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THE GOOD SHEPHERD

On February 2, 2020, the bishop celebrated Consecrated Life with all the parishes of Béziers and the presence of young people of the Deanery.

This year the RSCM had the joy of presenting Fr. Gailhac.

The portrait of Jean Gailhac was placed at the entrance of the Church of the Holy Family.

It was an occasion for many Christians to get to know Fr. Gailhac and his life.

After Mass we took part in a friendly meeting with the priests and religious men and women who attended the celebrations.

Bernadette was able to share the developments under way at the Mother. Then we watched the DVD on the Mother House and ended the evening in a very pleasant atmosphere with a buffet.



PRESENTATION OF FR. GAILHAC DURING CONSECRATED LIFE MEETING.

A seed was planted in Béziers among the poor who did not know that this seed was there. It fell into a faithful heart that took care of it, the heart of Fr. Jean Gailhac, our founder, who we are going to present to you today.



Jean Gailhac was born in Béziers on 13th November 1802 and died on 25th January 1890.

He was a passionate person with little tolerance for indifference. Passionate about God, he studied and meditated on the Word of God. The figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd attracted him.

He took as his motto, "That all may have Life", in Latin, "ut vitam habeant", this is the words that are inscribed on our RSHM Cross. Father Gailhac often told us to, "study Jesus Christ, be another Jesus Christ". He was also passionate about the wounded humanity of his time. Already as a seminarian he visited prisoners who greatly appreciated his goodness and benevolence.

A priest at the age of 24, he was appointed chaplain to the General Hospital of Béziers. He was also in contact with the poorest: people who were rejected, judged, who experienced violence, young girls who have fallen into prostitution, the elderly, orphans, soldiers wounded in war. Open to the action of the Holy Spirit, his passion drove him to undertake to open a house that he called, "Le Bon Pasteur, Rue Ermengaud. There he welcomed groups of young girls and orphans on the margins of society. His legacy is still visible in Béziers with the "Maison Jean Gailhac" located on Boulevard d'Angleterre. Some of the women who worked with him at the Good Shepherd house became the first Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary with Mother Saint Jean Cure Pélissier from Murviel. For him and for us, Mary is a model, a woman of Faith and Hope.

Father Jean Gailhac invites us to let ourselves be transformed by God, he says: "The life of faith is nothing else but faith, hope, love acting in you in the details of life... the true end of your work is to make God known, to make him generously loved'. *Françoise*

MR. KEVIN HYLAND ADDRESSES STUDENTS IN WATERFORD

Mr. Hyland is the most highly equipped person to address Human trafficking in these parts. He was awarded an OBE in 2015 for his work on Anti-Slavery. As a member of the Metropolitan police in London he led the Anti Human Slavery Unit. In 2013 he was appointed by Teresa May, PM, as First Independent Commissioner of the Anti-Slavery Unit in London. Along with all these experiences he was involved in establishing the Sancta Marta, a Group set up by Pope Francis to counteract Human trafficking worldwide.



He is presently living in Ireland and chair of the All Ireland Anti human trafficking projects established in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. This project is supported by the Department of Justice and the police. It was a great privilege for us that he found time to visit our schools.

On the 11th and 12th of November staff and students in De la Salle and Abbey Community Colleges came up trumps to welcome and host, Mr. Kevin Hyland as well as many public figures and media personnel. On Monday the 11th Kevin Hyland addressed two groups of senior students with two hundred plus in each group and invited guests in De la Salle College.

In the afternoon the Justice group in Abbey Community College gave him a warm welcome where he addressed approximately four hundred students plus staff and many invited guests.

The following day Kevin addressed the Transition Year students in De La Salle College along with representative staff and pupils from nine other schools in Waterford. The welcome in both schools was most encouraging. Each school gave Kevin a positive welcome from management to students and all found the event most informative and challenging. There is no doubt but that awareness of this deeply criminal reality in our

society is hopefully now deeply engrained in those schools. The relevant staffs are determined to continue to support the work of Kevin Hyland, APT and others who try to counteract the heinous reality of Human Trafficking.

