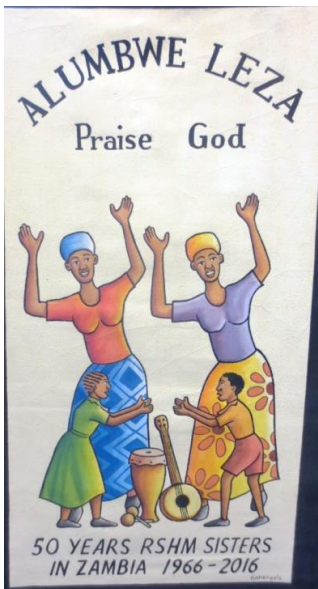


Visit of the General Council to the NEP



We welcome the General Council to the NEP and hope that their visit will be a life-giving experience for all.

Celebration of 50 years in Zambia



From the reflection at Mass by Catherine Dunne on 27 August in Marino College, Dublin.

Today as we celebrate 50 years of RSHM presence in Zambia it's a day to renew friendships and share our gratitude to God and to each other. I think that those who go to a developing country for some time somehow share a unity of purpose.



That unity in turn seems to be the basis of a lasting friendship which we witness here to today. And that includes all those associated with that mission in any way. The first reading of our Mass today says "Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and one soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions but everything they owned was held in common."

Those fortunate to know our mission in Zambia, particularly the first years, will have experienced to some degree the spirit of those lines. We did not live out of each other's pockets but there was that unity or bonding as is usually seen at the first stages of any new initiative. That spirit of coming together to celebrate and to help marks the life of our missions to this day.

.....
In 1965 Bishop J. Corboy, in the closing months of the Vatican Council visited Ferrybank, advised by Bishop Birch of Ossory, to go there and 'try his luck' where there was a big community of nuns. The details are for another time. The Spirit of the post Vatican time was truly evident. The almost enclosed

community as we were at that time, responded. Mother Odile and Sister Agnes, or Vincent as she was known then, were appointed to go to the truly unknown'.....



Bishop Corboy told us, 'you are going among a faith-filled people' and how right he was. ..the cooperation, generosity the help on all sides nurtured that mustard seed to grow- the soil was barren but the people, pupils, dedicated staff and ancillary staff were the fertile soil...

The table prepared for the celebration of the Eucharist

In 1968/9 the Sisters once again contrary to their plans were asked by Bishop Corboy to take on the formation of a diocesan congregation, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, rather than start their own SHM Zambian Sisters. They did so. Those Sisters are a great blessing to the diocese and to the Church in Zambia. In later years the SHMs did begin to have Zambian SHM Sisters and they are a great blessing to our Congregation and the Zambian Church. We are delighted that two of them are here today with us.



Sisters Coltridah RSHM, Florence RSHM and their friend Sister Wilfreda

Looking back I would like with great gratitude to highlight the key moments of inspiration and the people who responded with courage and took initiatives.... the inspiration of the pioneers, Bishop Corboy, the RSHM leaders who were open to a venture into the unknown venture, Sister Agnes who is with us today and Mother Odile who went with none or very little knowledge and all the RSHM Sisters who followed in the subsequent years, all the lay staff who were and today are integral to the development of the missions, setting their lovely spirit with high academic standards.



I include here our parents who grew older each time we went back and our families, all who supported us in so many ways. They contributed to what our mission has become today. In Zambia the people are full of gratitude. In her tributes to us on 14th May Sr Evan said, "You respected us as we were and left us our culture. Thank you."



As we end we pray that our legacy as RSHMs and that of all of you, will be like the great shrub continuing to spread its branches, to receive and give 'shelter' to others, especially the most needy and vulnerable. Our mission and presence has been and is the work of the Spirit through us and all the great people who have gone before us.



Zambia is a changed country with new questions and needs, perhaps more difficult today in ways. The Zambian clergy and Sisters give great hope. They now continue our legacy in their way amongst their people.

There were many messages of thanks and congratulations received after the celebration.

The following is a message from John Sheehan who is a nephew of Bishop James Corboy S.J.

