



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



OCTOBER 2025

OCTOBER

D. MAITLAND BUSHBY

October! October!
There's magic in the name—
A clear sky, a blue sky,
And sunsets all aflame.

October! October!
It's harvest time again;
The high corn, the low corn,
Is gathered in the bin.

October! October!
The birds sing with swelled throats;
A long song, a last song,
Of tender parting notes.

October! October!
The hills are all aglow
With red leaves, with gold leaves,
That dance when soft winds blow.

October! October!
I love you more each year;
Your warm days, your soft days,
To me they are most dear.

Leaves

by Elsie N. Brady

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.

POETRY GROUP

Our RSHM poetry group has started again. Our next meeting is on 2nd December at our usual time 4pm. Please contact Mary Jo McElroy if you wish to join and she will send you the zoom link. Our format is very simple. Just bring along a poem that you would like to share in the group and enjoying listening to one another's offerings.

Barbara Bailey

October 1 - 31 LIFE ON MISSION

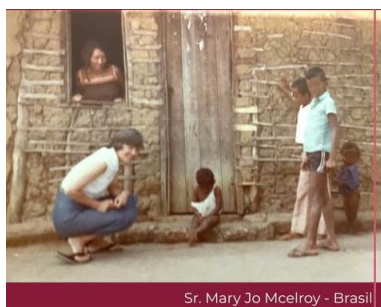
In October, Missions Month, Camilla a special series with testimonies from the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, who dedicate / dedicated their lives to our mission: so that everyone may have life. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday there was a new post, when the Sisters with experiences in different parts of the world, answered the question: What has being on a mission taught them? Their answers in full are too long to be included here but can be read on the RSCMRSHMFACEBOOK page.

Sister Teresa Capitão.

"I spent 25 years on mission in Mali, West Africa as a nurse. With those people, I learned to be poor and to be: "servant of the poor"



Ir. Teresa Capitão - Mali



Sr. Mary Jo McElroy - Brasil

Sister Mary Jo McElroy

"The 20 years that I spent in João Pessoa (Brasil) changed my life.

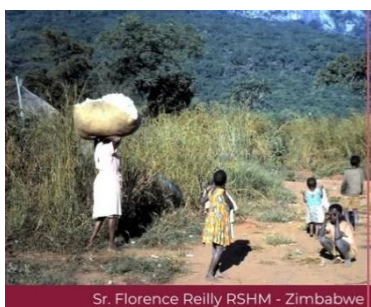
Our RSHM Community lived among very poor people and were part of the Basic Christian Communities of our area.....

Sister Izaura Paulino Invarua

"I lived on mission in the Social Work Community of Braga, for almost 3 years, it was a life of faith and inspiration



Ir. Izaura Paulino Invarua - Moçambique



Sr. Florence Reilly RSHM - Zimbabwe

Sister Florence Reilly

"My time in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe was a fantastic education. I learned from the people I worked with and served what it means to live a simple, joy-filled dependence on God, hope in the future life....

Sister Delva Piedade de Oliveira

"Living the Mission every day here in Redenção Ceará (Brazil) makes me revisit my walk as a black, consecrated, missionary woman....



Ir. Delva Piedade de Oliveira RSCM - Brasil



Sr. Kate Nolan RSHM - Brasil

Sister Kate Nolan

"Being on mission has taught me the importance of being present to people and places through listening, seeing, hearing and feeling; being open to and responsive to the prompting of the Spirit....

Sister Rhanella Oliveira

Thinking about the word "mission", I always remember Pope Francis, who once said that we are our first mission. Being here in Angola, in a different reality, this makes a lot of sense to me ...



Irmã Rhânella Oliveira - Angola



Sr. Lelia O'Shea RSHM - Zambia

Sister Lelia O'Shea

"After many years of being on Mission in Ireland, England and Zambia I've learned that this mission is not primarily talking about God or Jesus. It's being with people, listening, sharing..."

Sister Bernadette McNamara

"Each ministry has invited me to open my eyes to new realities... to recognize the gifts of others and to realise that the Spirit precedes us. In spite of great diversity and many changing landscapes the conviction of a common RSHM mission has strengthened my spiritual life ... while teaching me also to face the solitude of new beginnings...."



Sr. Bernadette Mc Namara RSHM - France



Ir. Feliciano Antonio RSCM - Timor Leste

Sister Feliciano Antonio

"I've been living in East Timor for two years as a Missionary. I feel that every day I learn that to be a missionary is to be a woman with a heart without borders, it is to live the mission with an open heart..."

Sister Maria Lopez

"I had the joy and opportunity to live seven years in Zumalai, East Timor. I have learned in everyday practice to be open to the unexpected and I have tasted the value of complementarity and the necessity of each contribution...."



Ir. Maria Lopes - Timor Leste



Sr. Beatrice Magaya - Zimbabwe

Sister Beatrice Magaya

"My desire to reach out to those who are sick and differently abled began in my childhood, thanks to my mother's encouragement. She was a nurse and taught me to care. As a nurse for the past 15 years, I have worked with people living with HIV and AIDS (women and children) in Harare, Zimbabwe, during the era when there was no medication..."

Sister Aelite Otavia

"The mission was and is, for me, a transformational, daily process, like those of butterflies.... I can fly like a butterfly in the joy of loving and serving where I am. With simplicity and welcoming, to share the beauty of life and mission in the world. For as the word of God says, 'I do not have gold or silver, but what I have I give you.'"



