

Lifelong Formation – October 2021



SEASON OF CREATION - Naomh Brid Community

From 26th September to Thursday 29th and on Monday 4th October we as a group of SHM Sisters - four octogenarians and one septuagenarian celebrated the Season of Creation through prayer, reflection and viewing beautiful visual presentations of the wonder and awe of creation. We also bore in mind the groaning of that same beautiful creation in our own milieu and in the world at large. All of us through our past ministries could identify a global suffering and misery on that large global canvas. At this latter level it presented an almost insurmountable challenge. What could five old religious do to make a difference? We were all very aware that action speaks louder than words and despite various handicaps imposed by the disabilities we all experience we could certainly pray, we could endeavour to be harbingers of hope, we could light a candle in the darkness of so much despair, we could be ready to reach out in selflessness to others particularly in our own surrounds, we could be healers and encouragers to those with whom we come into contact. The list was endless! It really was a matter of bringing words into action!



Not just to
survive but
to thrive.

We resolved that we would enquire what efforts were being made in the local Parish at an ongoing level to raise consciousness of the uniqueness and bondedness of the entire ongoing creation as an active step based on Laudato Si. We also planned to take seriously the Institute JPIC UN NGO Network Statement in the days ahead.

Virginia RSHM

Re: Sr Joan Chittister OSB 'The Spiritual Mountains of the New Millennium: A Journey to Adulthood' | Tue 26th Oct | 3.15 pm | by Zoom (sent to Moira Lever)

Dear All, We are delighted that you will be joining us by Zoom on the afternoon of the 26th for Sr Joan Chittister OSB's presentation. Please find the Zoom meeting link details below. A reminder email with this information will be sent again on the day. We will be in touch in due course with the relevant contact, to provide our acknowledgment of the registration payment.

Tuesday 26th October from 3.15pm

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87454238852?pwd=OkVmalFyVzZlYlkdE4U2tZMlOrUT09>

Meeting ID: **874 5423 8852** Passcode: **CoR**

With all good wishes,
Charlotte Vassallo
Administration Coordinator
Conference of Religious England and Wales 0203 255 1085



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Note: Moira will pay for our RSHM group to participate.



THE SYNOD

A timely contribution from Patrice and Mary Jo about the Synod 2023. They share some excerpts from the Root and Branch synod text and let us know where to find Mary McAleese's talk.

Synodality – Will our voices be heard by the Bishops?

Some of us for the last year have been taking part in the preparation for the Root and Branch Synod which took place in Bristol in September. It was organised by women to begin with, but after a while, men were also part of the discussions. If you want to hear about it, Mary McAleese's keynote speech and the Bristol text are on the Root and Branch website :

<https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org>

There are plenty of ideas to help us to respond to the invitation to take part in the preparations for the upcoming Synod.

Quotes from 'The Bristol Text'

2.1 Equality and justice for all.

Jesus preached the Good News of the historical advent of the Kingdom of God, which brings justice and peace to all human beings, and liberation to the oppressed. For the Catholic Church to cooperate with God's Kingdom, it needs to model its organizational structure, and its Canon Law, on those principles of equality and justice for all. The Church's Canon Law urgently requires renewing, using the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its benchmark.

3.1 Every baptised person is clothed in Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

'There is, therefore, in Christ and in the Church no inequality on the basis of race or nationality, social condition or gender, because 'there is neither Jew nor Greek: there is neither bond nor free: there is neither male nor female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.' (Lumen Gentium 32, Vatican II). We should add, 'people of all abilities and genders.' We must learn to be open to all, and especially the destabilising influence of people not like us. 'Whoever wants to be first must be the last of all.' (Mark 9:35)

3.3 The Holy Spirit's call to ministry may be heard by all people.

We need a clearer understanding of vocations. All the baptised are eligible to answer God's call to every ministry. That call is discerned within and by the community of God, which is a companionship of empowerment. Current research makes it clear that in the earliest Christian gatherings, women and men, single and married, led communities in worship, exercising their baptismal calling.