*Dear Catherine,
Thank you and all the organisers for a memorable day on Saturday. I really enjoyed the celebration. It was done so well from start to finish. It was truly wonderful to learn about the achievements of the Sisters in Zambia and to witness their joy at a job well done. There was a great spirit evident that permeated the day. You made me feel proud to be Irish.
I enjoyed meeting many old friends and sharing stories of Zambia. It would not have been possible to have such experiences in Ireland.
Thank you once again,
John*



*Ma famille dont ma belle sœur , mon frère Sean en particulier et moi même vous remercie sincèrement de votre prière soutenue pour les diverses malades.
Nous apprécions dans la foi et je peux dire que j'ai vu de " miracles"
Merci Bernadette McNamara*

Dear Sisters,

I have been very touched by so many greetings, Masses, gifts and prayers for my jubilee and am only sorry I can't thank you all individually. I was fortunate enough to have four celebrations: The Ealing Communities; the EAP celebration for all the jubilarians of 2016; my Community and my family, all of which were very meaningful and greatly appreciated. The EAP celebration included me with an invitation from my only remaining companion from the Tarrytown Novitiate group of 1964. It was good to visit Tarrytown again after almost fifty years.

I wish you all every blessing and renew my appreciation of your good wishes and remembrance in prayer. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Margôt

I want to thank everyone for their good wishes Mass cards prayers and gifts for my diamond jubilee. I had a beautiful celebration on the 20th August in Belfast. Some RSHMs and some of my family were able to come to celebrate with me. We even had two from as far away as Melbourne Australia. Mary arranged with Therese Hamilton the head teacher in Rathmore to have my Jubilee Mass in Rathmore chapel which was a lovely setting for the celebration and all those present were happy to be in such a beautiful setting .It was a happy and joyful occasion for us all. We had the rest of the celebration in my Nephew Philip's house where he and his wife Ursula entertained us all very graciously. We had a very enjoyable time despite the wet weather. Thank you all once again for your kindness. God bless you all

Paula Murray

Bereavements

Our sympathies are extended to:

Sr Dorothy Ward on the death of her brother Gerard who died 16 July. Gerard was 79 years old.

Sr Moira Lever on the death of her brother Ian 28 July. Ian was 61 years old.

Sr Katherine Quilligan on the death of her brother John 1 July. John was 90 years old.

The Sisters of the WAP on the death of Sr Marguerite McLoughlin RSHM 7 August at Regina Residence in Orange, California.

The Madonna House community on the death of Sr Catherine Philbin RSHM 9 August. Catherine was 91 years old and 67 years professed.

Sr Agnes Hunt on the death of her sister Mona Hunt-Valli 29 August.

May they all rest in peace.



Extract from a tribute to Sr Catherine Philbin RSHM by Ellen O'Leary



I would like to share an incident that happened when I lived with Catherine in Drumcondra, that is **an example of her deep faith and belief in the power of prayer.....**

It is about her brother John whom she cared deeply for and loved visiting in Claremorris.... John too was most appreciative of those visits but would sometimes get upset if Catherine had not been down for a while and start ringing her late at night or early in the morning (this was before the days of mobile phones.....) Catherine was always telling John not to be ringing late, disturbing the other sisters ... John would be good for awhile and then forget so she decided to write him a letter, saying among other things she would never visit him again or ring him if he continued the late night calls

She posted the letter and then was very sorry so she asked us to pray that John would not be upset and she herself was going off to the oratory to make a Holy Hour that everything would be ok We tried to say to her that she should have talked to us and prayed before she wrote the letter and not now! She knew that but said she would make the Holy Hour anyway.....

A few days later she had a call from John and she was almost afraid to talk to him. He was upset but not about the contents of the letter but about what happened when the postman delivered it.

He was sitting by the cooker with the door of the stove opened and when he answered the door to the postman he came back in and left the outside door open. He sat down to read the letter and a gust of wind came through the door and swept the letter out of his hand into the open door of the stove, before he had even opened it.

Surely a first class miracle and a testimony to Catherine's belief in the power of prayer!

- so now Catherine that you are perhaps in a more influential place - we will be expecting even greater miracles.....

I would like to thank very sincerely many sisters in the province for your support, prayers and masses for my brother John who died in August. My family also wish to express their thanks to the many sisters who attended the funeral. We appreciated the distance many had to travel. You are all so very good and much gratitude to all of you. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Katherine Quilligan

The following appeared in the parish newsletter in St Bernadette's Church, Hillingdon on Sunday 4 September as attribute to Mona Hunt-Valli, written by Fr Matthew Heslin PP



"It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of Mona this week. Mona was our sacristan and an invaluable support to our parish team. She was a lady who was always willing to help anyone in anyway. Last year she received the WDM from Cardinal Nichols for all her volunteering work. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends at this time. ... May she rest in peace.



