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JUBILEES



We congratulate Sisters Maureen Breen, Mary Eithne Kissane, Immaculée Morris, Anne O'Connell, Carmel O'Neill and Pierre Dullaghan on their 70 years of religious profession and wish them health and happiness.



Sisters Mary Eithne, Maureen and Immaculée were able to mark the occasion and had lunch together in Madonna House. The Carlisle community also celebrated Pierre's and Anne's jubilees on the 3rd.

"Thank you to all those who sent Masses, prayers and cards to mark the occasion of my seventy years as a member of the Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters. All kind remembrances were deeply appreciated", Sister Immaculée.

Dear Sisters,
*Many thanks to you all for remembering me on my jubilee day. I deeply appreciate your kindness, telephone calls, lovely cards, good wishes and prayers. God Bless you all. Keep well.
With love,
Sister Maureen*



Despite lockdown I managed to have a most enjoyable Jubilee Celebration with my community, where the festive table decorations competed with the delicious spread of goodies. The highlight of the day was the Zoom connection with Noddfa, all in Fazakerley and Eleanor and then, surprise, an image of Madeleine from Ferrybank appeared on the screen and we were able to talk about our **60 years as SHM sisters**. I wish to thank everyone who sent greetings, prayerful wishes or phoned to congratulate me and as soon as lockdown permits Holy Mass will be offered for all your intentions. *MARTIN*



A Diamond Jubilee in Lockdown and social distancing was indeed a unique experience. On the day there was a surprise Zoom call with Martin and our Sisters in Liverpool and Pen. Memories were shared and stories told, a lovely way to begin a celebration. My Community here in Naomh Bríd prepared and marked the occasion well, small is beautiful. Our day began with the Papal Mass



from Casa Marta followed by a delicious meal and great camaraderie, we all had a great time. I remain touched and grateful by the many cards, calls and emails received for the day - all gift, thank you very much!

Madeleine

Covid -19

Covid-19 at a positive level forced all of us to stand, stare and appreciate the sights, sounds, smells and beauty of a spring in all its glory. Birds, animals seemed to be at ease with their sense of being at home in their normal garden surrounds. Patterns and colors of the lichens as the trees that largely go unnoticed assumed their rightful place in the natural world. What had gone unnoticed in our immediate surrounds suddenly took on a new recognition in all our lives. What had been submerged by noise pollution, the flurry of the busy hum of a cyber digital world, gave place to a slower rhythmic way of life that enabled the cirrus clouds, the riot of garden color and the sight of butterflies and bees to take center stage in our lives.



Yes, the busy hum had almost come to static proportions so much so that a smart little blackbird took advantage of a parked car's back wheel as a nesting place. Even when someone unknowingly unaware of the new tenant started the car and parked it at the other side, the bird perseveringly started all over again. Granted, the nest was not a model of tidiness, but it provided the shelter needed.

A few days elapsed and the courageous bird was observed quietly contented sitting in the nest. Passing near the car and slightly bending downwards some had the experience of seeing the occupant eye to eye happily enjoying her hatching time. It was a delightful sight. On the occasional times she left the nest four beautiful 'greeny' white eggs were visible. Tranquility reigned!

Then tragedy struck. One early morning it was clear the nest had been ravaged. Bits and pieces of the nest structure were overhanging the wheel. One egg was missing another left broken and two remain untouched. There was no trace of the happy little expectant mother. Sadness reigned.... Maybe there was a lesson to be learned, 'we have not here a lasting city'. *Virginia*

We are aware that the COVID-19 situation in Brazil is critical due to the deplorable response of Bolsonaro and his government. Experts say that the number of people who are positive and who died is way higher than government statistics. Misesan Cara supports five projects in Brazil. I have taken extracts from three of the projects communications to show how their lives are being devastated.

PROJECT: OUR HOUSE

The project, Our House, in Porto Seguro takes care of 110 children and teenagers who are socially disadvantaged and live in extreme poverty. All their families are involved in drug abuse and other anti-social activities.

"The situation in Porto Seguro is exceedingly difficult and incredibly sad. The truth is we have no idea of the number of people who have died due to the pandemic. The assistance promised by the government never arrived. The project staff have managed to get some food supplies from the supermarkets and the RSHM are helping. We have received permission from Misesan Cara to use €2,000 of our project budget on hygiene products and food but the bank is refusing to hand the money over. Hunger is now becoming a greater problem than the pandemic".

