



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



SEPTEMBER 2024

In Praise of Creation by Elizabeth Jennings

That one bird, one star,
The one flash of the tiger's eye
Purely assert what they are,
Without ceremony testify.

Testify to order, to rule –
How the birds mate at one time only,
How the sky is, for a certain time, full
Of birds, the moon sometimes cut thinly.



And the tiger wrapped in the cage of his skin,
Watchful over creation, rests
For the blood to pound, the drums to begin,
Till the tigress' shadow casts

A darkness over him, a passion, a scent,
The world goes turning, turning, the season
Sieves earth to its one sure element
And the blood beats beyond reason.

Then quiet and birds folding their wings,
The new moon waiting for years to be stared at here,
The season sinks to satisfied things –
Man with his mind ajar.

Honouring the season of Creation – visit a place near you.

St Fiachra - the Patron Saint of Gardeners

was the inspiration for the development of four acres of woodland and lakeside walks within the National Stud in Kildare, Ireland. It is a natural habitat for all types of wildlife. Water and rock dominate the design which reflects the monastic spirituality of 6th and 7th Century Ireland. An underground garden, Waterford Crystal shaped rocks and fibre-optic lit ferns, orchids and other plants are among the horticultural highlights.





At an evening Mass in Fazakerly, Liverpool on 25th September Sr Kathleen Buckley RSHM received the gold medal and papal award of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. Apparently, this is “the highest honour a lay person or Religious can receive in the Church”.

Congratulations to who? Well, Fr John Riley said “the award is not just about a person but a family” and both he and Kathleen herself, insisted “Congratulations” also belongs to all those who had been part of her life’s journey: her Religious and own family, friends, former

colleagues, altar servers, families she visits, parishioners, people she networks with in the wider community, so many of whom packed into the Church that evening.



Fr Sean Riley, main celebrant and proposer, spoke warmly of the first years of his priesthood in the Parish when Kathleen and Father Kevin were there, as “the happiest years of my priesthood”. He spoke of her smile and encouragement as well as her dedication to our motto “that all may have life”. How he learned so much from her and experienced in her two attributes important in our journey of synodality today: listening to everyone and including everyone. How evident that was in those gathered together this evening, people from her YCW (Young Christian Workers) days, Speke and places further afield to priests and folk from the locality. Eight RSHM came including Sisters from Penmaenmawr and London. It was for all of us, and others not present, that Kathleen said she accepted the award.



To conclude the more formal part of the evening, Fr John Henry Fisher (who had known Kathleen since her YCW days) invited us to join in a song about Kathleen, focusing on her ability to tackle a number of emergency situations that might arise to which the refrain was, of course, “Oh Sr Kathleen that’s another job for you”. This was sung with much gusto, joy and thanksgiving as we made our way to refreshments.



Sr Barbara Bailey

NEA Sisters who featured on 175 faces during the past month – 3 ladies in pink!

175 Years, 175 Faces



“The word that identifies the RSHM Institute for me is **intercultural**.”

Sister Kate Nolan
Ferrybank, Waterford, Ireland



175 Years, 175 Faces



“My dream for the Institute is that we may be open and in touch with reality at every lived moment through our capacity to listen and respond and change.”

Sr. Kathleen McCartan
Lisburn, North Ireland, NEA



175 Years, 175 Faces



“The word that identifies the RSHM Institute for me is **cooperation**.”

Sister Rosemary Lenehan
Bursar in the NEA, London, England





BEREAVEMENT

We extend our sympathy to Sr Ursula Canavan, the Canavan family, Dermot Toomey and family on the recent death of Pat Toomey (nee Canavan).

May Pat rest in peace and may the family be comforted.

SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

Reflection by Sister Ana Luísa Pinto member of the Institute's Leadership Council as a new term begins after holiday time.

"Perhaps we need not just a vacation, but to learn to incorporate rest into our routine - time to do and time to abstain from doing (Cf. Eccl. 3), in order to find more balanced and humanizing rhythms. Jean Gailhac could tell us today what he cleverly wrote to a Sister in August 1878: "Rest... Eat well, because you have a big job ahead of you. Be content with the works that God has entrusted to us and try to consolidate and strengthen them".



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

Join us as we celebrate the
Season of Creation
each Sunday in September at Mass
in the Butler Memorial Chapel at 11 am,
or join us virtually at
www.rshm-east.org/join-us/mass/



The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Eastern American Area invite everyone to join them for the Sunday Masses of the Season of Creation, which continues until October 4th, at the Butler Memorial Chapel, in person or livestream. Masses are at 11.00 a.m. NY time. Let's celebrate the Mystery of Creation together in a special way?

There is still time to join until 4th October.

The Importance of Communication Video 1



**I bless you all,
Gailhac
Superior**

You might like to view a video produced by the
Heritage and Spirituality Group.

The "There Was a Man" music video talks about the importance of communication to Father Jean Gailhac, our founder, and to the entire Congregation.

<https://youtu.be/QUC7pb7pcHM> #RSCM #RSHM

Celebration of Insertion of the Pre-Novices, held in early September in Quelimane (Mozambique).

We wish the new pre-novices a journey of many blessings and continue to pray for them and all in Formation.

