



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



MARCH 2024

A FEW REFLECTIONS DURING HOLY WEEK

The Poet Thinks about the Donkey – Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
he stood and waited.

*How horses, turned out into the meadow,
leap with delight!
How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight!*

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.



Never had he seen such crowds!
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.

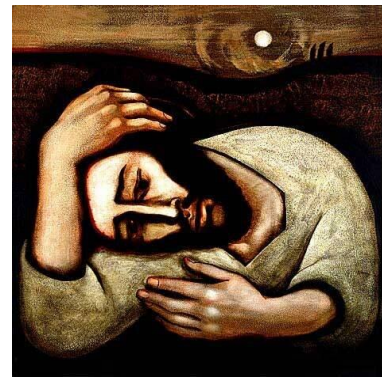
IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE by Melissa McLaughlin

His footsteps fall softly in the olive grove
Enveloped in verdant Garden fragrance
The tender leaves, the stalwart trunks rooted and still,
The young olive fruit swelling with sustenance

A Garden pulsing with life
Yet death casts its shadow there
The earthy soil once wet with morning dew,
Now soaked with the tears of His divine sorrow



His steps falter as He drops to His knees
 Face down, body gripped with anguish
 The ominous ordeal looms ahead
 Drops of blood slip from His brow
 Mingling with tears and sweat
 A river of grief flowing steadily down
 Cries and tears are His prayer.
 The Son of Man, spotless and pure
 Absorbing the full darkness of humanity



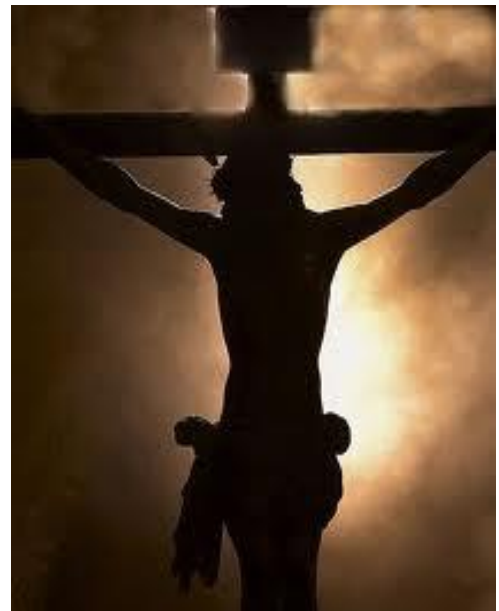
Christ in Gethsemane by artist Michael D O'Brien



Every sin of the world
 Laid upon the back of the innocent Lamb
 Precious, holy, gentle and good
 In that moment the Perfect One accepts the
 penalty for every trace of wickedness
 Taking our place, Justice is served
 Righteousness upheld, Mercy extended
 Grace given to all who believe Jesus is LORD.
 Brooding, dreading, enduring the cross
 For the joy set before Him
 We. Were. That. Joy.

Remember another Garden not so long ago where sin took hold
 Where God foretold of One who would come to utter the final Word, "It is finished."

That battle has begun
 Right here in the Garden of Gethsemane
 The Word speaks, "Not my will, but yours be done."
 The heaviness lifts
 As He arises in the sovereign strength
 Of heaven's redemption song.
 A rustle of feet, hushed voices call
 His captors rush in, the time has come
 Yet He walks out in might, Son of God and Son of Man
 For the battle on His knees is won
 The King who would set us free from sin
 Walks out of the Garden of Gethsemane
 On a path toward pain and scorn and death
 A captive of men
 And a Victor for all.



MARCH 21 – 27

**Week of Solidarity with the Peoples
 Struggling against Racism and Racial
 Discrimination**

The World Day of Prayer 2024 was held in St. Bartholomew's Church, Castlemilk on 1st March.



Parishioners came from all 5 Churches in Castlemilk and one from each of the Churches read part of the services which was written 4 years ago by the Christian Women of Palestine with the theme "I Beg youBear with one another in love."

Yesterday I received a special Prayer written on 16th February '24 by the Women of Palestine asking for it to be said at all World Day of Prayer Services. I am the Representative from St. Bartholomew's on the Churches Together Castlemilk, therefore, I was the person who organised the service on 1st March. We had a good number of parishioners from all Churches. We collected £203.00.

Margaret Lee

CELEBRATIONS IN MADONNA HOUSE, FERRYBANK

As well as the usual celebrations on St Patrick's Day in Madonna House the community celebrated two birthdays. Sr Margaret Mary Morris was 96 on 16th March and Sr Patricia Kavanagh was 86 on the 17th March.



**Sr Margaret Mary -
needing a big breath
to blow out those
candles!**

**Sr Patricia enjoying
her birthday with her
sister Sr Deirdre.**



175 FACES FOR 175 YEARS

Our RSHM Director of Communications, Camilla Morteau, posts a photograph of an RSHM, or an associate of RSHM, plus a quotation / dream / wish relevant to RSHM, every second day on the Facebook page. Some people might not be accessing it but we were delighted to see Breda and Kathleen featured on March 19 and 23.