Alexsandra, project coordinator.

PROJECT: UTILIZING THE LICURI AND OTHER REGIONAL FRUITS IN MARI, BAHIA, BRAZIL.

"We are all extremely worried about getting the virus because we are aware that there is no possibility of getting treatment in the hospital in Mairi, which is 22 kms from here and we would not be able to get someone to hospital. In our village we have had no cases yet, but we are all staying at home and no one goes to Mairi because there are many cases there, people who have taken ill feel they have the virus because they have all the symptoms. There is no testing in our region. Many people have died in the town but people in this remote part of the state are not counted. The project is unable to buy and sell fruit and the workers have no income. We have not received the government assistance. Because people were so desperate, we gave them the fruit pulp and produce we had for sale in cold storage. We also managed to get material and made masks for the community".



Osíneide dos Santos – project coordinator.

LITERACY PROJECT FOR YOUTH, ADULTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS.

"A huge problem for the communities is the hospital structure. People do not go to hospitals because of lack of transport from the communities, and those who have gone had to return home because of long queues. In one community eleven people died within five days and this caused anguish and fear among students. We are grateful to Misesan Cara and Trocaire who allowed us to reorganize our budget, so we had €3,000 to spend on hygiene products and food for the students and their families. A factor that affects women is the overload of domestic work, exposure to

violence and economic vulnerability, indicating gender inequality. Violence against women and children in this period is worrying for NGOs and organizations who care for the rights of women and children. It is reported that domestic violence has increased by 400%”.

Rosa Maria Lisboa – project coordinator

BEREAVEMENTS

Sister Catherine Dunne who died on April 6th, aged 78 and in the 61st year of her religious profession.

Sister Theophane Geoghegan who died on 9th May, aged 91 and in the 69th year of her religious profession.

Sister Kathleen Hamilton who died on 30th May, aged 91 and in the 68th year of her religious profession.

Sister Cacilda Gonçalves Ribeiro Neves who died on 21st March, aged 96 and in the 73rd year of her religious profession. She was a member of the Braga community.

Ir. Maria da Conceição Moreira Mendes who died on 16th April, aged 103 and in the 75th year of her religious profession.

Sister Cidália Santos who died on the 9th May.

Sister Teresa de Jesus Fernandes Coelho who died on the 8th May, aged 76 and in the 51st year of her religious profession. Sister Teresa was a member of the Coimbra community

Sister Maria de Lourdes Marques who died 24th April, aged 95 and in the 75th year of her religious profession. She was a member of the Fatima Community.

Sister Yvonne Rushton who died on 17th April at Regina Residence in Orange, California, aged 95 and in the 65th year of her religious profession.

Sister Joan Mary (M. de Prague) Moore who died on April 26th in Orange, California, aged 89 and in the 69th year of her religious profession.

Christy Burton, Bernadette McNamara's brother-in-law, who died on 1st April.

Louis Lyttle, grand-nephew of Patsy Butler, who died on 20th April, aged 21.

Nora Walsh, Patricia McGrath's sister, who died on the 26th April.

Eddie McGrath, Patricia's brother, who died peacefully on 8th May.

Pdraig O'Donnell (Fr. Christopher, O. Carm), Máire's twin who died on the 2nd June.

Cyril Power, Gwen's brother, who died in Chicago on the 4th June, aged 90.

None of them died from COVID-19.

We extend our sympathies to the families and communities who lost loved ones and remember them in our prayers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We would like to thank you for your messages of sympathy,
prayers and for having masses said for Margaret.
Your remembrance was much appreciated by the family.
With love and prayers, Gertrude, Teresa and Catherine.*

I would like to thank all who sent mass cards, e-mails, and expressions of sympathy on the death of my sister Jennifer, who died peacefully with her son and daughter by her side. Her funeral was on the Internet which was lovely as all the family could watch it at the same time. There was a lovely page put on Internet in her memory from all the cancer patients she had helped. Mass will be offered for all your intentions when life gets back to normal.

Sister Anne Curran

My family join with me in expressing our gratitude for all the support, prayers, Masses and condolences offered to us when my grandnephew Louis died suddenly in his sleep. He was due to be buried on 30 April, his 21st birthday, but his body wasn't released because he did not die from the virus and doctors wanted to ascertain what exactly caused his death in case it was due to an unsuspected heart condition. Louis was buried on Friday. Please continue to pray for the family.

