

EXCHANGE/ECHANGE NORTHERN EUROPEAN PROVINCE PROVINCE DE L'EUROPE DU NORD

FEBRUARY 2019

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FOUNDATION DAY

On February 24th the Madonna House community, Grianán Community, Naomh Bríd community and Mary Gough came together to celebrate 170 years of Foundation day. The day was made very special because of the beautiful cake Breda O'Neil of the Madonna House staff made with "miniature nuns" and a flag for each country we mission/missioned in.

NAOMH BRÍD

As you see from the pictures our new Development in Ferrybank is now completed – 9 months from the start date – a record achievement thanks to the efficiency of the Builders and the clemency of the weather! The new community is in the process of moving in. Céad míle Fáilte to each one as they get settled and no doubt they will share their own reflections at a later date.

The official opening and blessing of the building will be on the 19th March and the Bishop of Ossory, Dr Dermot Farrell together with the local clergy and sisters will celebrate Mass and install the Blessed Sacrament in Naomh Bríd followed by a celebratory meal with everyone. Our hope is that each one will find happiness and contentment in their new home.

A special word of thanks to Madonna House Community & Staff and to the Grianán Community who have

endured upset and inconvenience over the past 9 months and not a word of complaint. Great credit is due to the Architects, Builders, Engineers, Electricians and all involved for their hard work and dedication throughout the construction period and



for their sensitivity to the impact the work was having on the local community which was much appreciated by the sisters. We congratulate them on their wonderful achievement.

Address for Naomh Bríd to add to your Directory:

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary,
Naomh Bríd,
Ferrybank,
Waterford

X91 Y3KV **Ellen**





TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON- - - -

- - - - AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE

This picture was presented to the house by St Joseph’s Primary School last week in Lisburn Civic Centre. It was worked by Therese Gorman McMullan. Mary’s photograph taken at the final Mass in May is on the lower left corner-coming out from this are rays on which are written quotes from Ecclesiastes 3 (1-8). Overhead against the blue sky are doves symbolic of peace. A smaller more colorful picture with Mary in the Centre and with interactive doors was presented to the school.

Kathleen McCartan

COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO THE CHAPTER MANDATE

Women of Hope, Joy, Compassion

Making a difference

Dorothy, Breda, Rosemary and I held a meeting on the Provincial Chapter mandate on January 20th, 2019.

“For our reflection we used Pope Francis THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL, focusing on the Introductory section: A joy ever new, a joy which is shared.

Following a period of personal reflection, we shared our thoughts, and how we can integrate this joy into our daily lives through our renewed personal encounter with Christ.

“With Christ Joy is constantly born anew”

As women of Hope, Joy and Compassion we reach out and share with others.

Following our reflection, we discussed the way forward with our commitments.

We scheduled our next meeting for March when we will reflect on a section from GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE”.

Kathleen Manor Park Community

“Our discussion was around number 2 of the provincial chapter statement, i.e. the plight of the poor, homeless, refugees and asylum seekers. We were encouraged by the input of the members of the group, to think creatively and decide in what way we can contribute to the alleviation of the problems these groups of people have when they hear of the influx of migrants from other parts of the world. The response of many is very negative. The media does not always encourage us to have an attitude of welcome to the stranger. In fact, there is often a resistance to any new-comers. We hope and pray that we will have an attitude of welcome to those in need. Members of the group suggested practical ways of helping those in need. There are many projects in the Liverpool area already which are caring for the needy. We hope to reconnect with Saint James’s, Bootle, where the first RSHM’s worked, and direct some of our help there. The suggestion is to work in cooperation with the parish school. This is in addition to all the work that Kathleen and Eleanor are already doing in their parish ministries. We are exploring what we can do locally”. As someone suggested, “small things can be big for those who receive them”. **REFLECTION GROUP: SEAFIELD, ARROWSMITY, FAZAKERLEY AND PENMAENMAWR**

“We reflected on the Provincial Chapter mandate pointing to the General Chapter, focused on the term, ‘threshold’, defined as a point at which a stimulus begins to bring a response, or to quote the Christmas letter, ‘threshold’ as ‘a defining moment’. Integrating these terms into the Provincial Chapter statement the stimulus we will seek will be studying the Call to Holiness, Pope Francis. Hopefully enriched/gifted with a sense of generosity and compassion to continue our mission as spelled out in Nos 2,3, and 4, continuing our networking, pastoral support and sharing. We are conscious of our need of prayer to respond with joy, and with hope to rise above the demands which current changes and inconveniences may make on us and move forward with hope”.