Some remarks from the students speak for themselves.

“I found it interesting as with other issues like youth problems and climate change, human trafficking isn’t talked about much. It was eye opening and frankly scary.” Nathan, 6th year student.

“The presentation was very good, and I learned a lot.” Liam, 6th year student

“It was very interesting to learn about human trafficking from someone involved in it.” 6th year student

“I thought this was very important for us as it opened our eyes to global problems we hadn’t known about.” 6th year student

“We learned how connected we all are to human trafficking in the modern world. We learned ways in which we can reduce/not support human trafficking.” 6th year student.

“I found it very interesting and worrying. How can the problem of human trafficking and forced labour be solved when large enterprises are guilty of it?” 6th year student.

“It made me think about my actions and how we can contribute to overcome this problem.” 6th year student.

“This presentation was very eye opening as we don’t know how close this problem is to home.” 5th year student.

“I feel security has to be stricter on investigating what’s going on across the border.” 5th year

“I have become more conscious about the situation since listening to the presentation.” 5th year student. *Catherine Dunne*

SAINT FRANCIS HOSPICE

With the Pastoral Care Team Leader post currently vacant, our Chaplain, Sister Rosemary, has stepped up and taken on the planning of various projects outside of her usual job including our annual Birthday Service, our Remembrance Services and the three Light up a Life Services.

As a result, her colleagues felt she deserved to receive an Above & Beyond award - and the panel agreed!

Last month, Rosemary was presented with her award with some of the team there to share their congratulations. Thanks for all you do for the Hospice. (extract from the “LOOP” magazine)



We join the hospice community in wishing Rosemary every success in her new role.



PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION AT THE UN (FEB 2020):

It was my privilege to receive an invitation from Sr. Veronica Brand, our Institute representative – Ecosoc status at the UN – to attend the Commission for Social Development being held there from 10-15 February. The theme for the Commission this year was:

“Affordable Housing and Social Protection systems for all to address Homelessness”.

This was the first time this subject was taken up as a global issue by the UN. The NGO – UNANIMA International (a group of 25 Religious Congregations) with Sr. Jean Quinn (daughter of Wisdom and founder of Sophia Housing in Ireland) succeeded in getting the topic on the Commission’s Agenda which hopefully will accelerate progress in the elimination of this universal problem.

While I was very aware of the seriousness of the situation in Ireland – having worked in that area for over 20 years, I had no idea of the overall scale of the problem. We were constantly reminded of the 1.6 billion people worldwide who live in substandard housing and of those at least 150 million have no home at all. The 10 Day meeting resulted in putting forward a document that will hopefully prompt countries to take greater action on homelessness and take the necessary steps to deal with it. However, the text will have to be approved by the UN’s General Assembly before it is put forward for implementation by Member States all of which takes time. One good thing is that homelessness will then no longer be seen only as “a lack of physical housing but is also linked to lack of productive employment and access to infrastructure, as well as other



social issues that leads to a loss of family, community and a sense of belonging.” (From document on Social Policy).

At the conclusion of the Commission, religious working at the UN were commended for their dedication in advocating for those facing homelessness.

On a personal note, as well as being impressed by the part Religious were playing in relation to Homelessness, as part of my Induction prior to the opening of the Commission I attended a session on the role of religious at the UN and as a result now feel much more convinced of how important it is for all of us to support Veronica in her role as our representative on the ground acknowledging the wonderful privilege it is to have this accredited status. Over 200

Congregations are represented in this capacity and as we were told they bring: credibility, impartiality, a moral voice, stability and continuity to the UN through their participation and involvement.

Accreditation allows them to be involved at many different levels:

- making oral and written statements
- meeting diplomats
- making interventions from the floor
- lobbying and occasionally taking part in protests and demonstrations etc.

