

EXCHANGE/ECHANGE
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October 2019

ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FOUNDATION IN FERRYBANK
16TH SEPTEMBER 1879 - 2019
ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY YEARS



There had been much food for thought here for us in Ferrybank as we came up to 16th September. Although many of us had been here for the Centenary, however, this moment seemed to touch more deeply. Time was spent with those chapters from 'A Journey in Time' Kathleen Connell, pertaining to the coming of those nine Founding Sisters to Ferrybank, what great and courageous women. This surely was a

leap in faith especially when we, RSHMs, had been turned down ten years earlier by a former Bishop of Ossory. An angry dispute had arisen in our regard between a Father O'Keeffe, who had invited us to Callan, and the former Bishop, hence the delay. This altercation brought us to where we are today, nothing happens by chance!

However, the Anniversary was marked with a meal, stories and a ritual of remembrance for our Founding Sisters.....

Alphonsus Keane

Gabriel Drumgoole

Stanislaus Myam

Anne Comes

Margaret Mary Kavanagh

Gertrude Corrigan

Presentation Maguire

Marie Ange O' Sullivan

Nativity Healy

Our Sisters who came after them were also remembered dearly as story followed story, spanning many years. Memories stirred as Sisters were named, one triggered another. Recurring themes surfaced of hard times, great faith, zeal and generosity woven with a deep sense of mission and going forth.



There was overall, gratitude and praise for all our Sisters who have brought us to where and how we are in Ferrybank today September 2019.

And all of this was reflected succinctly in our Parish Bulletin which read:

'Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters Ferrybank

We invite you to give thanks with the SHM Sisters (Ferrybank Nuns) for their one hundred and forty years of presence in this parish. The Sisters are very grateful for all the love and support they have been given by the Priests and Parishioners during their years living in Ferrybank. The sisters had a prayerful, simple celebration on Monday last 16th September to praise and thank God. They are grateful for the love and support they receive today and they continue to remember everyone in their prayers' Madeleine

A SIMPLE RECALL FROM GRIANAN CLOSE



Since we formed a community here in 2010, we were keen to offer simple help where God's people badly needed it. We felt called to offer some little aid to the poorest of the poor in foreign lands – so balls of wool and knitting needles became active among us. We knitted blankets for adults and little wraps for children as well as

garments for everyday wear. Our little efforts were appreciated but we began to realize that the cost of transport seemed more than the value of the garments.

Someone had a brainwave: Stay in Ireland! Another brainwave quickly developed.....and here it is: Make cushions for children – sick, very sick children to cheer them – the brains were still working and now the cushions could be delivered to a children's hospital – no transport charge – we could do it ourselves.

How to do it? This gave us food for thought. Then someone suggested we turn to China – a “clever clogs” with these wonderful phones of the 20th and 21st centuries found that we could order cushion covers in keeping with our ideas and don't all children love animals? So we asked for covers with dogs, cats, rabbits, pigs, kittens cows, calves, puppies and one beautiful giraffe with sun glasses! We were very happy, and everything was quite cheap. All we had to do now was provide cushion fillers and pack the cushions.

We were happy with the finished job, so we invited Madonna House and Naomh Brid to help us rejoice! We spread the animals around according to kind. They were happy with that arrangement. However, the pigs were not going to sit with the kittens – no way!

With many willing and helping hands all the chubby cushions were guided into large bags and squeezed into Mary Gough's car. Four of us squeezed out of the car for a lunch break on the way to Dublin and we finally reached Temple Street Hospital to a great welcome.

We did our best – it was really the animals that did it! *Celine*

Congratulations to:

**Sister Patricia McGrath on her Diamond Jubilee
Sister Eleanor Dalton and Sister Mary Jo McElroy on
their Golden Jubilees**

I would like to say a very special 'thank you' to everyone who sent Masses and cards of good wishes for my Diamond Jubilee celebration. It was a very happy occasion for all the three generations of my family who made the journey to Noddfa to join with the staff, friends and my community. A good time was had by all over the weekend. With much gratitude, Patricia



ELEANOR



On 5th October fourteen of us from Seafield and Arrowsmith, with Kathleen from Fazakerley gathered in Arrowsmith to celebrate Eleanor's Golden Jubilee (actual date 18th October).

We started with a prayer/communion service in the chapel. Eleanor shared with us some of the favourite texts and objects that reminded her of her RSHM call and journey, explaining their significance as she went on. They

ranged from the prayer of Newman: *God has created me to do some definite service...*



that Pauline Greene had given her before she entered, to mementos of her days in Scotland, Zambia and Morecambe. There was a warm sense of community and thanksgiving as others shared their reflections on the readings and their memories of Eleanor.

Just a few steps and we were gathered around the table to share a celebratory meal, menu chosen by Eleanor and then of course there was a special cake at teatime!

The next day Eleanor joined us again after a Parish celebration and presentation at St Anne's when parishioners enjoyed a VERY LARGE CAKE made by one of them.

