region.

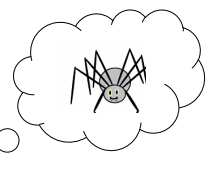
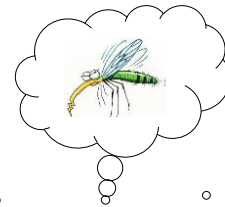
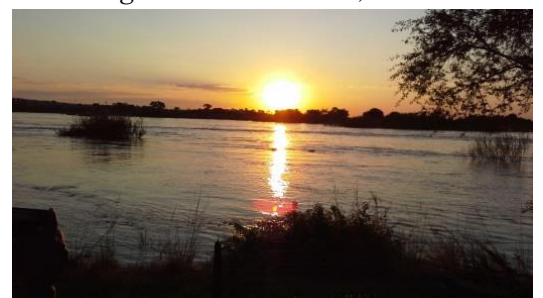


Everything was new to me, engaging, refreshing and, at times, deeply moving – I could call it the sheer joy of life, in the midst of the ordinary experiences of sorrow and gladness, pain and suffering, challenges and adventures. Some token memories I cherish – the gentle joy of Pam’s paraplegic friend, Bernard, in the hospice in Lusaka, who greeted Patsy and me in Irish and wanted to know more about Ireland; the school boys in Chivuna who wanted “anything” Lelia and I could give them” and who, when Lelia apologised, saying that we hadn’t got anything to give them, replied, “Even a

greeting”, so we had a little chat with them; the handicapped boy in St Mulumba’s school who insisted on putting his forehead up against mine, seemingly because Philippa had let him do that to her the day before; Florence’s little niece who stroked my white arm and grey hair in silent amazement; the wonderful full-throated chorus of the Mukasa students at Mass; indeed, the whole-hearted, joyful participation of the congregation in all the Eucharistic celebrations we attended; - I could go on and on ...

Yes, it was wonderful. I have huge admiration for all our sisters “who have gone before” and for those who are still in the Region. Their vision, enthusiasm and generous service are truly inspiring. Thank you!

Ursula



REFLECTION ON ZAMBIAN CELEBRATIONS – Patsy Butler

We had a great WELCOME to Zambia and a WONDERFUL celebration on the 14th May. In usual African form the Mass took two and half hours with Parish choirs in full voice and the dancers excelling themselves. There were truly memorable moments not least of all Sr Evan Kachakwale's tribute to us at the end of Mass.
Evan said:



"I am a Holy Spirit Sister and I was educated and trained by the SHMs. When I was asked to speak today I didn't want to give just my own impressions of the Sisters so I asked many of the Holy Spirit Sisters what they thought. Everyone of them came up with the same response namely:

The Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters treated us as equals. We never got the impression that they considered themselves as White people and we as Black. They educated us, they respected our customs and culture and allowed us grow into African Women...we owe them a great debt of gratitude".

Evan spoke further but we felt those words were the greatest tribute we could receive.

From the Ferrybank parish newsletter – Pentecost Sunday 15 May 2016

inserted by Patsy Butler

The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary are celebrating 50 years in Zambia

It is 50 years since Mother Odile and Sister Vincent set off from Ferrybank to open a new secondary school in Chivuna, Zambia in the diocese of Monze. Bishop Corboy S.J. the then bishop of Monze diocese had visited Ferrybank Convent and invited the sisters to go to Zambia.

The parishoners in Ferrybank supported Sisters in this new venture and have continued to do so during the past 50 years. Today there are nearly 1,000 pupils in the school and the education received there led the students to be among the first women in Zambia to become nurses, solicitors, doctors and agricultural advisors.

This weekend, 14 May, our Sisters in Chivuna, Zambia are celebrating and thanking God for the graces and blessings of the past 50 years. Three Sisters from Ireland have travelled to Zambia to join in the celebrations: Srs Ursula Canavan (Provincial), Patsy Butler and Catherine Dunne.

Over the years many of our past pupils of Ferrybank Convent and our schools in the North who became Sisters went to Zambia to work in various ministries. Some of these Sisters grew up in Ferrybank: Maureen O'Sullivan, Patsy Butler, Eileen Purcell, Judith and Pam Penkert, Máire Convery, Kitty O'Sullivan and Eleanor Dalton.

We give thanks for all your support to us over the years and ask God to reward you in abundance.
With love and gratitude.

MUKASA SEMINARY, IN THE MONZE DIOCESE IN ZAMBIA, ARE ALSO CELEBRATING THEIR GOLDEN JUBILEE THIS YEAR.