To carry out her role effectively on our behalf, I can now see more clearly how we

need to keep Veronica informed of the situations and issues in the areas where we are living and hopefully I will now be more conscious of doing that and I invite each one of you to make a similar commitment. I am now much more appreciative of the work Veronica has done to date at the UN on behalf of the Institute and wish her every success as she continues to represent us. *Ellen O'Leary.*



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
24 FEBRUARY - 8 MARCH



For two weeks each year 100'S of individuals, companies, and groups across Ireland come together to share the stories of the people who grow

our food, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

This year's focus is on cocoa, our mission continues to ensure that all farmers are paid fairly for their work and can earn a living income. Looking at the special role women farmers play in the chocolate journey. We were joined by Deborah Osei-Mensah from the Asunafo Coop in Ghana, who was in Ireland for Fairtrade Fortnight 2020 and addressed many groups around the country.



Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970 and has now completed 50 years. It now includes events coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries.



International Women's Day is observed across the world on March 8. It is a global day that celebrates social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day aims to help nations worldwide eliminate discrimination against women. It also focused on helping women gain full and equal participation in global development. The day is dedicated to honoring the achievements of women throughout history and across the globe and is typically a day for women from all different backgrounds and cultures to band together to fight for gender



parity and women's rights.

The theme for International Women's Day this year is, I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights. The theme is aligned with UN Women's new multigenerational campaign, Generation Equality, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

BEREAVEMENTS

Sister Alice Molina who died on 27th December 2019 at Regina Centre, Orange, California. Alice was 71 years of age and in the 50th year of her religious profession.

Sister Maria da Conceição Sousa Campos who died on January 4th in Braga, aged 94 and in the 64th year of her profession.

Sister Agnes Lyons died peacefully in Arrowsmith House on December 20th, 2019. Agnes was 88 years old and in the 69th year of her religious profession.

Sister Josephine Rooney who died in Tarrytown on 23rd February. Josephine was in the 77th year of religious life.

Jacinta Vitorino's mother who died in Mozambique on 5th January.

Karina Kelly who died on January 8th.

Martin Mc Namara, Bernadette's Brother who died on 27th February.

Margaret Mc Carthy, sister in law of Catherine, Teresa and Gertrude who died on March 5th.

Eileen Dowling (known to many of us as Stephanie) who died on December 31st, 2019. Four of us RSHM's were present at Eileen's Requiem mass in Epping, Essex on the 29th January. The celebrant spoke of Eileen's deep faith and her dedication in passing the faith on to the many children she taught throughout her life. Tribute was also paid to her involvement in her parish over many years. Her time as an RSHM was also included in the eulogy given by her son in law, Danny. He also spoke of the joy she got from playing with her grandson, Tadhg when he was younger. *Kathleen O' Donovan*.

We remember all who have died and their families in our prayers.

EULOGY TO AGNES LYONS R.I.P.

The funeral Mass for Agnes on the 9th January took place at St Joseph's Church. It was attended by ten members of her family, RSHM from Carlisle, Liverpool and Noddfa, staff from Arrowsmith and several local friends and parishioners. But what made it such a special "celebration" was the presence of at least thirty of the deaf community with their friends, family members and helpers hailing from the Lancaster diocese, Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds, all eager to talk about the contribution Agnes had made to their lives. The main celebrant was Fr Paul Fletcher SJ, Chaplain to the hard of hearing, who signed and spoke everything, and a special choir signed the hymns so prayerfully. "Uplifting" was one parishioner's comment. The following are some excerpts from tributes from Father Paul and Sr Mary Jo McElroy during the Mass.

Fr Paul :

Agnes entered the Religious of Sacred Heart of Mary in Ferrybank, Ireland and made 1st Profession in 1951 She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee on 9th June 2011 aged 80yrs!

