



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



MAY 2025

Extract from **THE BLESSED VIRGIN COMPARED TO THE AIR WE BREATHE**
- Gerard Manley Hopkins

Wild air, world-mothering air,
.....

This air, which, by life's law,
My lung must draw and draw
Now but to breathe its praise,
Minds me in many ways
Of her who not only
Gave God's infinity
Dwindled to infancy
Welcome in womb and breast,
Birth, milk, and all the rest
But mothers each new grace
That does now reach our race—
Mary Immaculate,
Merely a woman, yet
Whose presence, power is
Great as no goddess's
Was deemèd, dreamèd; **who**
This one work has to do—
Let all God's glory through,
God's glory which would go
Through her and from her flow
Off, and no way but so.
I say that we are wound
With mercy round and round
As if with air: the same
Is Mary, more by name.....



Hail Mary. Full of Grace

GATHERING IN NODDEFA – April- May

Fifteen of us gathered in Noddfa for some sun drenched days from 28th April - 1st May.

We had plenty of time to enjoy our wonderful late Spring surroundings both in personal time and together. We began our days with Yoga and Capacitar which helped us relax, bring into awareness our bodies and minds and be more fully present for the day ahead. During the sessions which followed Madeleine lead us into spiritual conversation / the synodal method when each of us spoke and listened to what was uppermost and important to her at this time, personally or within the area. The quality, depth and atmosphere of trust of this time continued as we then considered what had emerged from this experience, noting our convergences and differences. From this we would try to see what seemed important for us to focus on at this time and into the future. What came through was a need and desire to deepen our understanding and practice of “walking together” and “Hope”, with trust.



In order to do this we looked at the possibility of zoom meetings, initially in small groups, using a similar method and reflecting on some paragraphs from Jessie Roger’s “Women of Prophetic Hope” in the context of our own situations and lives at this time. These would be open, as usual, to everyone and enrich our next meeting in Noddfa October 13th - 16th.

We also had an informative presentation from the recent JPIC meeting in Rome which gave us much food for thought!

Follow up from all the above will be sent out soon. *Barbara*



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS - Sister Patricia McGrath

Patricia has never been known to pass up the chance for a celebration so it was inevitable that she would mark her own birthday on 16 May. She celebrated in Madonna House with the community there and was joined by any other SHMs who were available.



May 4-11 A special Week of Prayer for vocations.

Each day a question was posted for reflection on the RSCMRSHMFACEBOOK page. Sisters, and others, were invited to respond in the comments section. We can still reflect on these questions and answer them for ourselves.

May 4: How have you lived your mission in the world?

May 5: "The way to happiness is simplicity" (Pope Francis)
How do you practice simplicity in your everyday life?

May 6: "So that we all may have life."
How do you practice our mission in today's world?

May 7: What would you like to know about religious vocation? "

May 8: What vocations could make the world a better place?


May 9: Vocation. Which one is yours?

May 10: Name the people you admire for the way they practice their vocation.

May 11: Pray for vocations

"THE LORD IS HERE AND HE IS CALLING YOU" JN 11:28

I ASK YOU, OH GOD, TO LISTEN TO MY PRAYERS.
THEY HAVE ONLY ONE GOAL:
TO LOVE YOU, MY GOD,
AND TO MAKE EVERYONE LOVE YOU.
I AM FULLY CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL MULTIPLY
THE NUMBER OF THE SISTERS OF THE SACRED
HEART OF MARY, SO THAT
THROUGH THEM YOU CAN BE MORE KNOWN,
LOVED AND PRAISED EVERYWHERE.
AMEN

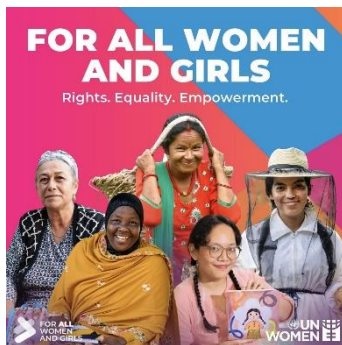


SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Area

We celebrate and thank sisters Reneé Rushton and Angela Milioto!

"On Saturday, April 26, the Sisters of the Western American Area gathered at the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Montebello, California, to celebrate the imminence of the Feast of the Sacred heart of Mary and to honour jubilarians **Sister Reneé Rushton, RSCM (75 years)**, and **Sister Angela Milliotto, RSCM (60 years)**. Bishop Gerald Wilkerson presided in the celebration with Rev. Robert E. Howard and Monsignor Robert Gipson, followed by a festive gathering. We thank our jubilarians for their years of service and dedication to making God known and loved so that all may have life. Congratulations! "



May 6

A new RSCM Bulletin at the UN. This issue focuses on recent happenings surrounding International Women's Day and the Commission on the Status of Women. Sister Veronica RSCM and RSCM NGO intern Sofija Kac share some of the most memorable events they attended over the two-week period.