Patsy

My family and I would like to thank all those who sent their condolences and Mass cards and for all the prayers that were offered for Nora and Eddie. It was difficult not to be with the family at this time of mourning. *Patricia*

SISTER CATHERINE DUNNE

Our dear Sister, Catherine Dunne, was called by God to her eternal reward on Monday of Holy Week, 6th April 2020. It is difficult to express our sense of shock as each one tried to grapple with the fact that Catherine had died R.I.P. How could someone so robust, so enthusiastic, so ready to celebrate Holy Week and Easter, how could Catherine have succumbed to what seemed a treatable curable illness not connected to Covid-19 without getting a minute to restrain it? These are some of the questions we asked ourselves as we tried to cope with Catherine's sudden passing.

Catherine and I came together spasmodically up to the last five years or so when we lived together in Tallaght. Catherine took my place in Good Counsel School when I left for Zambia in 1966 and she was missioned to Zambia in 1968! When Bishop James Corboy S.J. founded the congregation of the Holy Spirit, Catherine was appointed as the first formation Mistress. It was a completely new beginning for the young and vibrant aspirants as well as for Catherine herself. Here was a group of young women with no congregational history, no lived community experience and no Constitutions, setting out to spread the Word in a newly established diocese, the Diocese of Monze. And how privileged for Catherine, Sr. Thérèse English, Fr. Frank Keenan SJ and other Jesuits, plus the young sisters to discern, reflect and write their own Constitutions. Now, almost fifty years later with their history and lived experience the Holy Spirit Sisters are a fine congregation motivated by devotion to the Holy Spirit and inspired by Bishop Corboy's and Catherine's vision and prayer.



The tributes sent by the Holy Spirit Sisters were addressed directly to Catherine. Some very touching words designated her as 'our mother' and even 'our ancestor' awarding Catherine an incredibly special status indeed.

Having served her time in Zambia, Catherine's next major project was the amalgamation of the RSHM school in Ferrybank with what was called Slieverue Tech. This demanded work on a split site until the present Abbey College was constructed. It meant combining convent girls with mixed Technical School students. It was no mean feat to achieve. A thriving Abbey College now stands to Catherine's memory. One tribute to Catherine expresses her 'selfless dedication to whatever cause or project she adopted'. Another expressed her 'great determination but worked in a low-key modest way'. Another wrote: 'Her desire to serve knew no limits. All her efforts were accompanied by her captivating smile, good humor and deep faith.'

Catherine's charismatic gifts were much in evidence as she undertook the sensitive task of supporting victims of human trafficking. Catherine travelled the length and breadth of the country visiting schools, colleges, and universities. 'She opened the eyes of students and inspired us to help her campaign for legal support against trafficking of underprivileged young girls'. The APT (Action to Prevent Trafficking) Team met regularly. Catherine could be impatient with meetings that did not lead to action. So, each member was assigned an agreed area of responsibility covering all aspects of this social injustice, and how to tackle it.

While Catherine could be described as 'a woman in a hurry', she also found time for pleasure and enjoyment, playing bridge, baking apple tarts for community and neighbors, assembling Easter chicks, taking long daily walks and visiting family members. Catherine loved partying.

One of the areas of ministry which fed her creative spirit was her involvement with the Priory Institute Distance Learning, a Dominican project for all and sundry to study philosophy and Theology. Catherine started as a student before the modules were streamed online. She would attend launch days, study days and tutorials, getting to know the students and lecturers very well. Many years back she was appointed one of several coordinators and given her own list of students, Catherine kept in contact with the ex-graduates. Their tributes acknowledged her 'enthusiasm for life', 'a beautiful woman full of the Holy Spirit'. These sentiments were expressed over and over in the tributes that are still coming in.

On Sunday 3rd May, a beautiful Eucharistic Liturgy was celebrated in the priory, Tallaght, attended by the Dominican Community and led by Father John Littleton, Head of Distant Learning. It was Vocation's Sunday and the mass bore witness to Catherine's life, ministry and made special reference to her friends, family and RSHM sisters.