She taught for 27yrs, mostly in Barrow in Furness in St. Mary's Primary School and Pius X, where she became headmistress. (Sr Mary Jo will say more later)

She then became a Pastoral worker with the Deaf in the Lancaster Diocese 1982-2012 and was associated with Lancaster diocese's Catholic Care Society. She used her teaching skills to catechize many young deaf people, one of them, Paul, is here from Leeds. Agnes continued to minister part-time after moving to Arrowsmith House, Liverpool.

Agnes had great energy, a dynamic, gifted lady with a winning smile, who wouldn't take "no" for an answer. She had a name-sign which I can only explain in English as "Fast (as a fox)"!! She had a great knack for recruiting volunteers and numerous members of the Catholic Deaf community, both deaf and hearing. Dorothy and John Russell who for many years voluntarily drove many people in a minibus to attend Catholic Deaf events such as CDA Conferences, Walsingham Pilgrimages also for days of prayer or retreats at Noddfa in Penmaenmawr, Wales, and elsewhere too.



Agnes was a great "fisher of men" as she hooked and roped me in after my ordination as a priest to go to Preston to celebrate the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass for the Deaf in 1997-1999, at first within St. Augustine's Presbytery (ground floor), and then 2010-2012 with the parish in St. Augustine's Primary School. Always after Mass there was the great feast with such a spread of food that was tempting for us all!

Our first reading today from St. John, Jesus' beloved disciple, tells us of God, the Father's love, lavished, given generously and joyfully to us ALL, since we are God's children. All part of God's family. And more! 'Whoever treasures this hope of God is purified becoming as pure as God himself'. How comforting this must have been for our beloved friend Agnes.

This gospel speaks of reassurance. Jesus reassures his disciples not to be afraid, not to be troubled. He encourages them to trust in God and to trust in him. Jesus describes life

after death as something like a huge house with many rooms, and that each of us has a special place reserved for us prepared by Himself. I'd like to briefly illustrate/show this by sharing a personal story about Sr. Agnes.

Seven to nine years ago while I was working on the Loyola Hall retreat team at Rainhill, Agnes came regularly for quiet days of prayer and retreats. The last time she visited me in 2013 she stayed for lunch, no sooner had she gone then she was back again - to ask me how to drive home.

It was the first time I witnessed her forgetfulness. as I half thought she was teasing me. Having tried to explain the way we decided it was best that she drove her car behind mine following me to the M62 then M57. When she saw the signs for Anfield and Crosby she was able to recognize the way and drove safely home to Arrowsmith House, down Warren Road here.

Agnes, while for a moment it may have seemed you'd forgotten where you were going, you had the presence of mind to come back and ask for help. You trusted; faithfully. All your life you had a great guide to lead you in the person of Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life. Your leaving us with typical serenity and confidence has undoubtedly got you there and now you can enjoy being in God the Father's company within his house of many rooms.

MARY JO:

Agnes, Margaret, (to her family) how can we talk about someone who was such a character and, until recently, full of energy and always ready to chat. It is hard to express Agnes in words or in sign language. We have heard about her dedication to the deaf community, her love for each one and her desire to keep communicating with all her friends.

Some of you here will have known Agnes as a fellow pupil in Seafield or as a novice in Ferrybank and have many memories of her sense of fun? I'm sure her family have lots of stories about her too. I want to say something about her time in Barrow-in-Furness and her work in the RSHM Province. From 1956- 1983 she was in Barrow, in St. Mary's school and St. Pius X, as a teacher and headmistress. Christine Roberts, one of her past pupils, said, "When I was at school, she was the new, energetic young nun and she brought a breath of fresh air to the place". Her energy wasn't limited to the schools – it reached out to parents and people in the parishes, including visits to families and organizing functions.

