



# NEA NEWS & VIEWS



JANUARY 2025

## from **A Blessing for the New Year** by *John O'Donahue*

On the day when  
The weight deadens  
On your shoulders  
And you stumble,  
May the clay dance  
To balance you.

.....

May there come across the waters  
A path of yellow moonlight  
To bring you safely home.  
May the nourishment of the earth be  
yours,  
May the clarity of light be yours,  
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,  
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.  
And, so may a slow  
Wind work these words  
Of love around you,  
An invisible cloak  
To mind your life.



## **The Year** by *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

What can be said in New Year rhymes,  
That's not been said a thousand times?  
The new years come, the old years go,  
We know we dream, we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,  
We lie down weeping with the night.


We hug the world until it stings,  
We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,  
We wreath our prides, we sheet our dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,  
And that's the burden of a year.


## Members of the NEA who featured on 175 faces during the past month

**175 Years, 175 Faces**




“The word that identifies the Institute for me is RISK.”

**Sister Pamela Penkert**  
NEA




**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“As you step into the future, I ask you remember the hard work and determination of the sisters who have passed away, individually extraordinary.”

**Nicola William**  
Manager Arrowsmith House  
Liverpool, NEA



**175 Years, 175 Faces**



“I believe that 2025 will be a great year for the Church and the Institute - The Church's Jubilee Year and our General Chapter. It's not by chance that both our themes are of HOPE, so indeed, what a Year of Favour it will be, as we allow the Spirit to make it so!”

**Sr. Madeleine Fitzpatrick**  
Ferrybank - NEA



## SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

### 24 December 2024 - ROME

Photos of Sisters Margaret Fielding, Ana Luísa Pinto and Monica Walsh, representing our Institute in St. Peter's Square, as Pope Francis opens the Holy Door, inaugurating the Church's Jubilee Year 2025, with its theme, Pilgrims of Hope.

*May the deep peace, joy and hope of Emmanuel, God with us, dwell in all our hearts this Christmas and throughout Jubilee Year 2025.*



### 29 December 2024 – Zambezi Region

Pictures from the Zambezi Region Assembly, wrapping up 2024! We are walking together towards the 2025 General Chapter.





## New Year Message

*“For almost a year, the city of Rome has been carrying out works of restoration and improvement. The fountains are working again, the monuments are more visible, the public squares have more spaces for people, the streets have been widened for pedestrians, the metro has been renovated. All this has been done in preparation for the Church’s Year of Jubilee 2025, which we entered on Christmas Eve when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica.*

*During this Jubilee Year, this biblical “Year of Favour”, we will walk together as Church, in solidarity and love, alongside our global family, “Pilgrims of Hope”, opening our hearts to God who has come to be with us wherever we go. We will also continue our journey as Institute in this year of Chapter, seeking to be “Women of Prophetic Hope”, looking to the future, risking the new in order to meet the needs in our ever changing and ever more challenging world. As we walk together, talk together, share our stories, pray together and work together for a more just and peaceful world, let us place our hope and trust in the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit who is with us on the journey. May our hopes and dreams FLOURISH as we live out this special year!”*

*Sr. Margaret Fielding and all at the Generalate.*



## January 2025 - EAST TIMOR

### ON THE WAY TO EAST...



At the time of Epiphany, like the Holy Magi Kings who left the comfort of their homes and set out on the way to meet with God’s made flesh Sr Eugénia Ferreira was asked to “rise and shine”, put on your sandals and leave for Zumalai | Timor-Leste, to meet with our sister community and with the Timorese people who are waiting, and to whom they are sent on a mission.

Accompany her was Sr Teresa Nogueira who will make the canonical visit to the community of Zumalai.

May they together with the people of Timorese, be stars that point to the true Light, which is Jesus!

*“May the Lord bless you and keep you!*

*May the Lord make His face shine upon each of you,*

*May the Lord turn His face to each of you and give them His Peace”*

### WE CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS!

With gratitude and joy, we celebrate the blossoming of our charisma in the life of the Church and the people of Timorese.

At the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the people of Zumalai gathered to formally welcome Ir Eugénia Ferreira, to pray for Madalena and Franzinha who are traveling to continue their training in Portugal and to thank Ir Maria Lopes for her generous delivery over seven years. They were joined by the Sisters Teresa of Jesus, Feliciano and Eugénia who will advance the mission, the support for young people who begin their vocational journey and many other gestures of appreciation for our Institute. Like Jesus and with His Spirit, we spend doing good so that everyone may have Life!





## SIGNS of NEW LIFE from EAST TIMOR

Franzinha Fernandes is a 26-year-old Timorese woman who went to our community in Zumalai in search of a vocational answer.

After almost two years of living in community with the sisters and other young candidates, she has now arrived in Portugal for a period of pre-novitiate in our Institute. The Obra Social do Sagrado Coração de Maria in Braga will be her home. There, working with the sisters, families and children, she will continue her formation. We are very happy for her vocation and her presence among us.



Madalena da Silva is 22 years old and has one desire: to become a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. She met our sisters in the parish of Zumalai in East Timor. As a student at the parish's Catholic school, she met the sisters and the young people and adults of Mission Timor in 2019. She still remembers their names!

