



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



AUGUST 2025

Two poems by Mary Oliver

August

When the blackberries hang
swollen in the woods, in the brambles
nobody owns, I spend

all day among the high
branches, reaching
my ripped arms, thinking

of nothing, cramming
the black honey of summer
into my mouth; all day my body

accepts what it is. In the dark
creeks that run by there is
this thick paw of my life darting among

the black bells, the leaves; there is
this happy tongue.



Swimming, One Day in August

It is time now, I said,
for the deepening and quieting of the spirit
among the flux of happenings.

Something had pestered me so much
I thought my heart would break.
I mean, the mechanical part.

I went down in the afternoon
to the sea
which held me, until I grew easy.

About tomorrow, who knows anything.
Except that it will be time, again,
for the deepening and quieting of the spirit.



REMEMBERING THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2025



Participants and Staff at the Chapter in Belo Horizonte.



On behalf of the entire Institute, the Area Leaders thank and bless Sisters Margaret Fielding, Paré Moreira, Ana Luísa Pinto, Sipiwe Phiri, and Monica Walsh for their important work over the past six years.

SR. COLTRIDA MOOYA RSHM (Zambezi Area) - THE NEW INSTITUTE LEADER

We sincerely thank Sister Coltrida RSHM for her generous spirit, openness, and willingness to embrace this Sacred Call. May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire, strengthen, and guide her as she leads us in our mission, so that All may have life in abundance.



Sr. Coltrida Mooya RSHM
NEW INSTITUTE LEADER
NOVA LÍDER DO INSTITUTO





**NEW LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
NOVO CONSELHO DE LIDERANÇA**



A NEW LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IS ELECTED FOR THE NEXT 6 YEARS

Guided by the Spirit, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, gathered in Chapter, elected on July 26, the three Councillors who will constitute the Institute Leadership Council for the next 6 years (2025–2031). The new Institute Leader, Sister Coltrida Mooya, will be in mission alongside Sisters Maria Teresa Nogueira, Sipiwe Phiri, and Madalena Manhiça.

We are grateful to Sisters Coltrida, Maria Teresa, Sipiwe, and Madalena for their YES.

We pray that the Spirit of God will guide them and that, through the intercession of Father Gailhac, our Founder, they will be blessed.

After the Chapter the Leadership Council, in consultation with the Area Leaders, appointed two more Councillors: Sister Veronica Brand and Sister Conceição Pereira.

The work of the new Institute Leadership Council begins in November.

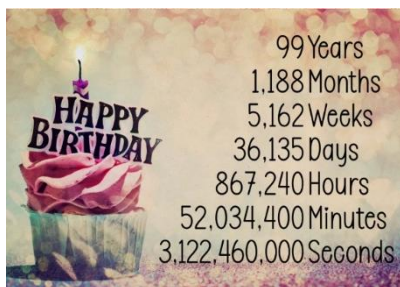
Novas Conselheiras do Conselho de Liderança do Instituto New Councillors to the Institute Leadership Council



Sr. Veronica Brand RSHM



Ir. Conceição Pereira RSCM



TUESDAY 19TH AUGUST - FERRYBANK

– A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!

Sister Dolores Carroll reached the great age of 99 years.

Congratulations Dolores! The Sisters in Madonna House, the Carers and sisters from Naomh Brid and Grianán communities met for tea and the celebratory cake.



PRAYER for GAZA

While we enjoy our summer we are aware of the suffering of so many people in various parts of our divided world. We might pray the following prayer from the Iona Community and shared here by Sr Eleanor Dalton.

This prayer was written in Gaza by an Arabic speaker who has so far survived the genocide. They also provided the English version for us and we are profoundly humbled to share this prayer and to hear this cry from the heart of suffering which is beyond our comprehension.



God of Mercy, Salam, and Generosity
Stretch Your kind hand over Gaza, where
man-made fear, terror, and starvation
have become heavy burdens – day and night.

Protect the children, the innocent,
the elderly and all those who cry out for shelter,
food, peace, justice, and hope.

Quench the fires of hatred and racism
and sow the seeds of lasting peace for all.

Make the painful cries of mothers, new mothers, babies,
and pregnant women in Gaza
move the deaf and blind world to do concrete actions –
not pity, but solidarity and real good deeds.



Let surviving olive
trees remind us:
peaceful life
returns.

Let surviving olive trees remind us: peaceful life returns.



In Gaza's hardest and darkest times,
light candles of hope in every soul –
mothers, fathers, children
and all in deserted and oppressed Gaza

Lord of lords
Lord of the worlds

Bring justice and peace for heavily bleeding Gaza
for so long so long so long.



Pour patience and courage
in our weak and broken hearts

Heal our deep pains
grant us Your mercy,
justice and peace.

Accept our prayers,
Amen.

REFLECTION FOR THE END OF AUGUST (adapted)

As August draws to a close, there's a sense of transition in the air. The end of this month marks the end of summer in many parts of the world, with the warmth of long days gradually giving way to the crispness of autumn. But beyond the seasonal shift, August's end is a symbolic time for reflection, renewal, and planning for what lies ahead.



Reflecting on the Year So Far

As August ends, we stand at a crossroads between reflection and renewal.

It's a time to take stock of our journey so far, to celebrate our achievements, and to learn from our experiences. It's also a moment to set new intentions and embrace the changes that lie ahead, with a mindset of growth and gratitude.

Embracing Change and Renewal

August's end brings a feeling of renewal. Just as nature prepares for the changing season, we too can use this time to refresh our outlook and set new intentions.

Whether it's recommitting to personal goals, pursuing new projects, or simply making small changes in daily habits, this period offers an opportunity to embrace change with a positive mindset.

As the days shorten and the pace of life often picks up — whether it's back to school, work, or other responsibilities — there's a renewed sense of purpose that comes with September.

As the seasons change, so too can we, evolving and adapting to whatever the future holds, with the knowledge that every ending is also a new beginning.

The energy of September often brings a “fresh start” mentality, similar to January's New Year's resolutions.

Gratitude for the Present Moment

Amidst planning and reflection, it's important to take a moment to appreciate the present.

August's end is not just about looking back or forward, but also about being mindful of where we are right now. The warmth of the sun, the beauty of late summer, the memories made — all of these are worth cherishing.

Practicing gratitude helps ground us in the present moment, reminding us that life is a journey to be enjoyed, not just a series of goals to be achieved.

As we prepare for the months ahead, carrying a sense of gratitude with us can make the challenges more bearable and the successes more meaningful.

Dr. Jerry Oguzie



The End of August *By Nathaniel B.*

Shadows stretch and softly lean,
Skies trade blue for dusky hue,
Change is gentle, not yet harsh,
Nature's rhythm starts anew.

Soon, the warmth will start to fade,
But now, colours sing and shine,
End of August, sweet and bright,
A farewell that's so divine.