One lady from Barrow has written about her enthusiasm and commitment for the summer camps, for children in the Lake district, unable to attend catholic schools. There were RE lessons in the morning and in the afternoon swimming, treasure hunts and games. Her memory is of Agnes playing Rounders and taking full part – her veil flying behind her as she scored her rounder! Then, after the children went to bed, they would play cards. She says too that she made a big impression on the children from St. Pius X

school, when she went on a school trip wearing her Liverpool scarf. She adds that Agnes never lost her love for children.

When Eleanor and I went to Barrow in 1969 to do laundry and cook for the community- I have to say an unfortunate move for the community – we would meet Agnes in the kitchen, where she would come and eat sausages rather than sit down for a formal meal. She always had plenty of energy for all the things she was committed to and especially for anyone in need. I have memories of long walks with Agnes on a Sunday afternoon (she was always a great walker.) She wanted to show us everything of interest in the surrounding area. I remember too, going with her to the youth club and to visit the lady with 9 cats, who lived at the bottom of the drive and to see families in difficulty and a woman who was deaf and blind. I marveled at how she communicated with her.

When Patrice and I came to Noddfa (Penmaenmawr), Agnes was one of the first to visit – bringing groups of deaf adults – her friends -along with John and Dorothy. We had great fun- playing bingo and trying to communicate

Agnes was a member of the Provincial Council for our Congregation for 6 years- at the time when she was living in Preston and still in ministry with the hearing impaired. Rosemary Lenehan, who was Provincial at the time has written, “For 6 years, Agnes was very much part of my life. She was such a generous person, always ready to help others. I recall all the driving she did all over the province, always having the car loaded with good things.” At that stage she got the nickname Edwina Stobart! (a well-known haulage firm in the UK)

Agnes also spent a year in Africa, in the Zambezi region, doing some teaching and developing a library in Chinhoyi. When she came back, she was very tired and had to cut down on her activities.

After that she moved to Seafeld and was nearer to her family. But then there was the pain of having to give up driving, and then her move into Arrowsmith House. It was sad to see Agnes, the great reader and lover of books, not being able to read and not talking as much. In Arrowsmith she was very much loved for her good humor, her wonderful smile and the ‘look’ when she was questioning, as if she didn’t quite approve. She is dearly missed by the sisters and staff who were so good to her and we thank the carers and staff for their loving attention to Agnes. (Thank you for your messages and Mass cards. We received many interesting and warm comments, and emails and even appreciations on Pius X School Facebook page! If you want the full text of the above, please contact me. Barbara)

REMEMBRANCE AT VIGIL SERVICE



Josephine Rooney now knows God’s love in its full measure. Ninety-seven years of life, and almost 80 years as a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in her commitment to know and to love God and to make God known and loved by others. This is something to celebrate! Yet, while grateful for her long life and who she was for us, we will miss her.

We will miss her kindness, her generosity, and her strong simple wisdom, her curiosity, and her interest in you and what you are about. We will remember her stories, and her positive spirit. And we will remember how she taught us to create community by who she was. And it was her desire to build community.

In a 1981 newspaper article while working in St Augustine’s parish Josie said of herself: **“My goal is to bring a sense of community to the elderly, to ease the pain of loneliness by providing a network of companionship and caring”**.

When she left St Anne’s to come here to Marymount, a co-worker in the parish said of her, “I am a better person because of her.” He said he admired her calm and patient encouragement, her many acts of kindness, her Irish stubbornness to standing up for those in need.

Another at St Anne’s, told of her mission to the parish and beyond the parish as unending and immeasurable.

So how did Josephine Rooney come to this great love of GOD? Let’s take a look:

Josephine Rooney was born in Newry, County Down on May 24, 1922, the same year the Irish Free State began. Newry, where Josie grew up with her three older brothers and two younger sisters, was just over the border in what is Northern Ireland. In a Protestant area, her parents Mary Burns, and James Rooney nurtured in her and her siblings a deep Catholic faith, an empathy for those in need, and the stamina to work hard and to believe that the impossible can happen. Josie loved her family and was proud of them all her life.