You can read it by clicking on one of the links below:

English: <https://www.rscm-rshm.org/.../05/News-from-the-UN-153.pdf>

May 7 UISG (International Union of Superiors General)

The UISG Plenary Assembly 2025 took place in Rome 5 -9 May, 2025. The theme of the Assembly was **Consecrated Life: a Hope that Transforms**. Sr. Margaret Fielding, Institute Leader, is participated. This triennial meeting is an opportunity to share experiences and build relationships across congregations, languages and cultures. "In a world marked by conflict and division, religious women are called to be witnesses of peace, hope, and unity." (Sr. Mary Barron, OLA, President of UISG)



May 8

The Global Network of RSHM Schools

We are happy to let you know that Ms. Susan Kumnick, Coordinator of the Global Network of RSHM Schools, has been reappointed for a second three-year term, beginning on the 1st of July, 2025. Susan is the first lay coordinator of the Global Network Committee. We wish her many blessings and assure her of our prayers, as together we continue the mission entrusted to us of making God known and loved in today's world.



May 8 Rome – rejoicing at the appearance of white smoke.

“Habemus Papam”. It is a huge emotion in St. Peter's Square and around the World!



Sisters Joanne Safian, Ana Luísa Pinto and Pare Moreira

May 9 WELCOME POPE LEO XIV



With deep joy and gratitude, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and all those who share our mission welcome the election of Pope Leo XIV. Our hearts resonated with his words to the people in St Peter's Square: *"To all you brothers and sisters of Rome, of Italy, of all the world, we want to be a synodal church, walking and always seeking peace, charity, closeness, especially to those who are suffering.... We have to look together how to be a missionary church, building bridges, dialogue, always open to receiving, with open arms for everyone, like this square, open to all"*

We assure Pope Leo of our support and our prayers in his service of the Church and the world at this critical moment in history.

The Area of Brazil prepared reflections on Mary for the Month of May from May 12 -17 These are available on Youtube.

See details below if you would like to check them out.

In this month of May, dedicated to Mary, we are invited to contemplate the one who brought us Jesus and teaches us to follow Him. In the spirituality of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, which is markedly Christocentric, Mary has great relevance. Her testimony of faith, zeal, courage and surrender inspires us to walk with Christ.

Rev. Fr. Jean Gailhac saw her as a model of discipleship and active collaborator in the mission of the apostles and the rising Church.

Throughout this week, we were led by the Gospel of Luke (1, 26-56), savouring and contemplating Mary on her path of faith. May her story help us to embrace God's call with generosity and to live with hope and surrender.

Prepare your heart. Present yourself before God and ask for grace to live this time deeply.

The video is on our YouTube Channel (links below). Find a quiet place and pray with us, guided by short prayers prepared by the team of Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Brazil. May 13 to 17.

*You can watch it in different languages using youtube's subtitles

The videos were posted on the RSCM YouTube channel - RSHM. Tune in and pray with us!

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa5b7qw_ZvtNcKQh-JuIQ)



May 13 We remember that Mary bends before the mystery, not in submission, but for love. Her heart is in God and that's why her surrender is fruitful. So we are invited to reflect: What is Jesus inviting me to do today?

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/UVIkpM-BwCc?feature=shared>

May 14 Mary goes out quickly because she is moved by love and the urgency of the mission. What about me? What moves me to go out and meet others?

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/FYvAwetX4xw?feature=shared>

May 15 Mary finds a safe place in Elizabeth, someone who has already travelled the road of waiting and faith. Together, they welcome the joy that overflows; they rejoice at giving birth to new life; they strengthen themselves in hope and prayer. What can we learn from Mary and Elizabeth? How can we generate new life in our encounters?

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/cBDvcD5paMs>

May 16 Mary sees the world through God's eyes. Her praise comes from the certainty that he acts mercifully in history. She teaches us to recognize God's mercy in our lives and in the lives of others. Can you feel God's presence in the small gestures of everyday life?

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/nPpqo7tknKg?feature=shared>

May 17 Mary is the model of life for us, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. She is poor, humble, tender, a mother, a servant and a faithful collaborator in the work of redemption. Mary not only followed Jesus with an unconditional "yes", but also knew how to act with tenderness, compassion and zeal, always attentive to the needs of others and faithful to the presence of God in her heart.

What is Mary's place in your life? How have you collaborated in the work of redemption?