I have sent 20 photographs and quotations to Camilla and they will be posted over the coming year along with posts from the other areas. We were asked for 30 from the NEA so I would appreciate if those who haven't done so would send a contribution please. *Mary*



175 YEARS, 175 FACES

"We want to reveal the tenderness of God as we seek to respond to the cries of those on the margins and the earth." Sister Breda Byrne

#RSHM #RSCM #175years175faces
#175anos175rostos



Sister Kathleen O'Donovan desires that we continue to live our mission as women of Prophetic Hope whatever our age or circumstances, so that all may have life.

#RSHM #RSCM #175years175faces
#175anos175rostos



RSHM AT THE VATICAN

Recently the Generalate Community had an audience with Pope Francis to mark our 175 years anniversary.



Sister Spiwe wrote an account of the experience for Facebook. I am copying it here for those who might not have seen it.

At the beginning of March, the Generalate community and members of staff attended the Papal Audience in St. Peter's Piazza. "The atmosphere was electric with thousands of people from all over the world gathered to hear Pope Francis speak. The piazza was adorned with colourful banners and flags, making it a sight to behold.

We too, as RSHM, had our own banner to mark our 175th anniversary of Foundation as an Institute. During the audience, the Pope gave a moving message about peace and unity. The highlight of the experience was his blessings of the crowd, taking photos and speaking briefly with him, which left us feeling humbled and grateful. Overall, the experience was one of the most memorable, and we will cherish it forever."



I want to say thank you to all of you who sympathised with me on the recent death of my niece Norma Healy.

My family and I appreciated the masses, prayers and many messages we received. You will be remembered in our prayers. Sr Esther McCarthy

REFLECTION FOR THE END OF HOLY WEEK

Be Still and Wait *by Emily Polis Gibson*

This in-between day
after all had gone so wrong
before all will go so right,
puts us between the rock
and the hard place:
all hope, love and faith is squeezed from us.



Today we are flattened, dried like chaff, ground to pulp,
our destiny with death sealed.
We lie still like sprinkled spices
trying to delay inevitable decay,
wrapped up tight, stone cold and futile.

The rock is rolled into place so we lie underneath,
crushed and broken.
We are inside, our bodies like His.
We are outside, cut off and left behind.



We cannot know about tomorrow,
we do not fathom what is soon to come:
the stone lifted and rolled away,
the separation bridged,
the darkness giving way to light,
the crushed and broken rising to dance,
and the waiting stillness stirring, inexplicably,
to celebrate new life.





RELIGIOUS OF
THE SACRED
HEART OF MARY

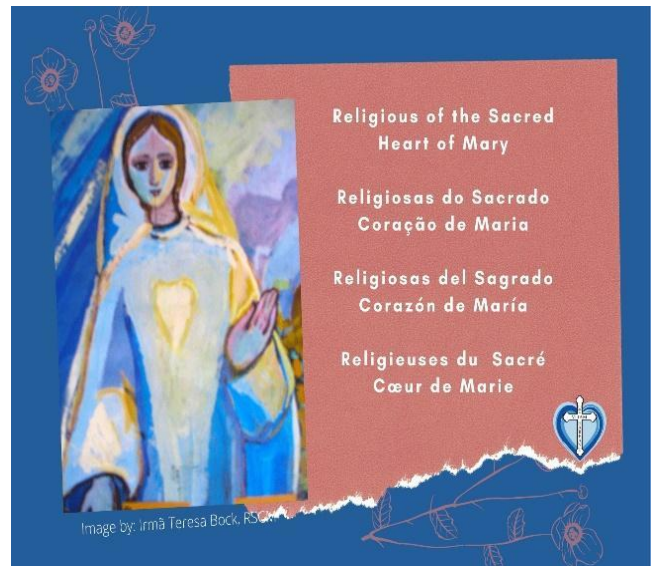


From the RSHM-RSCM Communications Office

PRAYER REQUESTS

This is a reminder that April is the month during which the sisters in the NEA are asked to remember in their prayers the intentions requested on our RSCM RSHM Website. Through whatever means is best for you, please ask your sisters to include in their personal/communal prayer a remembrance of all who have sought our prayers during this month.

You may recall, we determined that the number and wide range of prayer requests we receive, exceeds our ability to respond individually. To honour this assurance of a remembrance in our prayer the Areas and other Institute entities are each taking a month to remember the intentions of all who have made a request for prayers on the Website.



Those asking for our prayers receive the individual response as seen below.

“We have received your request and the sisters will pray for your intention.”

*Camilla Morteau
Diretora de Comunicação*

Easter is a symbol for springtime and renewal. Here's to a fresh start!



*May this beautiful springtime
bring you the greatest
feelings of gratitude, love,
compassion, hope and faith.*

*May this Easter be the start
of a joyous and prosperous
spring for you.*