May Eleanor continue to enjoy many blessings during her Golden Year of Celebration!
Barbara

MOTHER BUTLER GUILD IN KIDAPAWAN CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

A few weeks ago, a set of vestments made by the Mother Butler Guild in Kidapawan City in the Philippines was presented to Fr Manulita the chaplain in the City Hospital in Belfast. They were made from pineapple cloth and brought over from the Philippines by the presenter's mother who is a member of this guild. I offered to find some information on



Mother Butler so I would be happy to receive some information if any community has anything in its library. Attached is a photo of the guild who wear a designated uniform and meet regularly to pray and sew etc. Should anyone have any book or booklet I would be delighted to borrow them or any information and I will return booklets or books. Thanks.
Kathleen McCartan

BRUMADINHO BRAZIL

Thank you to all of you who gave generously to the fund for Brumadinho. From our Province, we gathered £1,540 and 500 Euros. This was offered at one of the Masses at the General Chapter and the total from the whole Institute was the equivalent of \$ 5,000 (US). From calculations at the time that meant we gave about half of what was gathered for the people of Brumadinho.

Veronica Brand, in her position as UN NGO representative and as a member of the Mining group at the UN, was able to visit Brumadinho and see some of the devastation and meet a family who were still living nearby. Our Brazilian sisters who are in the new community in Linhares, working with victims of the previous dam burst from the mine near Mariana, were also grateful for donations we were able to give them.

I was recently at a JPIC meeting on mining, in Rome, where there were members of Religious orders from many countries where there are serious problems because of mining. I am sending the statement from that meeting, hoping it can be printed.

Mary Jo

JUSTICE PEACE & INTEGRITY OF CREATION COMMISSION

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STATEMENT FROM THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE JPIC & MINING SEMINAR

September 27, 2019

Casa La Salle, Rome

We, the participants of the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) and Mining Seminar, representing 36 different catholic organizations and religious congregations from about 14 countries were gathered in Rome from 25 to 27 September 2019. As persons committed to JPIC, we came together in response to the ongoing crisis concerning the impact of mining activities on the environment and human rights and the role of church organizations. In the spirit and light of the Synod on the Amazon which is creating new paths for the Church, we are grateful and inspired by the blessings and fruits of creation: the land that gives us food, the rivers and seas that nourish the earth and all that nurtures life itself. We celebrate the interconnectedness and the sacredness of creation while recognizing that the earth's goods are finite and some of them are nonrenewable.

We hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and we are deeply saddened by the reality, as we have witnessed the continuing destruction of our common home. This destruction, as also described by Laudato Si', causes great distress. In turn, it calls for a prophetic response on behalf of the communities and nature affected by the extractive development model.



The current model of extractivism is devastating and destroying our common home. It devours the earth's finite goods, creates cycles of violence and injustice, displaces people from their homes, livelihoods and cultures, and fosters a materialistic and throwaway culture.



As animators and network of justice, peace and integrity of creation, we see and recognize the following key issues related to mining and extractives that need to be addressed:

1. power imbalance affecting the very people who are facing the threats and risks of mining and other extractive projects;

2. impunity, corruption, and other factors that are imposed on the communities, affecting their ability to say no to destructive mining projects and exercise their right to self-determination;
3. the disrespect of human rights, the disregard of human dignity and the continuing acts of violence;
4. the mistreatment of nature as merely things to be used for the satisfaction of humanity.

When God's creation is disrespected, we are distressed and outraged. And so we turn to Pope Francis and are guided by his words in *Laudato Si'*...

it should always be kept in mind that "environmental protection cannot be assured solely based on financial calculations of costs and benefits. The environment is one of those goods that cannot be adequately safeguarded or promoted by market forces". Once more, we need to reject a magical conception of the market, which would suggest that problems can be solved simply by an increase in the profits of companies or individuals...Moreover, biodiversity is considered at most a deposit of economic resources available for exploitation, with no serious thought for the real value of things, their significance for persons and cultures, or the concerns and needs of the poor. [190]

As we discussed and reflected during this JPIC and Mining Seminar, we realize that JPIC has a distinct and unique role to play in ensuring that we effectively and meaningfully implement *Laudato Si'* and carry out our mission of accompanying the people of God and protecting our common home.