Agnes and Catherine Tallaght

On February 2nd the sisters in Béziere, Marie Jean, Marie Paule, Christiane, Bernadette, Lucienne, Thérèse-Marie and Françoise, met to discuss and share on the implementation of the provincial chapter mandate.

We have had the opportunity to quote and work on passages of letters and encyclicals of Pope Francis in meetings such as interpersonal relations, patient support, extended family, sharing groups and especially paragraphs concerning justice, peace, the call to holiness and joy.

We try to be attentive to the option for the poor, the care of the earth, and justice by participating in actions by internet or actions organized in the city. For example: by informing and supporting the International Association "Zonta" by mobilizing people to say "NO" to violence against women with very strong testimonials, financial support and actions in different villages.



The Jean Gailhac House (Children's House) invited us to participate in a day that brought together associations of child protection of the Hérault: exhibition of children's works, a conference motioned on "Zatypies" with the participation of different people: the gifted, the

autistic, the hyperactive etc. and the sharing of a meal prepared by young people.

We are in contact with immigrant women through the association "Point d'Appui" which offers French language training. We welcome the Good Shepherd Gladys, from Venezuela, and support Arjana, a young woman who came from Albania in 2016 with her eleven-year-old daughter Argita.



We try to be attentive to invite new people to the Extended Family and, thus, to energize the group and rejuvenate it!

We recognize that we need to move forward in mutual accountability in order to improve the quality of our lives and become more free and joyful and look to the future with confidence!

We had our first Community meeting re Chapter commitments recently. We choose Pope Francis Laudato Si to guide our reflections. In this meeting we focused on "Finding God in a Leaf" from Brian Grogan's, S.J., commentary on the Pope's letter. Brian uses a mystical approach which we agreed calls us to a "Transformation of the Heart" in our efforts to grow towards a deeper understanding leading to action in caring for the earth "Our Common Home". We began by praying the prayer of St. Francis, "Brother Sun and Sister Moon", from where comes the words "Laudato Si". This led us into a sharing that was open, honest and inspiring. We plan to continue this journey of allowing "Laudato Si" to reveal its life-giving treasures to us.

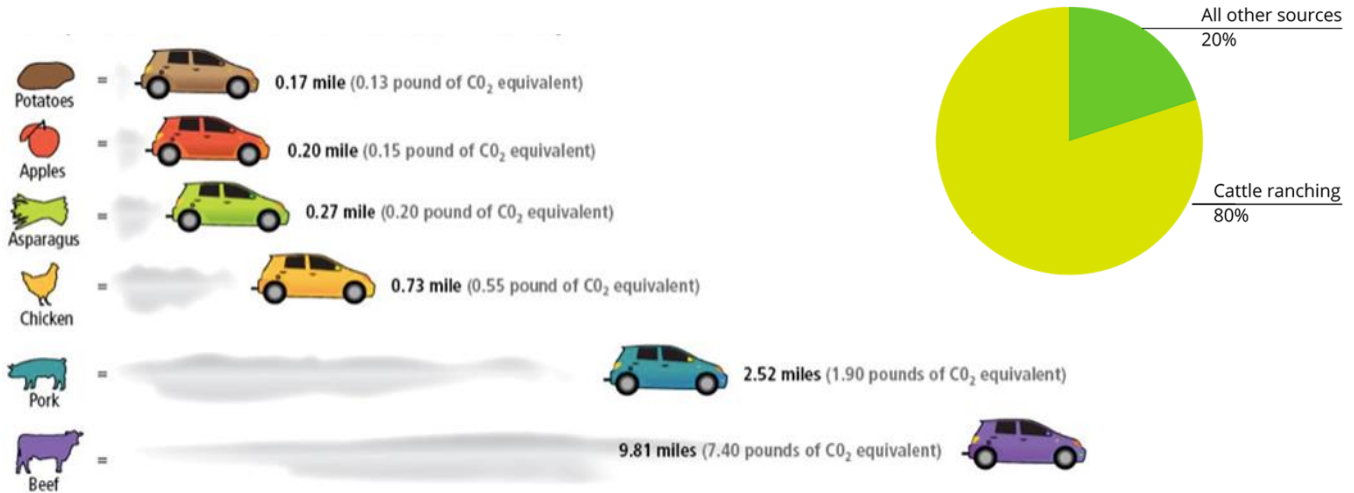
Community Reflection 70, Drumcondra

"We have met three times so far. We decided to begin with Commitments 1 and 3. For 1 we started with reflective study and sharing on "Gaudete et Exsultate" which we hope to complete at our next meeting on Foundation Day. We have agreed on some ongoing practical steps in relation to 3." **Dunmurry and Lisburn**

