



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



DECEMBER 2024

NO COMMENTS YET *written at the beginning of Advent by Rachael Keefe*

War darkens the world
more than the length of days
violence, gun shots, fear and hatred
echo through our streets
promising only more of the same.

It's easy to lose hope
when every day the weight of worry
grows heavier and heavier still.

To escape all of this
I walk my dog – in the woods,
along the river, on the trails,
or on the streets of my neighbourhood
where the sidewalks end.

I pay attention to the hawks,
the eagles, the deer, the fox
and the owl while my dog
keeps track of every squirrel
and rabbit without fail.

Everyone once in a while awe
and beauty ignite hope.

Then comes December and
the street lights up – one house
at a time, more each night.

The simple electric candles in
windows and dainty white
lights on railings
right next to the inflatable
elves and Santas, helicopters and
mini vans (Santa driven, of course) –
sometimes all in the same yard
with the old-school plastic figures
from Santa and snowmen to the Holy Family
with a too white baby
in the manger too soon
surrounded by plastic sheep and



camels with no lights, shepherds,
choirs of angels, and gift-bearing kings
with paint missing in patches
and sometimes a star that's
definitely seen better days.
Down the road are the giant
bulbs in rainbow colours (the
improper order a bit jarring)
next to lights that drip from
gutters and snowflakes projected
on the siding, swirling next to
blinking over-sided ornaments.

Then there's the house with
all the lights in all the colours
blinking, twinkling, sparkling,
dripping, fading one into another –
a true cacophony of light.

We walk by them all, the dog and I,
these simple and fantastic,
sacred and silly – silent
signals that all hope is
not lost

Darkness interrupted by chaotic lights,
disjointed décor from one house to another
boldly proclaims the Light
the Light that shines through all things
in every colour, every shape, every rhythm
no matter how chaotic – not
just for December nights,
not just for Christmas this year
or next.

These holiday lights – no matter how old,
or how garish – are pleasant, perhaps joyful,
reminders that **Hope** shines on and on
even when the days are short
and humans hold their weapons
closer than their neighbours.

NEA Sisters who featured on 175 faces during the past month

175 Years, 175 Faces



Mary Jo McElroy
Nodda
NEA

“ My dream for our Institute is that, wherever we are, we are inspired daily by the words on our cross. That all may have life’ and that we act accordingly, in our relationships with human beings and planet Earth.



175 Years, 175 Faces



Sr Clare O'Keeffe
Ferrybank, Waterford, Ireland, NEA

“ My hope for the immediate future of our Institute is that our mission in Africa will flourish and be a source of life for the Sisters and the people whose lives they touch.



175 Years, 175 Faces



Sr. Patsy Butler
Ferrybank, Waterford, Ireland.

“ Let the little children come to me ...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
(mark 10: 14 – 15)



NORTHERN EUROPEAN AREA

PRE- CHAPTER ASSEMBLY 2 – 3 DECEMBER, FERRYBANK

Gathering to ‘meet and greet’ on Sunday night before the real work of the Assembly.





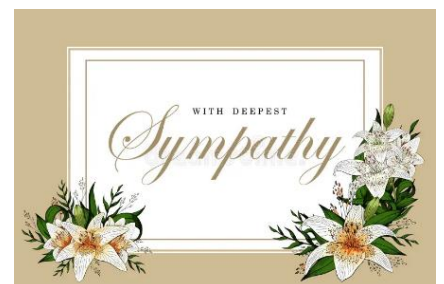
Getting down to work on Monday and Tuesday – 2nd and 3rd December



BEREAVEMENTS



We remember the Morris and Rossiter Families, the SHM sisters, especially the sisters in Madonna House, Ferrybank and most especially Sr Margaret Mary Morris RSHM on the death of Sr Immaculee Morris RSHM. Sr Immaculée died peacefully on 06 December. Sr Immaculée was aged 95 and in the 75th year of her religious profession. Let us keep all the bereaved in our thoughts and prayers at this time. May Sr. Immaculée rest in peace.



SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

New RSHM mission in Angola

Photos of Sisters Margaret Fielding, Ana Luísa Pinto, Deborah Jamali, Madalena Manhiça and Rhânella Oliveira, who are already in Angola.

We are all ready for the opening of our new community in Luena on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. We want to sow and expand the RSHM charism in a new culture and collaborate with others in the mission of Jesus Christ.



Leaving Belo Horizonte:
(L to R)) Srs Aelita, Rhânella,
Daniela and Cristina.



Sr Ana Luísa and Sr Margaret
leaving Rome.



Sr Coltridah with
Sr Deborah.

The Diocese of Lwena is celebrating the presence of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Angola.

We invite you to watch the article that records the arrival of our sisters in the country.

https://youtu.be/N_Tb01V9A74
[#RSHM](#) [#RSCM](#)



With great joy we share images of the Mass that marks the opening of our Community in Luena, Angola.

We thank Don Martin, the Salesian Community of Priests and Brothers, and the Salesian Sisters for your warm welcome, your openness and hospitality, for the testimony of your lives and for your continued help.

We are very grateful. Thank you also to the people of the Parish of Saints Peter and Paul for your welcome. Let us all continue to be united in prayer

and may the memory of this day remain in our hearts and give us energy and hope for the future.
May God and Mary, our mother, bless this new mission. [#RSHM](#) [#RSCM](#)

Blessing of the new RSHM community in Angola

On Monday the 9th of December, after evening mass in the parish Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Luena, the celebrant. Fr. Dionisio SDB, led the people of the parish, along with Priests and Sisters of many different congregations in procession, to the house of the new RSHM community in Luena, Angola.

When they reached the house, Fr. Dionisio blessed it and with the whole congregation prayed for God's blessing and protection on Sisters Madalena, Deborah and Rhanella, and on all who enter there.



BRAZIL AREA ASSEMBLY



From December 4 to 6, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary met in the Electoral Assembly, at the São José Retiros, in Belo Horizonte, to discern and elect the delegates who will represent the Brazil Area in the General Chapter of 2025.

On the first day, they had a significant moment of reflection and prayer, led by Sister Lourdinha Lima, RSCM. Inspired by the story of Ruth, they reflected on the area assembly's theme, which is the same as the General Chapter: "Women of prophetic hope walking together risking the new so that all may have life." "

It was a day marked by prayerful silence and sharing, in which the Word of God encouraged them to walk with courage and hope along this synodal path.

On the third and final day of the Brazil Area Assembly, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary dedicated themselves to sharing the ministries of their sisters, strengthening their commitment to our mission. They shared about the Pipa Project, which will be developed in 2025 and stands out as a concrete sign of hope and transformation among the youth. They also heard from the Mission Team and the Training Team hikes, who presented their initiatives and challenges. It was a closure marked by gratitude and a renewed commitment to walk together as Women of Prophetic Hope.



We thank everyone who joined us in prayer during this Assembly and we continue to be united in the mission to promote life in fullness!

GENERAL CHAPTER 2025



We are delighted to share a short interview with Sister Kathleen O'Donovan, Co-Leader of the Northern European Area.

Sister Kathleen emphasizes that the theme of the General Chapter inspires her to be a channel of hope and compassion, especially for those on the margins, so that all may have life.



Sister Cathy Minhoto (Western American Area Co-Leader) spoke with us during the Enlarged Leadership Council Meeting 2024, in November.

We invite you to watch the short interview on the theme of the General Chapter where Cathy emphasises the call to be women of prophetic hope in the world of today.

We invite you to watch a short interview with Sister Breda Byrne, Co-Leader of the Northern Europe Area, on the theme of the General Chapter 2025:

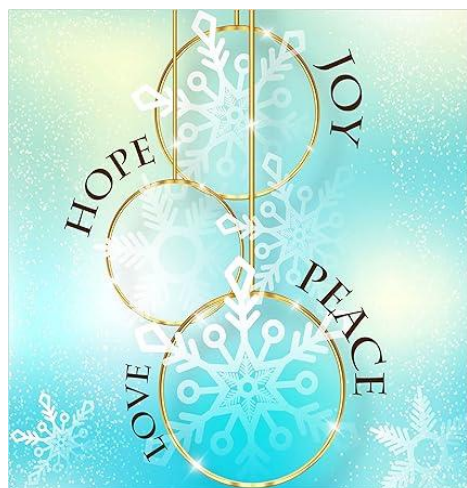
“Women of prophetic hope, walking together, risking the new, so that all may have life.”