The years passed and the dream grew with them. One day she phoned the sisters: she wanted to have an experience in the community. Two years later, she arrived in Portugal for her pre-novitiate at the Obra Social do Sagrado Coração de Maria in Braga. We thank God for the joy of her vocation. We wish her a happy life.

## 9 JANUARY 2025 – JPIC MEETING IN ROME

The Institute's JPIC Coordinators worldwide are meeting in Rome. The group was welcomed by Sister Margaret Fielding and today also spoke with Sister Maamalifer, the Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa (MSOLA), Co-Executive Secretary of JPIC and Executive Secretary of UISG.

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Together in Rome the Institute's JPIC coordinators visited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in the city.



Established in 1945, FAO is a specialized UN agency leading international efforts to end hunger worldwide. It has 195 members — 194 nations plus the European Union — and works in 130 countries around the world. FAO's work contributes to 8 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The tour included visits to several of the major meeting rooms, with art and artifacts that reflect member organizations' cultures and examples of planting strategies, such as hydroponics, which offers more sustainable growing solutions.

The group is grateful to sister Veronica Brand for organizing the outing. Over the last few days in the city the JPIC/ONU NGO team reflected on how they can work with the other teams and groups of the Institute and prepared a statement and action plan to present in the 2025 General Chapter. The successful meeting was concluded with a beautiful worship service.





## ASSEMBLIES

The **EAA Assembly** took place on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The Facilitator Sr Mary Maher suggested that the 2025 Chapter ‘*will be a new moment when our charism (which is God’s gift) will reverberate in the new situations we will face in the Church and world. As she has done before, Mary brought us deep into our core values and raised our hopes that with God’s grace we have all we need to face the future.*’

*(from the EAA Bulletin)*



## NEA Part 2 in Penmaenmawr.



It was a warm and happy gathering in Pen for our Assembly on Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 Jan.

With Frances our facilitator, we entered gently into the process of reflection and sharing and then focused on the call of our Institute Chapter to be ‘women of ‘Prophetic Hope’

Gathering, praying

together, reflecting and discussion was the pattern of the two days and there was a great spirit of openness and participation. We thought frequently of our ‘sister Assembly’ in Ferrybank and felt united as we shared our hopes for the Institute future and our call to be women of prophetic hope.



It wasn’t all work! Pen excels in hospitality, so the beautiful surroundings, the super food, the relaxed glass of wine at the end of the day, all contributed to a really positive and engaging Assembly.

Thank you to one and all for such a good Area experience.

I’m not a photographer...as you will no doubt see! Apologies if I have missed anyone... unintentional!

*Mary Jo Martin*

*It was with real sadness, while in Pen, that Patrice heard the news of her sister-in-law’s serious illness and diagnosis. We were so pleased to be there so we could support her with our concern and prayers, and we continue to do so.*







## GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

As we continue preparing for the General Chapter 2025 we invite you to watch a short interview with Sister Maria Teresa Nogueira, Leader of the Portugal Area, about the ecclesial event.

Sister Maria Teresa emphasizes that *“we will be together in community to listen to God's calls, hearing the wounds, the challenges, the signs of our time. We believe that in these realities of the world, of the Church, of our contemporaries, we can hear the heartbeat of Jesus Christ.”*



The last video in December 2024 in the General Chapter 2025 series is with Sister Sipiwe Phiri, a member of the Institute's Leadership Council.

Sister Sipiwe emphasizes that the journey to the Chapter includes all the sisters, leaving no one behind!

*“We want to listen to each other in a deep way, so that all may have life and have to the full”.*

The first video of 2025 in the Chapter 2025 series is of Dr. Jessie Rogers, a theologian specialized in the Old Testament, who was present at the Extended Leadership Council meeting in Noddfa.



*See all the videos in the following link.*

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

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

## BEREAVEMENTS

We offer our sincere sympathies to the **Sisters of the EAA** on the deaths of:



**Sister de la Salle Murphy RSHM** who died on 24 December at Marymount Convent. Sister de la Salle was 92 years old and in the 76<sup>th</sup> year of her Religious Profession.

**Sister Alice Alter RSHM** who died on 26 December at Marymount Convent. Sister Alice was 86 years old and in the 66<sup>th</sup> yr of her Religious Profession.

**Sister Andrew Murcia RSHM** who died on 13 January in Marymount Convent. Sr. Andrew was 96 years old and in the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of her Religious Profession.

**Sister Susan Gardella RSHM** who died on 14 January in St John's Hospital, Yonkers, NY. Susan was 67 years old and in the 41<sup>st</sup> year of her Religious Profession.

## THE LAUGHING HEART *by Charles Bukowski*

Your life is your life  
Don't let it be clubbed into dank submission.

Be on the watch.  
There are ways out.  
There is a light somewhere.  
It may not be much light but  
It beats the darkness.

Be on the watch.  
The gods will offer you chances.  
Know them.  
Take them.

You can't beat death but  
You can beat death in life, sometimes.  
And the more often you learn to do it,  
The more light there will be.

Your life is your life.  
Know it while you have it.  
You are marvellous  
The gods wait.

