

**Exchange/Echange**  
**Northern European Province**  
**Province de l'Europe du Nord**  
**JUNE 2018**

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## CONGRATULATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS!



I would like to thank all who remembered me on my jubilee on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. I was very touched by all the mass cards, greetings cards and gifts that I received. Being remembered by so many meant a lot to me. The Grianán and Castle Oaks communities joined us here in Madonna for lunch and we all had a very pleasant time. I had a wonderful day with plenty of TLC. **Nuala Mullins**



**CHRISTIANE BOUSQUET'S**

**60TH JUBILEE**

Saturday, June 2, 2018, at the Mother House, our RSHM sisters in Beziers, members of Christine's family and the Extended Family and friends celebrated with Christiane on her jubilee.

The Eucharistic celebration, presided by Father Jan, was one of joy and thanksgiving for 60 years of Christiane's Religious Life. The day continued with great moments of conviviality around tables, in the large room decorated by Christiane and Albéric. The meal ended with songs and sharing and jubilee cake.

Thank you to each of Christiane's family, extended family and friends for remembering her in prayer and masses, with cards, gifts and gestures of friendship and affection

. Françoise Wychaert

## YEARS OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL, EALING.



Preparations are under way for the celebration of 50 years of Mount Carmel school on 17<sup>th</sup> July. A mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Diocese of Westminster. The staff, pupils and some of our RSHM sisters will be present including Sister Aline Leonard who was principal of the school for 30 years. Srs. Leila Kennelly and Barbara McAuley also taught in the school. Their contribution to education will no doubt be remembered on the day. We congratulate Aline and hope she has a wonderful time meeting old friends and reminiscing on her time in Mount Carmel.

Ellen O'Leary

## SISTER MARCELLA'S 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



We celebrated 95 years of life and service on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June with Marcella despite her fragility. She was able to enjoy the gathering of her family and community around her. Her very pleasant smile and countenance showed how her life of mission through the province over the years has been blessed with latter years of contentment and peace.



## SISTER MARY'S FAREWELL TO LISBURN



The evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> of May was a true celebration and culmination of 23 years with the people of Lisburn parish for Mary. Mary had decided to leave the parish very quietly, saying Good bye to a few key people. When the date was decided, and the Father McCaughan became aware she was leaving he with the parish council, in a matter of a few days decided that was not going to be the way.

Excitement was quickly mounting with the preparations to pay a fitting expression of appreciation for Mary's time in the parish. Father McCaughan was becoming overwhelmed and no doubt Mary also, as her energy was not the best those days. We always knew that leaving would be very difficult for her, but all was brought to a beautiful conclusion. Mary did her final visits to her house-bound friends, the school and many came to regale her in the house. Time was made for all.

The final Mass was a true parish celebration and the parish did themselves proud. The parish choir were there in strength; the school choir sang and played finishing with a very touching mime which Mary had taught them earlier.

Special appreciation was expressed for the initiatives Mary had started in the parish and her sharing with many groups especially the scripture group. The evening was a beautiful outpouring not so much of what Mary had done for the parish but rather what she with the parishioners had shared to develop the parish community, thereby enriching each other's lives.

Father spoke of Mary going to her 'twilight years' and presented her with a lovely candle from the parish, symbol of her continued unity with them. His final words to all were very touching saying that as Mary had accepted and then let go her 'burden' to carry it all the easier so too our worries will be all the lighter if only we can let them go and live out our lives with trust and faith in the Lord.

Mary was delighted to be able to go forward to pay tribute to all for the privilege of spending such enjoyable years in the parish. It was an opportunity to thank people for the great support she enjoys far and wide, especially from Kathleen McCartan, her faithful companion and the Dunmurry community. The evening had a great sense of unity that so many were united in the celebration around the parish on the web cam, the family far and wide, the Congregation even as far as Chivuna with our young Sisters.

Our appreciation goes to you, Mary, as you leave many lonely hearts in Lisburn and we wish you great peace and comfort for the 'twilight years'.

Catherine



## MILLENIUM GROUP ANNUAL MEETING



Fifteen of us gathered in Pen for the Millenium Group Annual meeting from 8th-11th May. We were joined by Sr. Ursula and Sr. Kathleen Buckley. We had been advised to prepare for the meeting by reflecting on the theme for the upcoming Provincial Chapter-Women of Hope, Joy and Compassion- making a Difference.

Our first evening was one of welcome and of course the Noddfa community had everything ready for us, afternoon tea when we arrived and a delicious

evening meal later in the evening. Everyone was ready for an early night and for time to prepare for the first session on Wednesday the 9th May at 10 am.