On behalf of the family, I wish to express our gratitude for the outpouring of sympathy on Mona's death: Mass Cards and sympathy cards, e mails, phone calls, letters, donations to good causes and prayers. My family members were deeply impressed at the RSHM Guard of Honour at the entrance to the church in Hillingdon for attendance at a lovely dignified liturgy. I have made a donation to the Simon (Homeless) Community by way of expressing my thanks.

Agnes

saint
francis
hospice



The hospice where I am a chaplain is called Saint Francis Hospice. A few months ago we had a three day visit from the CQC (Care Quality Commission) which is, for the health sector, what OFSTED is for schools. During their visit they spoke to patients, families who were visiting patients, doctors, nurses, volunteers and other staff, as well as the 'powers that be'.

It was a few months later when we received their report and we were given 'Outstanding in all areas' which was a great result. I really enjoy my ministry at the hospice although it can be really sad and draining at times. Just recently a young man I have known for several years died at the age of 27. That was a very sad occasion and by no means unique.

Rosemary Lenehan RSHM



"This is an outstanding example of how a hospice should be run."

Dorothy, Breda and Kathleen (Manor Park) thank you for your cards and good wishes, when we moved to our new house in Holcombe Road in August. We are delighted to be here at last, and we are much nearer to our parish than we were in our rented house, which is a great bonus.

Thank you so much for your prayers for my grandniece Laoise when she was ill recently. Your prayers were a great support to her parents, Elaine and Brian, and all the family, at such an anxious time for them. Laoise is now home from hospital and doing well TG.

With my love and gratitude,

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY - pilgrimage cum celebration

Celebrate, always keen for an opportunity to do so. The SHM feast was inviting. After much toing and froing about a possible programme, a pilgrimage to St Cooley's wells was the selected option. Eucharist was celebrated at St Anne's Church followed by a delightful morning coffee with Dunmurry Community. On the journey to Strangford we stopped at the Cuan near the ferry for Portaferry. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a lovely lunch. The proprietor and his wife had some connections with the SHMs as his sister taught in Holywood many years ago. Onward to the ferry at Strangford Lough we reached Portaferry and then across the Ards Peninsula to St Cooley's wells.



The distance between the car park and the wells was challenging for some folks but, with the aid of sticks, rollator and a helping arm all managed to complete the pilgrimage. What a beautiful setting, silent serenity, blackbirds chorusing in the woodlands and seabirds in the Lough waters. The drinking well was deep and no bucket! Nothing daunted, with some nimble sisters to the fore all managed to partake of the refreshing, healing waters. It was good to be here.



Prayers of praise and petition went up to St Cooley and the monks who hallowed this spot more than a thousand years ago. Their cure is still there.

Slow motion, uphill, back to the cars. After an interesting and happy day we said farewell and thanked each other for a day of adventure on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Mary 2016.



Maybe- Poem about Dementia

Poem submitted by Barbara Bailey

When I wander
don't tell me to come and sit down.
Wander with me.
It may be because I am hungry,
thirsty, need the toilet.
Or maybe I just need to stretch my
legs.

When I call for my mother
(even though I'm ninety!)
don't tell me she has died.
Reassure me, cuddle me, ask me about
her.
It may be that I am looking for the
security
that my mother once gave me.

When I shout out
please don't ask me to be quiet...or
walk by.
I am trying to tell you something,
but have difficulty in telling you what.
Be patient. Try to find out.
I may be in pain.

When I become agitated or appear
angry,
please don't reach for the drugs first.
I am trying to tell you something.
It may be too hot, too bright, too
noisy.
Or maybe it's because I miss my loved
ones.
Try to find out first.

When I don't eat my dinner or drink
my tea
it may be because I've forgotten how
to.
Show me what to do, remind me.
It may be that I just need to hold my
knife and fork
I may know what to do then.

When I push you away
while you're trying to help me wash or
get dressed,
maybe it's because I have forgotten
what you have said.
Keep telling me what you are doing
over and over and over.
Maybe others will think
you're the one that needs the help!

With all my thoughts and maybes,
perhaps it will be you
who reaches my thoughts,
understands my fears,
and will make me feel safe.

Maybe it will be you
who I need to thank.

If only I knew how.

(Anonymous poem)