



# NEA NEWS & VIEWS



22 April 2024

**TODAY APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY 2024:**



Earth Day is an annual celebration that honours the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. It is observed on April 22 in the United States and on either April 22 or the day of the spring equinox in other parts of the world<sup>12</sup>. The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, and it played a crucial role in educating people about the importance of environmental conservation. Approximately 20 million people across the United States participated in this event, which helped garner support for significant legislation such as the Clean Air Act (updated in 1970) and the Endangered Species Act (1973)<sup>1</sup>. Since then, Earth Day has grown into a global movement, with more than 200 million participants in over 140 countries during the 1990 global Earth Day organized by environmental activist Denis Hayes<sup>1</sup>. Today, the Earth Day Network (EDN) continues to promote environmental awareness and action year-round. Their mission is based on the belief that everyone, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, has a moral right to a healthy and sustainable environment. The EDN focuses on education, public policy, and activism campaigns, making Earth Day one of the largest public, secular events worldwide<sup>1</sup>. So, on Earth Day, let's come together to protect our planet by taking actions like picking up litter, planting trees, and advocating for a healthier Earth! 🌍🌱🌍

## **Note from the JPIC TEAM:**

*As you are aware when we made our JPIC Commitment to Care for the Earth in December 2022 we agreed to review it after a year -we have now marked the 7th May 2.30-3.45 for a Meeting on Zoom to do this. We are asking you to keep this time free if possible please. More details nearer the time. Thank you, Ellen.*



## Earth Day– by Jane Yolen

I am the Earth  
And the Earth is me.  
Each blade of grass, each honey tree,  
Each bit of mud, and stick and stone  
Is blood and muscle, skin and bone.

And just as I need every bit  
Of me to make my body fit,  
So Earth needs grass and stone and tree  
And things that grow here naturally.

That's why we celebrate this day.  
That's why across the world we say:  
As long as life, as dear, as free,  
I am the Earth and the Earth is me.

## 175 Years / 175 Faces

Camilla our RSHM Director of Communications continues to post a photograph and quotation from an RSHM, or associate, every two days. This month two sisters from the NEA featured –

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ May our presence be a constant revelation of love and joy - as was Mary's – woman of faith, hope and true zeal.  
(Prayer of the Institute)

**Sister Mary Gough**  
RSHM  
Ferrybank, Waterford, Ireland

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ The word that identifies the RSHM Institute for me is diverse.

**Sister Mary Mullins**  
Member of the NEA Leadership Team  
for the past three years

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

Don't forget to check out the RSCM RSHM Facebook page. It is an interesting way of becoming more familiar with our sisters worldwide and people who work with us in various capacities. For those of you who do not follow on Facebook here are some RSHMs and associates who have featured already -

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ I desire that the Institute continue with our life-giving mission, walking together in a synodal way without leaving anyone behind. Reading the signs of our times. So that all may have life.

**Sister Sipwe Phiri**  
Institute's Leadership Council

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ A word I associate with the RSHM Institute is generative: a life giving, life affirming, and future facing adjective.

**Sarah Thomas**  
Head of School  
Maymeur International School, Paris

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

**175 Years, 175 Faces**




“ As we celebrate the 175th year of our founding, it is a powerful and life-giving experience to recall our history to remember the paths that God has brought us on to this present moment, in looking back, we recognize the gracious generosity of God, not just for all that has been but for all that is to come.

**Sister Kathleen Kelemen**  
RSHM USA Co-Leader

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ I desire unity in diversity, so that all may have life.

**Sister Coltridiah Mooya**  
RSHM Tanzania Area  
Leader

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ My dream continues that we live: firm in faith, vibrant in hope, rooted in love and one in service.

**Sister Rosamond Blanchet**  
Eastern American Area Leader

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

**175 Anos, 175 Rostos**



“ O Planejamento do Instituto foi um momento muito significativo da nossa história. Fortaleceu a Unidade e nos deu uma direção clara com a Declaração da Missão.

**Irmã Para Moreira**  
Coordenadora da Legação do Brasil

RELIGIOSAS DO SACRAMENTO CORAÇÃO DE MARIA

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ Our 2013 Vision Statement read in part...The Spirit impels us to listen and learn from the voices from below that are being silenced, and to open our hearts ever wider to our marginalized brothers and sisters, especially women and children... My hope is that these words continue to guide our future.

**Sister Susan Gardella**  
Eastern American Area Council  
Director of the Global LIFE Center

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“ The Global Network congratulates the RSHM Institute on its 175th Anniversary. Inspired by the RSHM history, mission, and sisters who have touched our lives, we cherish and continue the legacy of educating young people who know and love God and make God known and loved so that ALL MAY HAVE LIFE.