Bernadette did the introduction to the meeting and Kathleen gave us background information about the theme for the Chapter. We then broke up into three groups to continue with the See, Judge and Act paper which we had received from the provincial team some time ago. The work which we did in these smaller groups helped us and we all felt affirmed after this session. The remainder of our first day was free and everyone "did their own thing!" Socializing was a key element of our time together.

Ascension Thursday in England and Wales has been reinstated as a Holy day of Obligation. We gathered for prayer at 10 am. This was followed by a short business session. Patsy led this as Bernadette had gone to be with her family for her grand nephew's First Holy Communion celebration. We all gathered again at midday in the rose garden to remember Pauline Stott by planting a rose bush in remembrance of her. The rose is called Glad Tidings and is a floribunda variety. Pauline was always part of our group and is sadly missed by her community and all who knew her. In the Afternoon the Parish Priest came to celebrate the Mass for the Feast of the Ascension

We thank the Community for their welcome and for all that they did to make our time in Pen enjoyable. The date for our next meeting is the 7th -10th May 2019. Some may meet again at the Provincial Chapter. **Paula Murray**

## THE SUNFLOWERS MEETING

The Sunflowers had their gathering in Noddfa during Easter week. There were 21 of us altogether, 11 from Ireland and 10 from England and Wales. Catherine Gough led us in a reflection on Health - Wellbeing, Wholeness - Balance.

A line from a poem by D H Lawrence encapsulated the reflection:

"Thought is a woman in her wholeness, wholly attending." The charts Catherine provided gave rise to personal sharing followed by discussion. The theme was further illustrated with a picture by Vermeer " Woman holding a balance" which was a superb example of Vermeer's exquisite sense of attentiveness, serenity and peace. The scales in the lady's right hand are at equilibrium, suggestive of her inner state of mind. The woman is pensive, in a quiet moment of contemplation.

Mary Jo McElroy had recently attended the World Social Forum in Salvador and shared her experiences with us. There was a memorial service for a modern martyr Marielle. She was remembered by adding a pink cross to the pink crosses in memory of all the women killed in Brazil. Marielle rallied the poor in the Favella's in Rio and she was an inspiration and a source of great hope for them. She was shot down in cold blood and it is unlikely that anyone will ever be arrested for her murder.

Pam and Joyce attended the Convention on the Status of Women at the United Nations. The theme was Gender Equality and Empowerment of Rural women and girls which is relevant to work being carried out in the Zambezi Region.

Kathleen Buckley recapped for us our preparation for the Provincial Chapter so far and she moved on to the process prepared by the Provincial Council when we gave feed back to their questions in small groups.

Barbara Bailey offered to lead anyone who wished to follow the Cosmic Walk and we were joined by the rest of the group at the rose garden

where a rose tree was planted in memory of Judith Penkert RIP. There was an opportunity for sharing memories of Judith and readings from the poet John Donoghue whom Judith liked. Mass was offered for Judith later that evening.

We all enjoyed the few days in Noddfa where we were treated royally as usual. It is always good to meet up and our next get together is not too far off - the Provincial Chapter in October.

Eleanor Dalton



## LEAVEN FOR MISSION

Thirty-two sisters from the provinces and regions of the institute participated in the second module. At the opening session we were invited by Sister Rosamond Blanchet to an attitude of deep listening, to remain in the word of God and to surrender ourselves to the loving will of God in our present reality. She challenged us to let ourselves be guided by the Beatitudes, the true lifestyle of Jesus and, consequently, for us the program of life that gives deep meaning and joy in our existence. Sr. Marian Murcia Pineiro and Frances Heery, facilitated the program and focused on the present and future of our mission with emphasis on "Leadership", which served as a foundation and as a launching pad for personal reflection and sharing in groups, using an experiential methodology and we were encouraged to deepen the reality of our interdependence and co-responsibility; to abandon the criterion "always thought / did so" and to consider alternative ways of thinking, feeling and acting personally and as a body; to become aware of the clarity and prophetic force of our charism and to move towards a more realistic and renewed vision of ourselves as an Institute.



Sr. Mary Jo Martin gave input on "Theology of Leadership" which, in short, placed Jesus before us as a model of leadership for our communities and ministries.

Through the whole process, we felt accompanied, inspired and confirmed by God, while receiving from many sisters of the Institute a strong support through prayer and words of encouragement. We lived a rich and intense time of meeting and sharing with each other, of deepening our life and mission, of inclusion and unity in our diversity.

At the end of the meeting, the feeling was of gratitude! Gratitude to God, to the General Council, to the team who organized the meeting, to the Sisters who in various ways collaborated in this training initiative. I ask the intercession of our founders - Jean Gailhac and M. Saint Jean - that the blessings received may bear fruit in the paths of ABUNDANT LIFE in the Institute, in the Church and in the world!