We need to respond and act, and thus we are committed to:

1. on-going integral ecological conversion resulting in responsible personal and collective choices that lead us to a lifestyle that honors the creation.
2. be an active Church for the victims, where from our spirituality, we spread the Gospel and Catholic Social Teachings, *Laudato Si'*. With a prophetic role of informing, raising-awareness and mobilizing communities to action, we live in solidarity with the affected peoples. We want the voices of the poor amplified against destructive mining and other forms of extractivism, but we will not replace them to speak for themselves. We will always respect the rights of people to self-determination. We also cherish and acknowledge the diversity of spiritual sources of indigenous communities and are respectful companions of the grassroots communities. Knowing that violence can be brought against us and the communities we serve, we promote and pursue nonviolent actions and resistance.
3. build bridges and facilitate connections between and among congregations, with Church and non-Church actors and with religious living among the grassroots communities, as well as foster ecumenical and interfaith initiatives and inclusive intercultural dialogue. We work within the Church structures and with Church leadership, so they may be informed of the mining realities and advocate for rights of victims and affected communities. Together, we participate in platforms for sharing resources and expertise, to sustain interaction, communication and solidarity. As we create and nurture conditions for dialogue and negotiation between actors involved in mining issues, we shall practice a preferential option for the poor and work to build their capacities for meaningful engagement.
4. join our voices and engage in the continuing advocacy work that includes stronger protection of human, environmental and land rights defenders, holding governments accountable for their responsibility to end the impunity of corporations for their human rights abuses and ensuring access to justice for the victims. Such advocacy work may include United Nations initiatives, such as the Legally Binding Instrument for Transnational Corporations and Human Rights, Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights Sustainable Development Goals, etc.

5. contribute and complement the work of faith-based organizations, social movements and civil society about the Action Agenda of the Thematic Social Forum on Mining and the Extractive Economy and explore ways of creating synergy and mutual advancement.

6. broaden and deepen our understanding of thematic issues related to mining and extractives, including—i) the right to say “no”; ii) the alternatives such as fair trade and a solidarity economy; local integral development; iii) just transitions; iv) artisanal and traditional mining; and v) reflection on the rights of nature.

With confidence in the Spirit of God, we unite our reflection, endeavors and prayers with those of the whole Church at this time of grace and this important moment during the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region.

May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. (LS 244)

Many thanks and God’s blessings,

The 36 Participants of the JPIC & Mining Seminar

Sheila Kinsey, FCJM, Co-Executive Secretary, JPIC

Br. Rodrigo Péret, OFM, Churches and Mining

For more information, please contact Rodrigo Péret, OFM at rodrigoperet.afes@gmail.com or Sheila Kinsey, FCJM at skinsey.fcjm@gmail.com. Mary Jo Mc Elroy

BEREAVEMENTS:

Sister Teresa Sousa Gomes who died in on the 30th of September aged 83 and in the 65th year of her profession.

Sr. Maureen Breen's sister, Bridie (Sr. Brigid) who died on September 1st after a short illness. Sister Brigid was a Sister of Charity of St Paul the Apostle and lived in Birmingham.

Maura Canavan, Ursula’s sister in law, who died suddenly on August 18th

Celia Nolan, Kate’s sister in law who died on August 21st after a long illness.

We remember them and their families in our prayers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the family and myself, I want to say a very sincere "Thank You" for your prayers and support at the time of my brother Cathal's death RIP. Your messages of sympathy, prayers and masses were deeply appreciated by all of us as we grieved for Cathal. They carried us and helped us cope during those early days. May Cathal now rest in eternal happiness and peace. In gratitude, mass is being offered for your intentions. With love and gratitude, Kathleen O' Donavan

A very sincere" thanks" to each one of you for your kind sympathy when Bridie (Sr. Brigid) my sister died. I am deeply grateful for the prayers, masses, letters and messages that I received. Thank you.

God bless you all, Maureen Breen

I would like to thank all my sisters and friends of the province for praying for Dan and Paddy, my nephews, during their long illnesses and when they died R.I.P. I felt the support of so much prayer and loving memories.

'Thank you' also for your prayers for Carmel Farrell (my sister in law relative). A special thank you and God Bless to each one. Teresina O' Byrne

"Thanks" to all who remembered my family in prayer, those who sent messages of condolence and had masses said for Celia. My brother, Peter, had mass offered by way of thanksgiving for the support received from so many people. Kate Nolan

On behalf of my sister- in- law Bridie and her family I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the sisters who supported us during the death of my nephew, James, through your prayer, Masses, sympathy and for the attendance of so many during the removal ceremony, funeral Mass and burial. James had been very ill and with the wonderful care he received in the cardiac unit of St. Vincent's Hospital and subsequently Blackrock clinic he seemed to have made a good recovery. His sudden death, however, came as a great shock to family and friends. Thankfully, we can look back a little now and realize that James is enjoying eternal peace. May all of you be abundantly blessed as Mass is offered for you. Virginia

FOLLOW-UP TO GENERAL CHAPTER:

The Chapter Delegates are in the process of distributing the Chapter Document and reporting on their experience of participating in the Chapter experience.

When the meetings are over, work on the Structures will commence - material will be circulated to communities for Reflection and Sharing.

Provincial Team Calendar: Meetings attended and upcoming:

3rd October:	AMRI Autumn Conference	Ursula & Ellen
16th October:	COR North West Regional Meeting:	Kathleen
October:	Board of Management Arrowsmith:	Kathleen
6th November:	Board of Governors Rathmore:	Ursula
19th November:	Barclay's Investment Meeting:	Rosemary & Cathy
5th December:	Board of Management Madonna	Ellen