**Susan M Kummick**  
Global Network of RSHM Schools  
Coordinator

RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY



## SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE



Images of the visit of the sisters Margaret Fielding and Paré Moreira to the Bom Pastor community and the sisters of Béziers. Together the sisters had happy moments of socializing, sharing and remembering the 100th birthday of Ir. Marie Jean.

In Béziers, the sisters Margaret and Paré also met with the "Association Resources" SCM, made up of all the sisters from France and some sisters who have already lived in France.



### Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe.



The RSHM Leadership Council's visit with the Chinhoyi Community in Zimbabwe, Zambezi Area at the end of March.

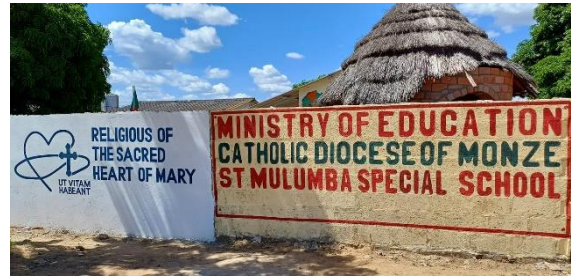


### From Zambia and Zimbabwe

The Institute Leadership Team visited the Chivuna Community, at St. Joseph's Secondary School (Zambia), and also at the Farm Project, which aims to help women, mainly widows and single mothers, with food security.

In addition, in recent days Sisters Margaret Fielding, Paré Moreira, Ana Luísa Pinto and Sipiwe Phiri have also been with the Harare Community in Zimbabwe.





A visit to St Mulumba's Special school in Choma, Zambia.

During Vocations Prayer Week the ILC met the novices at the House of Formation in Zambia.



A familiar face!



From left to right:

Back line: Novice Belinda, Bishop Raphael, Sr. Pará, Sr. Florence, Sr. Beatrice, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Ana Luisa, Novice Flavia and Novice Obrit.

Second line: Srs. Sipiwe, Claudia and Maria Emilia.

Front line: Novices Ester, Luyando and Jacinta.

## PERPETUAL VOWS



**Sister Aelita Otavia Da Silva**  
who made her Perpetual Vows in Choma, Zambezi Region where she is currently in ministry.



We are all united and in prayer for the sisters Joanita José and Izaura Paulino, from the Mozambique Area. The sisters will be making the Perpetual Vows on April 21st at Our Lady of Lourdes-Mulevala Parish. "Love God, live in his love, persevere in his love." (GS/18/VIII/78/A. Vol. I, p. 412. )...

**Izaura Paulino e Joanita José, Mozambique**

*Extract from I AM OF THE EARTH by Jennifer Healey*

I walk among trees and know each  
for a friend.

I see a history and imagine  
what secrets they keep,  
what wisdom they'd lend.

To think I too can stand tall  
in the wind, can be  
still as a stone  
or alive with the energy of the forest, its soul,  
yet remain calm like the plants who are meditating always.  
Roots easy in the soil,  
face turned to the sun.

**I too am a field of all possibilities.**

I am part of this world,  
I know how it is to flourish and to  
wither, how to endure the seasons  
and the storm,  
how to travel far  
yet remain unchanged in a most essential way.....

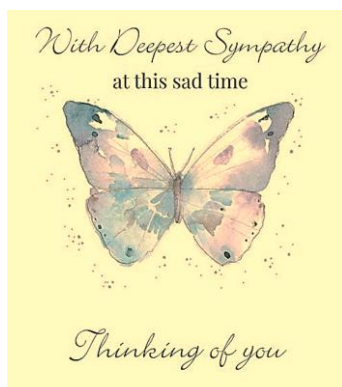
I walk into the woods and I think, yes,

**I am very much of the earth.**

There are times I feel as ancient as the fern,  
as widespread as the moss  
or weightless like the blackbird with scarlet on his wings,  
and I feel I know all the secrets of the universe.  
The world sings to me and I hear the song.  
The winds carry messages that I can read.  
My visions turn true,  
my desires are cast far beyond words,  
like the dandelion sets free her light, puffy seeds.

**I step easy on the earth,**

God speaks to me through the trees.



## BEREAVEMENTS

We offer sincere condolences to  
**Sister Christine Caldwell RSHM**  
on the unexpected death of her sister **Josie**  
on 30 March 2024.

Please keep Chrissie in your prayers at this time.  
May Josie now rest in peace.