*Left to right in the photo: Cláudia, Portuguese Province; Ana Luísa, Portuguese Province; Christina, Brazilian Province.*

### **Ana Luísa Pinto**

Between our last meeting in April 2017 and this one, we met in small groups of three to reflect on the content of last year and to share with each other. This tightened bonds and kept us connected to the process and to each other. Being able to speak frankly with each other about the things that matter most to us was "pure gift".

One of the highlights for me was a visit to Marymount International School. Some of us went there and others to Instituto Marymount. On arrival we were greeted by the children's orchestra and a guard honor of the younger children. We had lunch with some faculty and students. They had prepared a program for us, telling us how they live the charism entrusted to them. Gailhac must be beaming! The RSHM Charism is alive and well! Our legacy is in good hands.

The children participate in leadership in the school. They are working together to create a place of welcome for each other, where no one is left out and everyone has a place.

The student council in each grade level was working to care for the poor, with coat drives and other activities. The high school students are working to improve life in Zambia, and some have had the

opportunity to visit there. They spoke about their desire to contribute to building a better world. Their care and empathy were so genuine. We were all overcome by their stories.

We articulated that we want leaders who are compassionate and challenging, who call us to speak and who listen, and who encourage us to go beyond our own comfort to reach out to others. We want leaders who are moving us to meet the needs of our times, and whose hearts and eyes are turned toward God.

What grew in me this week, was a sense of belonging to something beyond the boundaries of my province. I felt a sense of pride in my sisters, (and a deeper connection to them.) who live in such a way as to know God and make God known, to love God and to make God loved, so that all might have life. And we are on this most sacred journey, together.

With much gratitude to the General Council, the Planning Committee, our translators and our presenters!

May God be praised! **Betty Kolb, Eastern American province.**



*Photo: Arsenia, Mexico: Betty, Eastern American Province and Julia.*

The Leaven for Mission experience was a gift of God for me. The following of Jesus Christ requires of us, more and more, a knowledge of Him to better serve and love.

The year we had in preparation since the first module, was an opportunity for us to look at our Leadership in this common project of the Institute of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

In times of uncertainty, we are called to a leadership that builds bridges and not walls, which generates life and not death, participatory, co-responsible, people who invest in the development of their gifts, greater prayer and discernment. We feel impelled to go out of ourselves, to "an outgoing Church". **Lucilene, Brazilian Province**



*Photo: left to right: Coltrida, Zambia: Lucilene, Brazil: Jacinta, Mozambique: Isabel, Mozambique: Iranete, Mozambique: Alzira, Mozambique and Delva, Brazil.*



## APPRECIATION

I would like to thank the sisters and staff in Madonna House, the Grianán and Castle Oaks communities for such a wonderful experience. The attention, gestures of friendship, help and learning made my time a very rich experience. I assure you it is one that will stay with me for a long time. That God may grant you many blessings. I hold you all in my heart. **Julia**

## **BEREAVEMENTS**

**Bernadette Crook**, Eastern American Province, on the 5<sup>th</sup> May in Belo Horizonte, aged 85 and in the 67<sup>th</sup> year of her religious profession. Our sincere sympathizes to the EAP.

**Peter O'Brien** who died on the 31<sup>st</sup> May. Peter was a brother in law of Pam's. We remember the Penkert and O'Brien families during this difficult time.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Rosemary: 8 Bonneville Court, Deyncourt Gardens,  
Upminster, Essex, RM14 1DE

## **MEETINGS:**

11-22 June: EGC in Sag Harbour: Ursula is attending

14 June: Irish Charity Conference in Emmaus: Ellen will attend

22-26 July: Provincial Co Meeting in Dublin

## **COVENANT**

The father knocks at my door seeking a home  
for his son.

Rent is cheap, I say.

I don't want to rent, I want to buy, says God.

I'm not sure I want to sell,

But you might come in to look round. I think I  
will, says God.

I might let you have a room or two.

I like it says God, I'll take the two.

You might decide to give me more someday.

I can wait, says God.

I'd like to give you more,

But it's a bit difficult. I need some space for  
me.

I know, says God, but I'll wait. I like what I see.

Mnnn.....Maybe I can let you have another  
room.

I really don't need that much.

Reflection sent by Patsy Butler.

Thanks, says God, I'll take it. I like what I see.  
I'd like to give you the whole house, but I'm  
not sure....

Think on it, says God. I wouldn't put you out.  
Your house would be mine and my son would  
live in it.

You'd have more space than you ever had  
before.

I don't understand that at all.

I know, says God, but I can't tell you about  
that.

You'll have to discover it for yourself.

This can only happen if you let me have the  
whole house.

Bit risky, I say. Yes, says God, but try me.

I'm not sure.....I'll let you know.

I can wait, says God. I like what I see

***I would like any articles that you may have for the next Exchange by the 22<sup>nd</sup> August.***

***With thanks,***

***Kate***