Josie had that wonderful gift of dry humor that many Irish have—that allows them to tell such good stories. One story she told me happened when she was about ten years old. In Newry her family owned a poultry farm and her mother placed responsibility on her first-born girl. One day her mother had to go into town and asked Josie to watch after the little newly born chicks who were in an incubator and to make sure they stayed warm enough. Josie watched them eagerly but felt the heat was not high enough so taking charge, she set the thermostat higher. Ending the story Josie with a bit of a twinkle told me, “Before my mother came home, I had buried thirty-three of them. Two survived!”

A few years later:

At age 19 in 1941 during the Second World War, Josie began her life with the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Her mother thought she would soon be home again. Mary Burns felt her daughter Josie was too independent and loved life too much. Most likely, though, because she had both the two qualities of independence and a great love for life that she has been able to say yes to the unpredictable and to the impossible for all these years. Josephine too was able to embody the charism of Jean Gailhac and Appolonie Cure to become a woman filled with Faith and Zeal!

During her almost 80 years of RSHM life, Josie crossed many boundaries to make God known and loved. These crossings were not always easy. Having made her novitiate and profession in Ireland during the war, given the name of Alphonsus Ligouri, she arrived in the United States in 1946. Soon after adjusting to this new country, in the Marian year, she got a surprise bilidu to Brazil. Not knowing a word of Portuguese, Mother Alphonsus began life there in Rio as the only English speaker in a community of 32. For a woman who enjoyed conversation this must have been very lonely. In her 11 years there she learned the language and related to me during one of our conversations that what gave her joy was praying and ministering weekly with families in the favellas of Rio. 3

It was through this experience she learned firsthand the effects of poverty on people and developed a close connection with and love of the poor.

In 1961 she was missioned to Colombia, South America. Now she was learning Spanish and learning a new culture! Then a few years later, another surprise! While accompanying a group of her students to New York for a visit from Colombia, she was told that she was needed immediately to teach Spanish in the Academy in Sag Harbor. Since she had only the clothes in one small suitcase, her friendship with Angela Hearne in Sag Harbor began when Angela had to find clothing for her to wear as all her belongings remained in Colombia.

The Academy closed in 1968. This time Josie seized the opportunity. She applied to the Inter-American University in Mexico and there she lived for a year with a Mexican family and learned Mexican culture and strengthened her knowledge of Spanish. Then she came back to Marymount Fifth Avenue, a better Spanish teacher.

A few years later, God called Josie to another crossing. This time not to another country, but to a new ministry. Josie, always an initiator with the courage to change, responded quickly to this internal call and was perhaps the first RSHM sister to enter parish ministry. In this new ministry with special outreach to the elderly, to the sick and homebound she has brought comfort, friendship, kindness, calm, patience, a joke, a story, supporting words, a tender touch, a job, trips to Atlantic City, trips to Europe, advocacy in court, a network of companionship and caring to the lonely, a champion to stand beside them,

and at times, a stubborn firmness, and always a loving presence. For many of us here it was the personal touch that was so magnetic about Josephine. She made people feel special. For many years, if she was able, she remembered many friends with cards and phone calls and gifts. Josie had a magnanimity that inspired people to give, and what she received, Josie then again gave it all away to others.



I am so grateful for Josephine Rooney in my life. She helped me to know and to love God.

Kathleen Kanet, RSHM

February 28, 2020

The Madonna House Community has welcomed Dolores and Teresina. We wish them peace and enjoyment on this new stage of their journey.

PROVINCIAL TEAM DATES:

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| 11 March: | Board of Governors. Rathmore. | Ursula |
| 18 March: | COREW in London. | Kathleen |
| 02 April: | Board of Management in Madonna | Ellen |
| 22 April: | Board of Governors, Rathmore | Ursula |

“A very happy St Patrick's Day to each and every one of you!”

Love, Ursula

