

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

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JUBILATE DEO!



On the 5th of June Madonna House Community celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of four members – Sisters Katherine Quilligan, Marcella Power, Margaret Mary Morris, Catherine Stapleton. As Father O'Shea mentioned in his homily, the sisters between them had clocked up 280 years of dedicated service in different areas of the Province and in different communities. Sister Marcella served for several years in Rome working with refugees and spent a short period in Zambia on a helping out basis. Now it was time to celebrate, reflect and reminisce on how God



had worked through the years with the cooperation of each one and how each in turn gave momentum to giving life to others.

The day began with a very beautiful and simple liturgy in Madonna Chapel. Sisters from Grianán, Naomh Bríd, Castleoaks and some family members gathered for the very special occasion. Unfortunately, Sister Marcella was not able to be present at the Liturgy, but Father Kieran went to her room to give communion and bless her before giving the final of the Mass blessing to all.



A festive meal followed in the Dining Room. The staff had prepared everything, and the décor and flower arrangements reflected jubilation all around.

In the afternoon Sister Catherine Stapleton's two youngest grand nieces, Mairead aged 11 and Hannah aged 9, gave a lively music and song recital. It was a bringing together in harmony and delight old and young and gave hope for the 'now' and the future.

On sharing later in conversation Sister Catherine Stapleton expressed appreciation and gratitude for all she had experienced in the preparation for the occasion. As she said: "it can only happen once in a lifetime and I know God wanted me to enjoy it". Her little grandnieces had somehow epitomized the joy she experienced through sharing their talents with all.



Sister Margaret Mary's sister Immaculéé said she "gloried" in the celebration and recalled going home for her first Christmas after Kate (Margaret Mary) had entered the Novitiate. She dreaded meeting her father without Kate. He said nothing the evening she arrived but next day asked: "how did you leave her?" Immaculéé assured him that she left Kate in good form. The dad said, "that is good". A few days later when family members visited, Kate seemingly sat cosily at the fire in the

parlour and this confirmed that somehow, she was “at home”. So began the saga of a very full and active journey to the Platinum Jubilee.

For all of us present we were grateful to be part of a jubilee celebration that brought to life something of the history of four dynamic women each of whom in their respective ways had given their all to the “Fiat” they had engaged in over 70 years of dedicated Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters. They had in the words of Saint John’s Gospel 15:16 brought forth fruit that will remain. *Sister Virginia*

Congratulations

to Sister Immaculéé
who celebrated her 90th Birthday
on the 4th of July



GRIANÁN’S GRAND TOUR!

The first stop of the tour was in Rathwood County Carlow. Rathwood Garden World offers gentle walks for all ages from a short leisurely wheelchair accessible path to a long-looped walk which caters for adventurous nature lovers. The Rathwood House has plenty on offer such as boutiques, furniture showroom, a garden centre and much more including a restaurant where we treated ourselves to a delicious lunch. The second stage of our tour was to Altamont Gardens which is close to Rathwood. Altamont Gardens are an enchanting blend of formal and informal gardens with riverside walks covering over 40 acres. The tour ended with a drive to the picturesque Mount Leinster where we could get a panoramic view of five counties.





WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO MARGARET AND HER TEAM!

As a province we rejoice in Margaret's election as incoming Superior General. We admire her courage in accepting the role at this time of change in our Institute but know that she is well equipped to face the challenges it will bring. Her service to the Institute as our own Provincial, as General Councillor and Secretary and as Novice Directress in Dublin and Belo Horizonte, as well as her ministries in teaching, guiding retreats, spiritual accompaniment and volunteering at a hospice, will stand her in good stead.



Paré (Brazil), Sipiwe (Zambezi), Ana Luísa (Portugal), Margaret (NEP)

We know that Margaret will enjoy the friendship and support of her councillors who represent the international, intercultural and intergenerational character of our Institute which she so appreciates. We know that they all were very heartened by the many messages they received from our Sisters and Communities around the Institute and from members of our Extended Family. Let us continue to give them our prayerful support throughout their service on the Institute Leadership Team. *Ursula*



Our sisters from the Dublin communities got together to give Margaret a royal welcome back after the chapter.

Back row: Mary Mullins, Catherine Dunne, Maisie Hayden, Catherine Gough.

Front row: Pam Penkert (Zambia), Margaret, Ursula, Mary Gough (Chapter secretary) and Anne Murphy.

THANK YOU

Dear Sisters,

I hope this finds all well and enjoying the summer season.

The 2019 General Chapter is over and it's good to be home! You've seen the videos and received the communications sent by Joanne and Ellen and have accompanied everything with your prayers. Thank you.

