



# NEA NEWS & VIEWS



FEBRUARY 2025

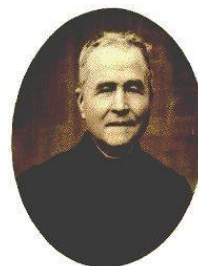
## FOUNDATION DAY 24 FEBRUARY

*We share the particular gift of the Spirit  
given to Jean Gailhac,  
to Mere St. Jean, and to our first sisters  
for the service of the Church  
and the life of the world.*



RELIGIOUS OF  
THE SACRED  
HEART OF MARY

*Responsible for this gift,  
we ask of God  
openness to the Holy Spirit,  
attentiveness to the Word active in our world,  
continual conversion of heart. (para 4 Constitutions)*



*Gailhac*

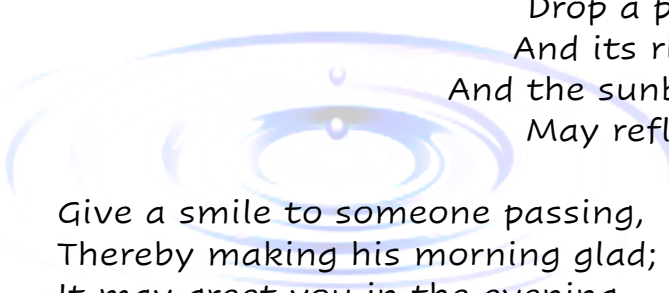


### THE POWER OF ONE *by Ashish Ram*

One song can spark a moment  
One flower can wake the dream  
One tree can start a forest  
One bird can herald spring  
One smile begins a friendship  
One handclasp lifts a soul  
One star can guide a ship at sea  
One word can frame the goal  
One vote can change a nation  
One sunbeam lights a room  
One candle wipes out darkness  
One laugh will conquer gloom  
One step must start each journey  
One word must start each prayer  
One hope will raise our spirits  
One touch can show you care  
One voice can speak with wisdom  
One heart can know what's true  
One life can make the difference  
You see, it's up to you!!

*We praise God for  
this One man and this One woman  
who, by their faith, generosity and fidelity  
have made a huge difference to the world  
and to our individual lives.  
Let us honour them  
by the way we live our lives!*

## INFLUENCE by Joseph Norris

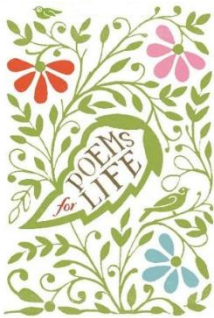


Drop a pebble in the water,  
And its ripples reach out far;  
And the sunbeams dancing on them  
May reflect them to a star.

Give a smile to someone passing,  
Thereby making his morning glad;  
It may greet you in the evening  
When your own heart may be sad.

Do a deed of simple kindness;  
Though its end you may not see,  
It may reach, like widening ripples,  
Down a long eternity.

## POETRY GROUP



*Five of us have met a few times last year to simply share a poem with others via zoom. We have found it refreshing and enjoyable and have introduced one another to some old friends and new voices in the poems we have read. We aim to meet every couple of months, depending on the time of the year. Our next meeting is Tuesday 11th March at 4pm. If you would like to join us just contact Mary Jo McElroy for the zoom link and bring along a poem. Barbara*

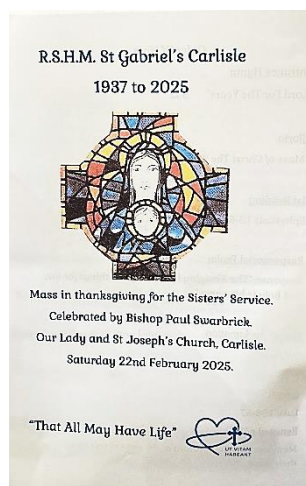
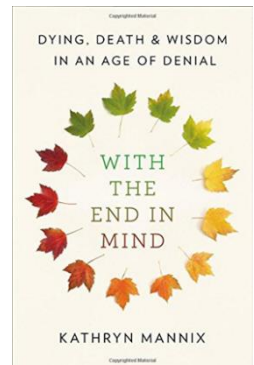
## THE WONDER OF DEATH AND DYING – Barbara Bailey

Paula and myself recently attended a day with this title. The day was led by Dr Karen Groves. I had not seen her since she was a pupil in Seafeld in 1972. Subsequently she qualified in Medicine and in 1992, with her sister, pioneered the opening of Queenscourt hospice in Southport where she has been Medical director for palliative care until recently.