[#RSHM #RSCM #CapítuloGeral2025 #GeneralChapter2025](#)

Type in **RSCM RSHM Facebook** on Google to access these videos

BLESSING FOR CHRISTMAS



May we be blessed,
And know the spirit of joy,
In this season of cold,
For it is also the season of warmth and kindness.
May the cold be melted by the warmth of compassion
And find its way to those in need
May those that are bestowed with plenty
Open their hearts, offering kindness to those with less
So that those with less, do not know hunger this day
But come to know the love of God, the angels and mankind
So that they, and all of us may be blessed this day and for
days to come.

NEA - Christmas Wishes



GRANGE ROAD: Carmel and Joanna wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and good health throughout 2025. Our card money will be donated to 'MARY'S MEALS' feeding hungry children throughout the world.

THE PARK: Mary Jo, and (soon to join her!) Margot, wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas. During this season of goodwill we would like to use our card money to donate to the work of Mary's Meals, feeding hungry children.



ARROWSMITH and SEAFIELD

May the blessing of peace be with you all and your families near and far.

Love from all in Arrowsmith and Seafield

GRIANAN CLOSE: We wish peace, joy and many blessings to all of our sisters in the NEA, and your families and friends, throughout the Christmas season and in the coming year. In lieu of cards and postage our donation will be made to the local SVP group.

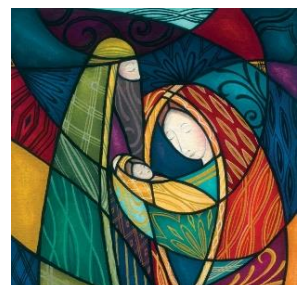


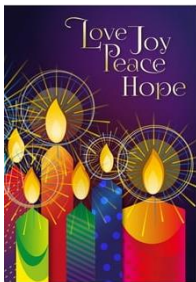
FAZAKERLEY: As we celebrate the miracle of this special season may our hearts be filled with peace and joy and the blessings of Christmas live in your hearts throughout 2025.

A donation will be made to our local food-bank.

Love from Anne and Kathleen.

NAOMH BRÍD Community wish each of our sisters, the Extended Family and all who collaborate with us a blessed and happy Christmas. May 2025 bring peace and joy to each one. In lieu of cards we will make a donation to our local branch of St. Vincent de Paul who respond to the many needs in our local area.





CARLISLE: Blessings to all our Sisters for Christmas and the coming year. May Christ's peaceful presence be among us always and throughout our troubled world.

With best wishes from Carlisle Community,
Margot and Catherine

United with you all longing for peace and hope among all people this Christmas. *Eleanor*



MANOR PARK COMMUNITY:

Wishing you all peace, joy and happiness at Christmas, and many blessings throughout 2025. Donation in lieu of cards to our local foodbank.

Dorothy, Rosemary, Breda and Kathleen

MADONNA HOUSE

Thinking of all our sisters and wishing you much happiness and peace at Christmas. We remember you all in our prayers and hope that you all receive many Graces and Blessings during this Holy Season.

With our love and prayer,
Madonna House Community.



Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année
Feliz Natal et Bom Ano Novo
Feliz Navidad et Feliz Ano Nuevo
Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year

« Dans son incarnation, le Fils de Dieu nous a invités à la révolution de la tendresse ... ».
L'Évangile nous invite toujours à courir le risque de la rencontre avec le visage de l'autre, avec sa présence physique qui interpelle, avec sa souffrance et ses demandes, avec sa joie contagieuse.

La joie de l'Évangile Pape François

Mariejean
Bernadette
Marie Paule

Françoise