The spirit of the Chapter was wonderful, and the Holy Spirit was clearly with us at each step of the way. The sense of community was very strong from beginning to end and there was great unity, energy, hope and joy among us as we crossed the threshold into the future on the final day.

Thank you for all your messages of support and for your union in prayer for the Institute and especially for the new Leadership Team (Paré, Ana Luisa, Sipiwe and myself). They were much appreciated. We will continue to count on you when we begin our mandate in November.

Love,

Margaret

A Photo of Roz and Margaret
with two former General Superiors:
Maria de Lourdes and Terezinha.



LEAVING TALLAGHT



The person left “to turn off the lights” or to pass on the keys is hardly the best-informed person to reflect on the history of our sisters in Tallaght in the early days. In 1974 the first four Sisters moved to Tallaght to take up ministries there. Monsignor O’Regan of Sandymount on hearing of the move said, “If you are seen to offer a service to the people, they will be happy, otherwise they will see you as taking their houses”.

At the same time other congregations of sisters took up residence in Tallaght, as

well as the Marist Brothers. There was an element of excitement and challenge branching out to new ministries particularly in a disadvantaged area.

We saw Cor Maria, as it was then known, as an ideal location for the formation of young novices. Also, the house was a base for the Siol Retreat; oversees religious students; spiritual direction and in later years for the assembly of Easter Chicks by local women. Thousands of euro were made from this venture for the children's hospital and the elderly.

Cor Maria was also a hub for ministries based further afield. Sisters travelled to schools e.g. Roslyn Park, Georges Hill and Killinarden and to the NALA Centre for adult education. Travelers were visited in a friendly supportive way and were regarded as friends to the sisters. This was also the case for refugees who came in droves around the year two thousand and who lived locally. Action to Prevent Trafficking was very much a ministry needing active participation by night visits and recently by collaboration at educational and political levels. The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas in Maynooth provided a centre for ongoing contact with prisoners abroad and their families at home. Two sisters worked in Saint Aengus Parish where they undertook pastoral activities at all levels. Involvement in the Dominican Distance Learning theology program either as student or coordinator enriched our spiritual lives.

Our journey in Cor Maria, Tallaght was one of growth, friendship, sharing and pastoral development. While we are aware of the great contribution of the laity in Pastoral ministry, it was with a profound sadness that because of current trends in Religious Life that we had to respond to the signs of the times. However, the occupation of the two houses by two refugee families have made the transition easier. *Sister Catherine Dunne*

RESOURCES FOR SEASON OF CREATION 2019



[You can find resources for Season of Creation 2019 on the ECI website here.](#) These resources were prepared by the Laudato Si' Working Group. Catherine Brennan SSL from the ECI committee is a member of this group. Further resources are available from the [Season of Creation website.](#) [Eco-Congregation Scotland has also produced some resources](#) linked to the revised Common Lectionary. Each resource is written by a different writer within their own context.

ECO CHALLENGE!

Everyone needs a holiday– including the Earth! Do you consider your carbon footprint when planning a holiday?

Rev Trevor Sargent's Ecological Notes for July 2019 encourage us to consider the Earth when deciding on how we travel this summer. Trevor is one of the Church of Ireland representatives on the ECI committee and ministers in the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. [You can read his Ecological Notes in full on the ECI website.](#)

DROMANTINE GOES WILD!

In response to recent concerns being expressed about the global threat to biodiversity the Dromantine SMA Community decided to allow a sizeable area of the grounds to 'go wild'. They felt it is no longer justifiable for their religious houses to maintain beautifully trimmed lawns and hedges thereby depriving bees and other insect life of a home and means of sustenance. With effect from spring 2019 the ride on lawnmowers are restricted from entering these areas delineated for pollinators and other wildlife. The SMA Community will endeavour to follow the guidelines published in the excellent pamphlet [Faith Communities: Actions to Help Pollinators](#) published by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.



BEREAVEMENTS

Sheila Treacy who died on the 4th of July. Sheila was sister -in law to Dominique, Margaret and Joan.

Kathleen O'Donovan's brother **Cathal** who died on the 28th July.

Catherine Philbin's sister **Mary** who died mid-July.

Paddy McDermot, Sister Terezina O'Byrne's nephew who died on the 2nd of August.

James Mullane, nephew of Virginia, who died suddenly on August 12th.

Marie-Paule Petit's sister **Francine Blanchard** who died on the 22nd May.

Sister Maria de Lourdes Ribeiro who died in the Braga community, Brazil on the 14th July, aged 88 and in the 65th year of her religious profession.

Sister Palmeiras dos Santo, who died on 26th June in Ubá, Minas Gerais, Brazil. She was aged 95 and in the 63 years of religious profession.

Sister Maria Glória da Silva who died on July 31st in Ubá, Minas Gerais, Brazil. She was aged 86 and in the 66th year of her profession.