Some sixty attendees participated in this excellent day which included medical, practical, psychological and spiritual aspects. She recommended the following book

“**With the end in mind**” by Kathryn Mannix. It is a wonderfully wise and practical book mostly in the form of stories. Nicola, our Arrowsmith Manager, couldn’t put it down!

For me, it has helped me reflect on endings in many forms, not just personal, but collective and how affirming and important it is to face and name them.



## THANKSGIVING FOR RSHM IN CARLISLE 1937 TO 2025

The Church of Our Lady and St Joseph was packed with people from far and near eager to be present for this Mass of thanksgiving for the Sisters Service over so many years.

Among them were many past pupils, extended family, parishioners and so many others who, we learned afterwards, had been touched in various ministries by RSHM in Carlisle. And, of course, nine RSHM who had travelled from London, Scotland, Liverpool and Noddfa were there with Margôt and Catherine on this special day.





The chief celebrant, Bishop Swarbrick , spoke warmly of his long association with RSHM in the diocese and Zambia. He recalled that it was Fr Begley (Mother Etienne's brother) who invited us in 1937 and that sixty sisters had served there during the following years. He had been inspired by our living out of our motto "that all may have life" remarking that "you always seem to see the person in front of you more fully than they see themselves". Reflecting on the Gospel he noticed that "moving on" was part of the journey of discipleship and he saw this moment as a time of completion

Finally he noted the difficult historical, social and church changes there had been since 1937 and that within that our presence had continued to be a constant reminder of God's love.

The reception afterwards was a joyous and sad time so many catching up, sharing stories and memories, many eager to speak a last word to Margôt and Catherine who kept circulating, I observed, until almost the last person had gone !



*Srs Eleanor and Margôt enjoy the company of two extended family members from Carlisle, now living in Liverpool.*



*Srs Catherine, Mary Jo and Margaret with Carlisle parishioner.*



*Members of extended family from Barrow. In the background Srs Margôt and Kathleen chat with the niece of Sr Raphael RIP (Carlisle and Kingston)*

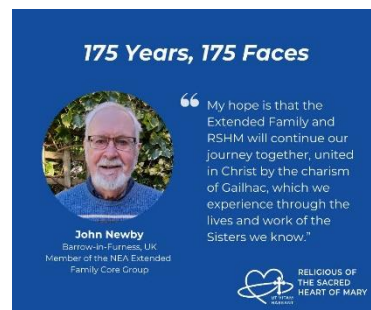
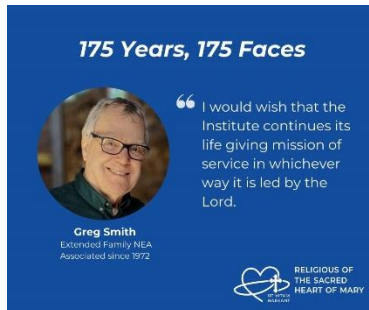


*Kathleen and Bishop Paul cut the celebration cake. The background video display prepared by extended family member Greg Smith, showing Sr Basil and Convent in the days when they were surrounded by fields.*

We just had time to get back to St Gabriel's to connect to zoom and be transported into even wider RSHM historic and apostolic realities. Deo Gratias!

*PS. I notice that the Mass is available on YOU TUBE. Search the name of the Church above plus Carlisle. The video says it is 2.28 hours long so you have to forward it to about half way to get the beginning of Mass.*

### Members of the NEA Extended Family who featured on 175 faces during February



## SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

### 25 January - Jubilee of the World of Communication

*“We are present at the Jubilee of the Communications World, the first of the major thematic events organized for the Holy Year. We started the day on the Pilgrimage, we were at the Pope's meeting with Communicators from around the world and other conversations related to communication and spirituality.”*

The Jubilee invites everyone to communicate hope, speak the truth, build trust and protect the vulnerable.

The Pope reiterated. *“Communication is divine and requires wisdom”*



### 26 January

Communicators and Archivists of the Institute participated in the Holy Mass of the "Sunday of the Word of God", presided over by the Holy Father. The celebration, at the Basilica of St. Peter, closed the Jubilee of Communications, which invited everyone to communicate hope, speak truth, and protect the vulnerable.

### 27 January

Archivists from across the Institute meet for the first time in Rome. *“As archivist, you plan an important role in our mission as Institute. To you is entrusted the responsibility of looking after, taking care of, preserving the original documents, the historical records, and of making them available to our Sisters or members of the public who are looking for information or carrying out research on some aspect of our history. Yours is a sacred trust and we are grateful to you for your collaboration with us”.* Sister Margaret, welcoming the group.