“The pre-novitiate aims to discern a real appeal and progressive insertion into the life of the congregation, it is time to dig deeper into the history of the congregation, the founders and the first sisters” Constitution 61.



East Timor - road to meeting with Francisco



RUMO AO ENCONTRO
COM O PAPA FRANCISCO

From Zumalai Parish in the mountains of East Timor, a pilgrims' caravan headed to Dili for the day of meeting with Pope Francis. Happy people at their pastor's meeting! The caravan followed sister Feliciana and four young candidates from our Institute. In Portugal, we still remember the days of Francisco among us at the World Youth Day in 2023. That's why it's with a festive heart that we united with our sisters and the people of Timor-Leste. These days were days of celebration and spiritual nourishment for all.



Sister Feliciana and four young candidates to our Institute who are having days of celebration and inspiration with the Pope, who is in Timor!



Online Facebook Workshop for Religious Women of the Sacred Heart of Mary

On September 11, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM (Rome time), an online workshop on Facebook was held exclusively for the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. The event took place via a Zoom Meeting, bringing together participants from various locations for a session filled with learning and exchange of experiences.

The workshop covered essential topics for effectively using the Facebook platform, such as privacy and security best practices, how to add friends, fellow sisters, and family members, and how to engage with posts. The facilitator, Ana Possas, led the participants interactively, allowing them to ask questions in real-time and explore the platform's features.

This event was an excellent opportunity for the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary to enhance their digital knowledge and strengthen their online presence, with the aim of sharing important messages and projects within their communities.



The story of Sofia Soveral, a student and missionary from Portugal, about being a Missionary! ❤️

“I learned that happiness is found in a hug, in a game of soccer in the mud after school, in the beauty of the sunrise before Mass, in the laughter of a child. I learned that to love is to be present and to dedicate your time to someone, to dedicate your life, is the greatest proof of love. I learned that the hardest part of going on a mission is coming back, but I also know that we don't come back the same.”



RSCM RSHM GENERAL CHAPTER 2025



In 2025 we will have the General Chapter, when together, in assembly, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary will elect the Leadership team for the next 6 years and determine the goals/ priorities of the Institute.

We are preparing for the ecclesial event and we present to everyone the Chapter Logo, which is accompanied by the theme of this edition.

ENGLISH - <https://www.rscm-rshm.org/.../the-2025-general-chapter-logo>

FIRST PROFESSION



The First Profession of Vows of Novices Irene Jalme, Brenda Mutale, Petronella Manjeje, Piedosa Patrick, Vimbai Pokoto, Sitéria Camanga and Loreta Sibukandi took place in Lusaka on September 21 at 10:30 a.m. Lusaka (Zambia) time.

The last few years in the novitiate was a *“time of reflection and personal prayer, enabling an encounter with God, community experience, biblical, theological and ecclesial deepening, and the study of the Institute, its history, sources and international character”*. Const. § 64-65

If you have been unable to view the ceremony you will find it on the following youtube link

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lmTjAY3NDt4?si=ajpnotgTtAOI90nc>



The seven newly Professed RSHM Sisters with Florence



After First Profession, the newly professed Sisters are missioned to an Area by the Institute Leader, in consultation with the Area Leader and Novice Directress, and taking into account the needs of the Institute and of the newly professed Sister.

The following are the mission assignments of the newly Professed:

Sisters Brenda Mutale, Irene Jamie and Petronella Manjene to the Zambezi Area;
Sisters Julia Vimbai Pokoto and Piedosa Sambara to the Area of Brazil;
Sisters Loreta Sibukandi and Siteria Camueta to the Area of Portugal.

We wish them many blessings in living our charism and mission of making God known and loved, and we assure them of our support and prayers.

EAA Marymount Day of Service 2024

Marymount Alumnae descended upon the convent this past Saturday for a “Planting, Polishing and Playing” Day of Service. Alumnae joined us for Mass, followed by a festive lunch. Then alums and their guests got to work. Several went to the Native Garden to plant and others polished statues on the grounds. Those with a more artistic bent joined sisters in the auditorium for a “Paint and Sip,” using a photo from the Tarrytown walkway along the Hudson River. The day concluded with everyone enjoying ice cream treats from Jimmy's Soft Serve truck. *Cathy Wilkins*



RSCM new mission in Angola



On the 18th of September, the Institute Leadership Council met via Zoom with the Sisters missioned to Angola - Deborah Jamali, Madalena Manhiça and Rhânella Oliveira - and the Bishop of Luena, Martín Lasarte SDB, to learn more about the reality and needs of the Diocese of Luena and to agree on the next steps to be taken with regard to the new mission.

We are happy to announce that the official opening of the new community is the 8th of December 2024, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Let us continue to keep Sisters Deborah, Madalena and Rhânella in our prayers and entrust them to Mary's maternal care as they prepare to take on this new RSHM missionary initiative.

Some images from **SEPTEMBER** by *Helen Hunt Jackson*



The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;

The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.



The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;



In dusty pods the
milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their
harvest,
In every meadow
nook;



And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook.



From dewy lanes at morning
the grapes' sweet odours rise;



At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies

By all these lovely tokens September days are here,
With summer's best of weather, And autumn's best of cheer.....

