



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



MARCH 2025

Feast of the Annunciation – March 25

Annunciation - *Malcolm Guite*

We see so little, stayed on surfaces,
We calculate the outsides of all things,
Preoccupied with our own purposes
We miss the shimmer of the angels' wings,
They coruscate around us in their joy
A swirl of wheels and eyes and wings unfurled,
They guard the good we purpose to destroy,
A hidden blaze of glory in God's world.
But on this day a young girl stopped to see
With open eyes and heart. She heard the voice;
The promise of His glory yet to be,
As time stood still for her to make a choice;
Gabriel knelt and not a feather stirred,
The Word himself was waiting on her word.



Written in March (1798) *William Wordsworth*



The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,

The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,



The green field sleeps in the sun;
The oldest and youngest
Are at work with the strongest;
The cattle are grazing,
Their heads never raising;
There are forty feeding like one!





Like an army defeated
The snow hath retreated,
And now doth fare ill
On the top of the bare hill;

The Ploughboy is whooping—anon—anon:
There's joy in the mountains;
There's life in the fountains;
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing;
The rain is over and gone!



THE YEAR of CELEBRATION of 176 YEARS of the RSHM came to a close on the 24th February

We celebrate and thank the diverse faces: sisters, collaborators, extended family, communities... who were with us every day, for 176 years, so that they all may live!

Photos of some participants of the project 175 faces and 175 years. A special thanks to everyone!



SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

22 February

The Chinhoyi community in the Zambezi Area had the honour of hosting the RSHM communities across Zimbabwe to commemorate an impressive 176 years since their foundation. The celebrations were particularly special, as they marked not only this significant milestone but also the official inauguration of Sr. Fildelma House, which will serve as a vital formation house for future generations. The atmosphere was filled with joy and anticipation as the community came together to recognize both their rich history and the promising future ahead.



24 February

Together we celebrate 176 and also celebrate the inauguration of Sr. Fildelma House in Zambezi Area, which will serve as a vital training house for generations to come. Long life to the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary!



Happy Foundation Day! - message on Facebook from the Leadership Team

Celebrating our Institute's 176th Foundation Anniversary

“May this year of Chapter 2025, inspire all of us RSCM, Extended Family, RSCM Global Network of Schools, Legal Collaborators and Friends, to commit ourselves again to working for justice in today's world, so dark and fragmented by injustice, inequality and division, so broken and wounded. Let us, with our lives, be witnesses to hope, building bridges of peace and reconciliation between differences and divisions, denouncing situations of injustice, persevering in our efforts to care for each other and our common home, "so that all may have life."

Leadership Team of the Institute

26 February - Novitiate



Rosa, Alzira, Lúcia (Mozambique Area) and Mercy (Zambezi Area) were welcomed to the Novitiate in Lusaka, Zambia to begin their two years novitiate formation.

The time of novitiate has as its objectives to deepen the novice's knowledge and love of Jesus Christ; to initiate her into religious life within the Institute, according to it's charism, mission and spirit; to verify, deepen and confirm her call to religious life...
Const § 64



26 February - Celebrating 176 years in Mozambique.

The celebration included prayer, fellowship and sharing of our history in the different communities of the Sacred Heart of Mary Religious in the country.

May God bless the RSCM, their collaborators and their extended family!



27 February – Celebration of 176 years on zoom

Thank you to the panel of speakers who provided input during the celebration by zoom - **MISSION - A CALL TO JUSTICE** and everyone who joined us in celebrating the Institute's 176 years and the 50th anniversary of our Institute's commitment to the Mission as a Call to Justice. Thank you very much Ir. Verónica Brand, Ir. Catherine Patten, Evandro Albuquerque and Ir. Beatrice Magaya for the inspiring presentations and Ir. Manuela Queirós for the beautiful prayer!



FILM INSPIRED BY THE WORDS OF FR. JEAN GAILHC



You are invited to watch the short film **“Finding Her Way”**. The film, directed by **Cecilia Brizuela**, Director of Media Communication of the West America Area, depicts a contemporary issue, connecting Father Gailhac’s insight and charism as relevant for today.

The inspiring “Finding Her Way” tells the story of Ana. Set against the backdrop of her impending high school graduation, Ana must choose between pursuing a college degree to carve out a life of her own or staying within the confines of her family and working in the family business.