28 January

During the archivists meeting in Rome, the General Council and our archivists thanked and honoured Sister John Bosco, archivist of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary for more than 20 years.

Thank you Sister John Bosco for preserving our documents and helping to tell our story!



29 January

Together in Rome for the first time, the archivists of the Institute visited the archives of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in the General House, shared about the work of the Areas, best practices, challenges and began to plan the future!

Before ending the meeting, they visited the Augustinian Archives and had an audience with the Pope.

Everybody was very happy to learn about the work of the different Areas and to know that they walk in the same direction, now united!

## 29TH WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE



On February 1, 2025, Pope Francis presided over Vespers at the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, in celebration of the 29th World Day of Consecrated Life. Sisters Maria Lucia Brandão and Maria Celina Reis (Portugal Area) and Sisters Maria do Rosário Durães and Ana Luísa Pinto (Generalato) were present and welcomed the invitation that, in his



homily, Pope Francis addressed all the consecrated as: "bearers of light for the world." women and men of our time".

***May this Jubilee Year 2025 be an occasion to rediscover the beauty of consecrated life, a precious gift for the Church and the world!***

## INAUGURATION OF THE NEW SOCIAL PROJECT OF THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY IN BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL.



The project is named in honour of our co-founder, Sister Saint Jean!

*"We hope that this space will be a place of welcome, care and opportunities for children and adolescents, a true symbol of hope and transformation."*

See the post made by Brazil, with the video of the inauguration!

## GENERAL CHAPTER 2025



On the walk to the Chapter you are invited to read the text written by sister Ir. Rosa de Lima Pereira (Brazil), member of the Heritage and Spirituality Group.

*"Contemplating our Founder's life trajectory, I am always encouraged by her docility, allowing myself to be transformed... in a process of "metamorphoses" that were happening on the paths she lived. "*

highlights Sister Rosinha.

English - <https://www.rscm-rshm.org/general.../women-walking-together/>

### RSHM ZAMBEZI AREA

10 February

We celebrate Sisters Perpetual Muzivani and Plynet Tachekwa who began 2025 by renewing their vows! Wishing them God's blessings as they work to give life to all. Congratulations!

With the joyful news, we also invite everyone to follow the new Facebook page of the Zambezi Region, to receive more information about the sisters and the mission in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

[#RSHM](#) [#RSCM](#) [#ThatAllMayHaveLife](#)  
[#ZambeziArea](#)



12 February

### FOUNDATION OF A RSCM COMMUNITY IN REDEMPTION, IN CEARÁ, BRAZIL.



On February 9, the sisters Audilia and Lucilene arrived at Redemption (EC), marking the beginning of the process of founding a new community of the Institute of Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. The official inauguration is scheduled for March, when they will be joined by sisters Delva and Piedosa.

At this moment, they are getting to know the local community and making preparations for this new mission. With faith and dedication, we trust the



intercession of our founder, Fr. Gailhac, to bring this foundation to fruit, strengthening the lives of the community and the mission that drives us "So that all may have life".

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW ASSIGNMENT.



13 February

## GLOBAL NETWORK MEETING WITH THE RSHM ILC

Each year, the Coordinating Committee of the Global Network holds an in-person planning meeting. This time, at the invitation of Sister Margaret and the RSHM Institute Leadership Council, they travelled to beautiful Rome from February 6-9 for meaningful discussions, collaboration, and reflection.

You can read what Susan M. Kumnick, Coordinator of the Global Network of RSHM Schools, wrote about the meeting!



<https://www.rscm-rshm.org/general/global-network->

[#RSHM](#) [#GlobalNetwork](#) [#Education](#) [#Mission](#) [#Collaboration](#)

## Celebration of the 176th anniversary of the Institute of Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary!

In preparation for the celebration the Brazil communications team introduce the first sisters of the Institute of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in creative little videos.

Listen to Father Jean Gailhac and Mère St. Jean, our founders, telling our story.

They remind us that our charism was born out of attentive listening to God and the needs of the world and that it transcends time and continues to generate life.

Father Gailhac points out that whenever he began a work in favour of life, God sent people to join forces with him. He emphasizes that the Institute of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary is made up of various faces and accents

We are many - Sisters, Collaborators, Extended Family, together that all may have life!

The videos appear like this on the RSCMRSHMFACEBOOK page