Let me end with a tribute from Sister Charity Bbalo, a Holy Spirit Sister and a friend, 'May the Angels meet her with glowing trumpets to signify the entrance into heaven of a great woman whose mission on earth was well accomplished'

Rest in peace, Catherine. *Agnes Hunt*

SR THEOPHANE GEOGHEGAN RIP 1928 – 2020

After Sr Theophane's funeral, the staff decided they would like to have a memorial for Sister Theophane as her funeral was so brief. They collected money among themselves for flowers. On 25th May they went up to the cemetery and placed a lovely wreath on her grave. Then they put a single rose on all the sister's graves. We had some appropriate music and prayers and after some silent prayer we left the cemetery all feeling much better for having been able to have this tribute for Sister Theophane and all the other sisters. *Sr. Anne Curran*



When Theophane died several wrote to say her passing had given rise to many anecdotes about her.

In our community, here in Seafield, we had a contemporary and her "guardian angel" as well as some of us who had lived with her before her coming to Arrowsmith. Indeed the next day I heard the carers exchanging memories of her as they hung out the washing and they were interested to hear of the many places, roles in which she had served people during her nearly 70 years of Religious life. "Energetic, zealous, flair for the unusual, loyal, liked a challenge, had strong

opinions, loved children, a respected catechist, brave, creative," are some descriptions I heard and read.

Theophane was born in Dublin where she attended St James National School and the Holy Faith Convent. On leaving school she did secretarial work for four years and so it was that her boss saw her into the carriage in Kingsbridge Station as she joined her fellow postulants on their way to Ferrybank on October 2nd 1949!

After her Novitiate in Bèziers she came to Seafield and studied at Endsleigh College, Hull and then taught in St Elizabeth's for three years before going to Kirkby as headmistress of St Mary's school for fifteen years.

In 1972 she came to Lourdes Mount as superior and did some teaching at Cardinal Wiseman and then Hillington. It was at this stage she became involved in the post Vatican II renewal of Catechetics, qualifying at the National Catechetics Centre in London and later in the Institut Catholique in Paris and working in Catechetics throughout parishes in the Westminster Diocese.

She responded to a call in 1983 to join our French sisters in Sanzana, Mali where she stayed until 1989. Her initiatives and accomplishments in development work among young girls and women was something the Bishop, sisters and people in the diocese reminded me of frequently and appreciatively when I lived in Mali soon after she had left.

Theo returned to Kirkby but the call to Africa was still there and in 1991 she had a short spell in Zambia, lectured in the Charles Lwanga Training College. Father Gerard Mwinga recalls "she never entertained laziness or dozing in class and encouraged us to value the teaching profession as the mother of all professions". She also did some teaching in the Holy Spirit sisters Novitiate, Trinity House and then in 1994 she went to Mabelreign Hararare, Zimbabwe, where she taught in the teachers training college for four years.

From 1996 she was based in Grange Road, London and travelling out to work in the offices of Bishop Padraic O' Donohue who was then an auxiliary in the Westminster diocese. She "followed" him to Carlisle in 2002 where she immersed herself in Pastoral work, the RCIA, visiting homes and the hospice. She finally "retired" in 2011 and came to Arrowsmith the following year.

In Arrowsmith she continued to be her robust self and loved having visitors especially the children who occasionally came from the local primary school. Even when she was bed ridden, she always tried to respond to any visitors and the carers and was able to shout quite loud if she wanted attention (her room was near the kitchen and community room).

For her funeral, the prayers at lockdown Arrowsmith on a bright sunny day were short but heartfelt. The community and carers all sat outside as the hearse drove in to give thanks for the life of Theo and to bid her farewell. Up at the cemetery Fr Simon Cadwallader officiated using some prayers and readings from the funeral Mass as well as the Rosary and usual burial prayers. It was quite a sendoff! May she rest in Peace.

Barbara Bailey

Thanks to everyone who sent messages and said prayers for both Theophane and Kathleen. They were all much appreciated.

*At our Provincial Chapter, we agreed that Extended Family members could be part of some Provincial Teams. It seemed right that the JPIC team could welcome two members from the Extended Family and we talked about this and possible dates for a long time. On Ash Wednesday, Ellen, Dorothy and I met with Sue Black and Greg Smith. We had an interesting meeting and felt in tune with each other and inspired by the exchange and the rich sharing. We are very happy to have taken this step and hope it will be fruitful. Many of you will have read Greg's account of the meeting in the Extended Family newsletter. **Mary Jo McElro***