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/J79oGxzmkn8?feature=shared>



Greetings and blessings from the EAA to our RSHM sisters and the people of Timor L'Este as they commemorate the formal recognition of East Timor's independence from Indonesia, which occurred on May 20, 2002, after a United Nations-led transitional administration.



May 22

On the day of the International Day for Biological Diversity, we were invited to a moment of reflection and prayer in Solidarity with Creation using the prayer prepared by Sister Cathy Minhoto (JPIC/UN NGO).
<https://www.rscm-rshm.org/.../prayer-for-solidarity-for.../> (English)

May 22 Area of Brazil - Blessing of the Redemption Community Chapel in Ceará!



It was wonderful to be with loved ones, with whom we already share affection and friendship. Our joy was even greater with the presence of Ir. Maria Helena, area leader, Fr. Francisco our tireless brother and collaborator, the Community of African Students and the various groups that came. We, four sisters (Audília, Delva, Lucilene and Piedosa) who make up the Community, raise to God songs and psalms of gratitude for



all the people who join us in this life-generating mission in Jesus Christ. "Starting is not enough; the main thing is to establish well what you started." — *Fr. Gailhac*

May 23 CONGRATULATIONS EAA 2025 JUBILARIANS

The 2025 Jubilarians in the American Eastern Area. Together, 11 sisters total 760 years of service, so that all may have life! Father John Vigilanti and Father Senan Taylor celebrated the ceremony on the 17th. Sister Clevie Youngblood gave a toast, followed by words of gratitude written by Sister Mary Louise Bloomingdale and read by Sister Margaret Hoyne.

Congratulations to our sisters!



POETUGUESE AREA

May 23 CONGRATULATIONS SISTER ISABEL GRANGEON

We wish Sister Isabel many blessings in the leadership of the Portugal Area. May the Holy Spirit guide you!

We are also grateful to Sister Teresa Nogueira for all her dedication and the work she is doing, and continue to be united so that all may have life.

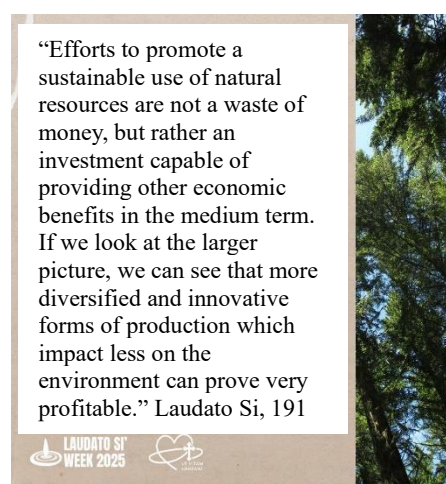
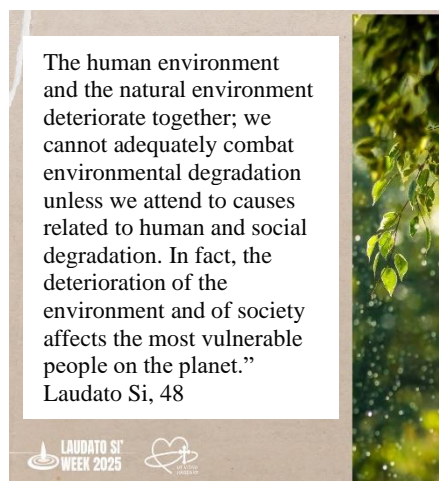
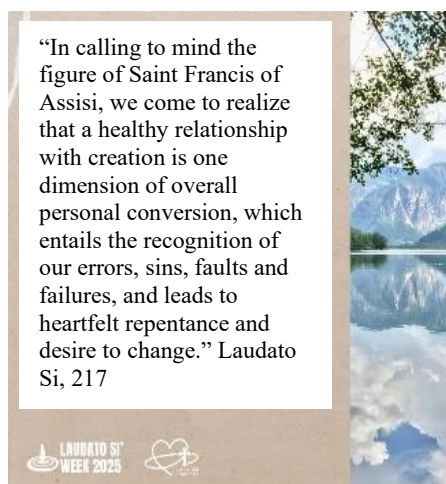


24 – 31 May LAUDATO SI WEEK (laudatosiweek.org)

Let's celebrate!

This year the Encyclical Laudato Si', written by Pope Francis, completes 10 years. It has been 10 years of hope, joy, prayer and action for our common home. The work continues with us!

For inspiration this week let's remember excerpts from Laudato Si'!



Continue to view the excerpts on
[rscmrshmfcebook](https://www.rscmrshmfcebook)

WALK TO THE CHAPTER 2025



In the walk to the general chapter 2025, we invite you to read Sister Catherine Patten's reflection on the experience of revising the Constitutions.