FOOD BANK

Over the last few months I have been visiting a Food Bank in East Ham where 50 families get food each week. On my first visit there I discovered that some of our parishioners were going there regularly for food. During Advent I got our young people involved in getting the people of our parish to add one item to their shopping list each week and support this project. People gave generously and it was good to know that there was enough to help families over the holidays. One of our young people has now asked to come and visit with me.

Breda



SOURCES OF DEFORESTATION IN BRAZIL

Many of us enjoy meat, and we're grateful for the farmers who make our meals possible. Focusing our diets on plant-based meals and enjoying meat as an occasional treat is a sustainable way of living in our common home. Many are surprised to discover that cattle farming is a leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon. This land is often taken illegally from indigenous people. Meat production is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, the average serving of meat represents many times the greenhouse gas emissions of the average serving of fruits, vegetables, and grains.

Approximate emissions per .5-pound of meat.

While you prayerfully consider your Lenten observance, you may also want to start planning for Earth Day event for Monday 22nd April. **Pam Penkert**



YOU CAN BE PART OF
SOMETHING TRULY EPIC

The Society of African Missions (SMA) in partnership with the Irish Tree Council is offering you a unique opportunity to join the fight to combat the impact of Global Warming and Climate Breakdown. **It is called The Laudato Tree and Great Green Wall Project.** The SMA, through its Laudato Tree Project, have developed a unique project that aims to grow trees in Ireland and to support Africa in delivering the Great Green Wall by 2030. The Great Green Wall will be a Forest of trees planted against climate change running across the Sahel region. It will be an 8000 km new world wonder, crossing the entire width of Africa and 15 kms in width running until 2030. It will transform lives and the environment, extending from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east. Donations of all sizes, large or small are welcome. Each €60 donated will cover the cost of planting one tree in woodland in Ireland and 5 trees on Africa's Great Green Wall. Any donation will also help to create green jobs, increase food security and train Great Green Wall guardian communities. The trees planted will also begin to extract up to 240 tons of carbon from the atmosphere during the next 50 years and so help in combating the impact of Global Warming. This means that everyone can get involved and make a difference in Ireland and along Africa's Great Green Wall. The Laudato Tree and the Great Green Wall Project was inaugurated by the President of Ireland, H.E. Michael D. Higgins, in March 2018 for the SMA (Society of African Missions), and in the presence of the UNCCD and the Tree Council of Ireland. It was launched by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Denis Naughten TD, on 8 August 2018, in Roscommon Town Park, Ireland. **Catherine Dunne**



BEREAVEMENTS

Philippa's sister Breda who died yesterday 28TH of January. May she rest in peace and may Philippa and the whole family be consoled with the support of our prayers.

We also remember the family of Deirdre and Patricia Kavanagh whose sister- in- law, Joan died on 12th February.

We pray for Sister Marguerite Marie Lyng's brother-in-law, Michael Bolger who died on January 9th.

Also, for the repose of the soul of Marie and Chrissie Clune's sister, Rita Corley, who died on January 29th.

And Christiane Marie Bousquet's brother-in law, Gilbert Ducasse who died on 17th February.

And Marie - Paule Petit's sister -in-law, Renée.

A message from Marie Paule:

I thank all my sisters in the NEP for your prayers for my sister-in-law, Renée Lefebvre who died at home from cancer which she has had for four years. She was buried the day after Christmas. I was in time to see her alive on my arrival in the North. I stayed for some time with my brother André and his youngest son who is not married. The other three sons who are married don't live far away and help as much as they can. Renee's funeral was celebrated in a spirit of hope and prayer, with many people coming to show their appreciation of the family. I thank each one of you.

With my love, Marie Paule Petit.

We remember in our prayers Sister Maria Adelaide da Silva Almeida who died in Fatima on 17th of February aged 88 and in the 57th year of her religious profession.

May they all enjoy the fullness of eternal life.