Mukasa seminary is called after St Joseph Mukasa, one of the Ugandan martyrs who died in 1885. He was canonized a saint by Pope Paul 6th in 1964. In 1966 the Bishop of Monze, Rev James Corboy SJ had a vision for a minor seminary for Monze diocese. In that same year Mukasa opened its doors to Form I and so Mukasa as we know it today came to birth. The staff, atmosphere and structure of Mukasa is designed so that discernment may take place for the students around their Christian values and vocation, whether or not they become priests. Thankfully there are many past students who have been ordained and are now serving in the diocese of Monze and elsewhere.



On Saturday June 4 Mukasa celebrated its Golden Jubilee and I was very happy and privileged to be present. The mass took place out of doors in the grounds of Mukasa and over 1,000 people attended the celebration. Bishop Moses Hamungole, a past student of Mukasa when Sr Paschal, Sr Malachy and I, Sr Judith, taught there, concelebrated mass with the bishops of Lusaka and Livingstone, along with many of the Mukasa past



students, who are now serving priests. This was a very special moment for me to witness so many of our past students proclaiming the word of God in their priestly ministry. The mass, in true Zambian style, was a wonderful celebration. The creative dancing by the young girls from Choma, dressed in their cream dresses with golden sashes was so beautiful. The Choma parish choir and the Mukasa students sang their hearts out throughout the mass. At the offertory procession over 100 members of the Catholic Womens League, dressed in their chitenges, presented gifts of chickens, rice, cooking oil etc. A surprise gift for the Mukasa students



the President of Zambia.

After the mass there were many speeches during which Bishop Moses of Monze, the President of Mukasa and former pupils, expressed their sincere appreciation and thanks to the RSHM congregation and all the sisters who had taught at Mukasa throughout the years. Late afternoon we said farewell to Mukasa, all filled with a spirit of joy after a memorable Jubilee Day of Rejoicing and Thanksgiving.



Judith Penkert (writing from Choma....sending greetings to all)

The following is an extract from a letter received by Sr Florence Muuka, Regional Superior of Zambezi from the Bishop of Monze, in Zambia.

Dear Rev Sister Florence,

Mukasa Minor Seminary will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee on 4th June 2016. The seminary recognises and appreciates the support and contribution of the Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters. They contributed greatly to the growth of Mukasa Minor Seminary through teaching and pastoral care of the Minor Seminarians.

We thank God for the generosity of the Sisters in this regard.

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev Moses Hamungole
Bishop of Monze”

The RSHM Sisters who served in Mukasa over the years are as follows:

Sr Mairead Foley RIP
Sr Cecilia Henry RIP
Sr Bridget Purcell
Sr Virginia Mullane
Sr Philippa O'Sullivan

Sr Patricia Butler
Sr Helen Flynn RIP
Sr Catherine Philbin
Sr Florence Reilly EAP

Sr Paschal Heffernan RIP
Sr Veronica Coghlan RIP
Sr Judith Penkert
Sr Malachy Higgins RIP

Many of the priests of Monze diocese and of other dioceses in Zambia remember with great affection and admiration the Sisters who taught them and will be remembering them in prayer as they celebrate their golden jubilee.



On behalf of Francis and myself, I thank you all for the many masses offered for the repose of my sister Maureen Murphy's soul and for the individual expressions of sympathy.

May God reward you as only He knows how.

Sheila Morgan

I would like to say a very sincere 'thank you' to all who sent me messages of sympathy - via e.mail, phone, card - on the death of June. It is a happy release for her as she was suffering from dementia even before John died. May they both rest in peace in God's love. I am remembering you all in my prayers.

Anne O'Connell

A big thank you to all of you who had masses said, prayed for me or sent good wishes as I celebrated 75 years of my religious profession. I appreciated all the messages and wishes.

Mary O'Neill

Many thanks to the Sisters of the NEP for all your kind messages, prayers for the Golden Jubilee and for the appreciation of the short reminiscences on our mission in Zambia and the Zambezi Region. I also feel very grateful for the many remembrances of my Diamond Jubilee and for all the support, encouragement and love that I have received from all of you over the years. May the good Lord bless each one. All will be specially remembered in prayer.

Virginia RSHM

BEREAVEMENTS



We offer our sympathies to:

The Sisters of the Portuguese province on the death of **Ir. Maria de Lourdes dos Santos Paulo** on 23 April. She was 75 years old and in the 47th year of her Religious Profession.

The Sisters of the EAP on the deaths of:

Sister Joan Regis Catherwood on 2 May at Marymount Convent. She was 88 years old and in the 66th year of her Religious Profession

and **Sister Georgellen Archibald** on 12 May at Marymount Convent. She was 89 years old and in the 70th year of her Religious Profession

Sr Dorothy Ward on the death of her niece Fiona Beasley (45), daughter of her brother Frank, on 28 April

Sister Anne O'Connell on the death of her sister-in-law, June, wife of her brother John, on 30 April

We remember also Sr Immaculate Heart O.P (Maisie Lawlor – formerly an RSHM sister) who died on 5 June in Fatima.

May they all rest in peace