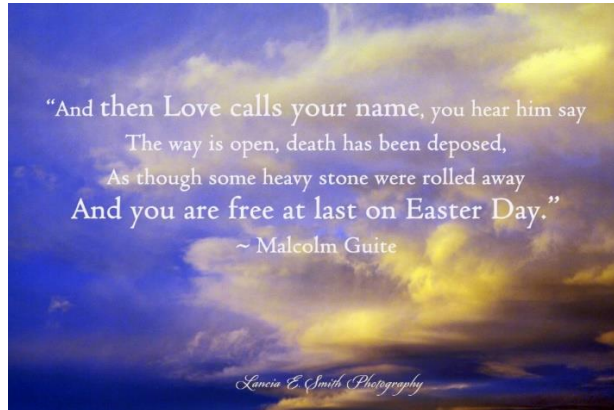


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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations

to Sister Margaret Mary who celebrated her
90TH BIRTHDAY!

The Grianán Community joined the Madonna House community to
celebrate Sister Margaret Mary's very special day.



Congratulations



to Sister Patricia Kavanagh who celebrated her **80TH BIRTHDAY!**

Patricia celebrated her birthday with the presence of the Dublin
communities, and by all accounts a good time was had by all!

Congratulations

to Sister Patricia Butler who also
celebrated her **80th BIRTHDAY!**

Patsy's birthday was a very happy occasion celebrated with
the Castle Oaks community



We wish Sister Nuala Mullns much health and happiness
when she celebrates her Platinum jubilee on June 01.
Have a wonderful day, Nuala.



Congratulations to Sister Christine Marie Bousquet
who will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee on June 02 .
Wishing Christine a memorable and happy day.



SALE OF THE HOUSE IN LA DEVÈZE

**Warm Congratulations to Therese Marie and
Christiane!**

The sale of our house in La Devèze was completed on 20 March when Thérèse Marie signed the final agreement on our behalf. It was a poignant moment for our sisters in Beziers, especially for Marie Jean, Marie Paule and Lucienne for whom the house held so many memories. For Thérèse Marie and Christiane it was a moment of great relief as both had been working tirelessly on the sale since last September, Thérèse Marie dealing with the numerous administrative and legal matters and Christiane taking on responsibility for clearing the house in time for the new owners to move in. They, along with the other sisters in Béziers, are very happy to know that it is now the home of a young family, whose father, a DIY enthusiast, has already begun to knock down interior walls and reconfigure the house to suit their needs. May they spend many happy years there!



Thérèse Marie and Christiane

MISEAN CARA PROJECTS IN ZIMBABWE

I visited the Misan Cara funded projects in Mutare, Zimbabwe at the beginning of the month.

The projects are coordinated by Sister Eveline Murray who is very fortunate to have a skilled and responsible staff to execute the projects. At present the Mutare Diocese has four projects funded by Misan cara:



APICULTURE AS A BUSINESS: The people engaged in the project are HIV positive. They have been trained by the project manager on how to make the bee hives and on the colonization of the bees. They now have over 200 bee hives and in 2017 produced 120 kilos of honey half of which was ready for human consumption as pure honey and the other half was used to make body lotion, honey wine and honey beer. The profits are divided among the beneficiaries after all the running costs are paid. The project took part in a national agricultural show and got first prize for its products. This has motivated them to become seriously engaged in product marketing.

SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOL: The school has received funds to build two much needed classrooms. Like all the projects it is a long journey from Mutare to St. Patrick's school with 30 kilometers of dirt road. This makes transport of essential materials difficult and more expensive. There are 450 children in the school and half of them live between five and eight kilometers away so many of them are tired when they arrive in school, especially those who would have had nothing to eat before they set out. Forty-five children receive school fees from the project. Primary schools are fee paying and this is a heavy burden on parents. The people, though extremely poor, are very keen on educating their children.

MUTATRE AND MAKONI CHILDRENS RESPONSE PROJECT

The project caters for children who are victims of HIV and whose parents are HIV positive. They receive their school fees and school materials. They attend local schools in the areas and some of the older ones are given opportunities to develop self-sustain activities such as carpentry, cookery, dress making and business management. Recently they set up a tuck shop in one of the remote areas, while many of them rear chickens and from their profits pay school fees and buy uniforms. Parents can rely on local clinics to obtain the required medical assistance to combat HIV.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT GROUP: This project is at its early stages and provides business management skills for disadvantaged youth. The project manager, with the assistance of other experts in management, trains them in business planning, including simple financial systems, and methodologies while at the same time they embark on small projects such as banana tree planting, carpentry, chicken rearing and one group of youth are starting a band. In due time they will be trained in marketing.



A meeting with the band members

THE BARROW COMMUNITY

The Barrow community had a days' reflection organized by the Extended Family on Foundation day. They reflected on the impact of the sisters work in the schools and parishes in Barrow and memorable highlights of their journey with the people were shared. It was a truly wonderful celebration of our presence in Barrow.

A full account of the day will be published in the next edition of the Extended Family newsletter.

BEREAVEMENTS

Sister Carmel O'Neill and all her family wish to express their gratitude for the support they received from the S.H.M. Sisters during Peggy's (Aidan's) last illness and death.

We sympathize with Sr. Marie- Jean Barthes and her family on the untimely death of her niece, Rita Barthes R.I.P.

We also sympathize with the Lennon family and Flynn families on the death of Pauline (nee Flynn) R.I.P.

Change of date for the Millennium group meeting. Monday May 7th is a bank holiday, so the meeting has been changed to May 8th -11th.

The sunflowers meeting is taking place from 3rd -6th of April. Sister Julia Trejo who is on an experience in Madonna House will attend the meeting. It will be an opportunity to meet more of our sisters. Julia is a great hit in Madonna House and is also being taken care of by our Grianán sisters.

NEW BUILDING IN FERRYBANK

You are invited to suggest a name for the new building. It would be nice to keep the Irish theme. Please send suggestions to Ellen by mid-May.