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

<https://www.rscm-rshm.org/general/constitutions/> (English)





GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

DREAMS FOR THE CHAPTER continued

The General Chapter is near, just three months away!

We are getting ready and, from April to June and will be publishing (on Facebook) the dreams of our Leaders, Delegates and Team for the Chapter. You are all invited to follow the new project and dream with us! In April and May the posts will be made on alternate days.



MY DREAM FOR THE CHAPTER 2025:
is that we will be open to the Word, faithful to the Spirit's leading, and renewed in our commitments as RSHM.

**SISTER CATHERINE
PATTEN**
Eastern America



"Deepening our capacity to engage with the generation of new members for the Institute. So I dream of our capacity to expand... Let us respond and act creatively to the new government structures"

**IRMÃ CRISTINA
CAETANO**
Brasil



MY DREAM FOR THE CHAPTER 2025:
is that we renew our commitment of women religious as RSHM in places of new life and in places of diminishment.

**SISTER CATHERINE
VINCIE**
Eastern America



"I dream of a Chapter in which we can all contribute and live: an openness to the newness of Spirit, with trust, hope and joy; active listening, without prejudice; open dialogue, that welcomes and respects differences, that strengthens communion and unity;

**IRMÃ ISABEL
GRANGEON**
Portugal



MY DREAM FOR THE CHAPTER 2025:
every participant will embrace the words of Micah, '...to do justice and to love goodness, and walk humbly with our God.' And that the diversity of the chapter body will be strength for unity.

**SISTER COLTRIDA
MOOYA**
Zambezi



"May God hear the vocational pastoral prayers, as a means to have Religious Women from the RSCM qualified to continue the Charisma left by the Founder."

**IRMÃ JACINTA
ALBERTO**
Portugal



MY DREAM IN THE CHAPTER 2025:
is to promote unity through our diversity. Continue maintaining our identity as RSHMs. Angola continues to be in the hearts of all the RSHMs as our response to Gailhac's vision.

**SISTER DEBORAH
JAMALI**
Zambezi



MY DREAM FOR THE CHAPTER 2025:
is that it will be open and alert to the pressing needs in our changing world to-day in society, church and the institute despite our fragility and diminishment.

**SISTER KATHLEEN
BUCKLEY**
NEA



My dream is to continue projecting the dreams of our founders and remain faithful even in the midst of adversity, meet the needs and contribute generously what I have.

**IRMÃ JÚLIA TREJO
MARTÍNEZ**
América del Oeste



MY DREAM FOR THE CHAPTER 2025:
is that it will enable us to take a giant step forward in becoming "One Unit of Governance" and that this will be as natural and meaningful to us as the words, "One Body for Mission."

**SISTER KATHLEEN
KELEMEN**
Western American Area



"Despite the difficulties in relationships, let's use mercy and love among ourselves, RSCM ... Let's get out of our comfort zones and explore new paths with creativity. Work with the young people, get close to them, listen to them."

**IRMÃ LUCILENE
DE OLIVEIRA**
Brasil



MY DREAM FOR THE CHAPTER 2025:
is that we are open and responsive to the call of the Holy Spirit speaking through each participant, and be empowered to walk with others in a synodal way, as messengers of hope and peace as we embrace the future.

**SISTER KATHLEEN
O'DONOVAN**
NEA



May the decisions to be made be guided by prophetic hope, trusting that God continues to lead the mission of RSCM. "

**IRMÃ MADALENA
MANHIÇA**
Moçambique



"Keep the course of unity among us well to support the mission. Being very sensitive to cultural diversity: letting me/us be transformed into meeting and listening to my sisters without priority."

**SOEUR MARIE FRANCE
CORREAU**
France



"That we can together and unitedly glimpse, with vitality, the new for our individual Religious Life and as an Institute."

**IRMÃ MARIA HELENA
MORRA**
Brasil



See the profiles of all the delegates, alternates, invited guests and team for the 2025 General Chapter!

<https://www.rscm-rshm.org/.../general-chapter-planning.../>

26 May We are united in prayer with our sisters, communities, collaborators and extended family in the United States on Memorial Day.



Pope Leo XIV, in his first papal address, echoed the risen Christ's greeting, "Peace be with you all," and emphasized the importance of prayer for peace and unity. He specifically mentioned the need for intercession and strength for those facing trials and hardships, urging all to be strong and joyful witnesses of the Gospel. He also called for dialogue and the pursuit of peace, particularly in areas affected by conflict.

“May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary obtain for all of us the grace to be strong and joyful witnesses of the Gospel, even in the midst of trials, in order to always promote peace and harmony”

Pope Leo XIV said on Sunday at the conclusion of the weekly Regina Caeli.