The short film was shot at the RSHM Office in Montebello and at Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School, also in California, with real CSHM students, with some professional actors and

actresses. In addition, the film has Kathleen Kelemen and Catherine Minhoto as executive producers. **Congratulations to Cecília and all the team!**

Watch the movie: “Finding Her Way” <https://youtu.be/jpYl7tmSB1c> (original version)

2 March – Portugal and Timor

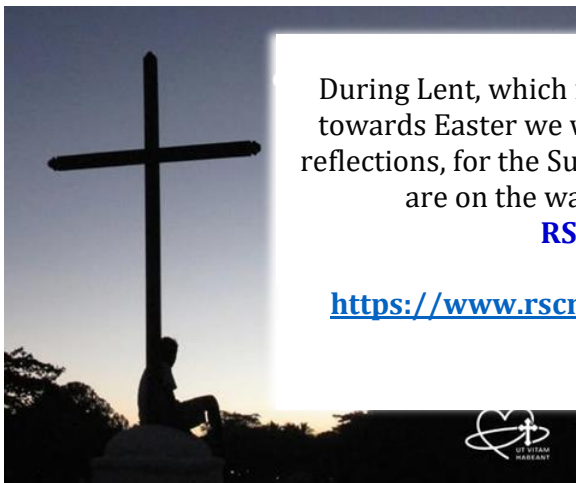
Franzinha and Madalena officially began the Pre-Novitiate stage at the IRSCM on February 24. They keep in their hearts the call of God and the passion to respond generously. They have left Timor, their homeland, their family and cultural backgrounds ... and are committed to their faith!

They trust in God's faithfulness and in the help of the Sisters - especially the Sisters of the Community and those responsible for formation. They want to know, love and follow Jesus Christ as RSHM and are counting on the necessary help and the specific program for this stage of formation.



4 March

February 24th was celebrated with joy by the sisters Deborah, Madalena and Rhânella, in Luena, Angola. Very beautiful prayer at the Community chapel this morning. Later on this day, the first Mass was celebrated in the community chapel, with Father Dionysio Kasindula SDB, a great friend of the sisters, very grateful to be part of this moment. After Mass, everyone enjoyed a delicious artfully prepared lunch, entitled to a commemorative cake!



During Lent, which marks the beginning of the 40-day pilgrimage towards Easter we walk together in hope, and to inspire personal reflections, for the Sundays texts written by some of our sisters who are on the walk to perpetual vows are posted on the **RSCM RSHM FACEBOOK** page.

<https://www.rscm-rshm.org/.../lent-a-time-of-personal.../>

(English)

8 March

Together with Portugal and the entire Institute, on this International Women's Day we give thanks for the gift of life and the commitment of our sisters around the world: women of prophetic hope, walking together, risking the new, so that all may have life.



17 March – Béziers, France



A new journey begins!

In February, Sr. Aelita Otavia da Silva arrived in Béziers to share ministry with the community. Originally from Brazil, she spent eight years in Zimbabwe and Zambia before embracing this new chapter at Bon Pasteur. She was welcomed with joy and gratitude! 💙🙏

Read more on our website! [#NewBeginnings](#) [#Faith](#) [#Community](#) [#RSHM](#)

English: <https://www.rscm-rshm.org/general/how-can-you-not-say-it/>

18 March Eastern American Area

RSHM sisters celebrated St. Patrick's Day on 17 March with a festive lunch including corned beef, cabbage and Irish Soda Bread. Then, they were treated to a performance by five young women from the Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance. Three of these young ladies will be competing in the World Championship in Dublin, Ireland later this year.





GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

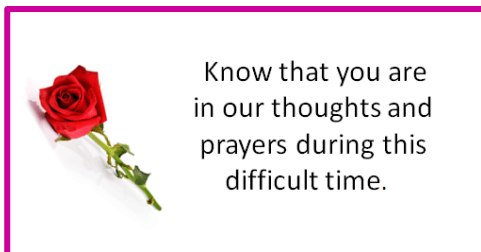
IN PREPARATION FOR THE CHAPTER

In the walk to the Chapter Sister Valeria Erneiro, from the Herança e Spirituality Group wrote a reflection about risking the new. You can read this reflection about Risking the New in the following link: <https://www.rscm-rshm.org/general/women-risking-the-new/> (English)



On the Walk to Chapter 2025, Sister Daniela Santos (Brazil) talks about what it means to be a woman of prophetic hope, risking the new, today. We invite you to visit our YouTube channel and watch Sister Daniela's video: <https://www.youtube.com/@RSCM-RSHM> On our website you can find other resources for the chapter in our different languages: <https://www.rscm-rshm.org/pt-pt/recursos/>

BEREAVEMENTS



We offer sincere sympathy to:

Sr Patrice Power on the deaths of her sister-in-law Mai on 25 February and her brother (Mai's husband) three weeks later on 18 March. May Patrice and the family be comforted and supported at this very sad time.

Sr Philippa O'Sullivan on the unexpected death of her brother Gerard on 11 March. We remember Philippa and Gerard's family during this period of mourning. May the support they receive help them.

We pray that all the deceased rest in eternal peace.

SHORT QUOTES FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