Ir. Aélita Otávia RSCM, Béziers - França



Sister Maureen Kelleher

"Since 1984, I have lived among, and have worked for, immigrants in a farm worker area in southwest Florida. My job as an immigration lawyer was to get legal permanent residency for poor clients through family petition, asylum requests, or if the person was a victim of a crime, or an abused spouse. I feel so humbled by what they have suffered and overcome, their hard work, and their faith. I feel so spoiled most of the time. I can easily understand Christ's predilection for them."

We remember, with immense gratitude and pride, the great number of Sisters from the Northern European Area who founded, and served in, the RSHM Missions in the Zambezi Area, Mali and in North Eastern Brazil. They are not named here but they have left a legacy in the mission areas in which they lived and served and have inspired all of us and opened us up to areas of the world that we may, or may not, have visited. Thank you all!

BÉZIERS

RSCM ARE THE 'GODMOTHERS' OF THE NEW BELL FOR BEZIERS CATHEDRAL 🛎

On Sunday 28 of September 2025 many people gathered in Béziers Cathedral to take part in the 'baptism' of a new bell and Mass for the 1050 anniversary of this magnificent building. As the bell 'Marie Espérance' sounded, emotion was palpable; the praise of God was sung, played and crowned by the choir interpreting a special liturgy prepared for this moment. The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary RSCM felt honoured to be invited to be the 'godmothers' and were represented by Sister Bernadette Mc Namara. We really felt in communion with all our sisters throughout the world.



October 5 WORLD TEACHERS' DAY



With a special message from Susan M Kumnick, Coordinator of the RSCM Global School Network, we thank teachers "for the transformational and important work you do to prepare the students in your care to make a difference – in their school, in their family, and in their community!"

May Father Gailhac continue to inspire our vocation as educators and may God bless us on this happy day."

October 8 Zambezi Area - New Leader - Sr Beatrice Magaya



We are grateful for Sr. Beatrice Magaya's openness in taking up this new ministry as the new Area leader.

We wish Sr. Beatrice abundant blessings and assure her of our support and prayers as she discerns the path to follow for the next three years.

Congratulations Sr. Beatrice!

AREA of BRAZIL

October 12 Feast of Our Lady of Aparacida

It was 1717. Three fishermen were launching their nets in the Paraíba River. The waters were empty, the fish were absent... until, between the mud and silence, something unexpected emerged: first the body, then the head of a small image of Our Lady of the Conception. She wasn't big, she didn't make a noise... but it transformed everything. The river that seemed dead began to bear fruit. Hope is reborn. Faith has blossomed. Since then, Our Lady Aparecida walks with the Brazilian people. His small image reminds us that God reveals Himself in humility. His appearance in the waters teaches us that faith is often born out of scarcity.

And your constant presence reminds us that a new beginning can always arise.

And to this day, Our Lady of the Appearance continues to appear:

In the silent moments, when no one notices.

In challenges, remembering that we do not walk alone.

Hope that sprouts even where it seemed impossible.

We learned from her to trust in God's timing, to wait even when everything seems empty and to believe that new life springs from murky waters.

Teach us, Mother, that small can be great, simple can be strong, and that faith transforms everything.

Mary mother of Brazil, pray for us!



October 13 APPARITION OF NOSSA SENHORA DE FÁTIMA, Portugal



"In her memoirs, Sister Lucia told us that on that day, October 13, 1917, in Fatima, Our Lady, asking that the rosary be prayed for peace, "opened her hands and made them reflect the sun."

After so many years, on this same day, October 13, it is important to continue praying for peace and that Jesus - Light of the World - illuminate all peoples. "

October 15 RSHM AT THE JUBILEE OF THE CONSECRATED LIFE - ROME

The Jubilee of Consecrated Life, organized by the Dicastery for Evangelization and the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, took place from October 8 to 12, 2025, in Rome. More than 16.000 consecrated men and women from nearly a hundred different countries journeyed as Pilgrims of Hope. Some Sisters from the Generalate Community were also present, experiencing a time of Grace and Communion.



October 15 PORTUGUESE AREA

In Lisbon there was a celebration for the 84th anniversary of the Sacred Heart of Mary School - Lisbon. Congratulations to the School and all the team!



OUR HEART IS SACRED

This date is more than just a celebration on the calendar. It's an opportunity to recognize the hard work, dedication, and creativity that shape our educational community.

We believe that, in every day, we are seedlings of the future. We do not expect to harvest the fruit immediately, but we know that, through our students, they will come in plenty.

Every student, every collaborator, and every family contributes to creating an environment of excellence where effort and personal excellence are valued and encouraged.

Paulo Ribeiro Campino - Director of Education

October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On the [#InternationalDayfortheEradicationofPoverty](#), the UN emphasizes that it is 'necessary to involve the families living in poverty at every stage of the public policies: assessment, design, budgeting, delivery, and evaluation, so policies reflect real needs and constraints.' May we stand beside those who need it most, in order that all may have life.



October 23

Congratulations to the new RSHM Leadership Team from the UISG -International Union of Superiors General

Congratulations to the Religious Women of the Sacred Heart of Mary for the election of the new General Council, composed of:

Sr. Coltrida Mooya - Superior General with his team:

Sr. Maria Teresa Nogueira

Sr. Sipiwe Phiri

Mr. Magdalene Manhiça

Sr. Veronica Brand

St. Mary of the Conception Pereira



🙏 We entrust their mission to the prayer of the Virgin Mary, so that she may guide the Congregation in fidelity to her charisma and in the service of the Gospel.



October 24

We join our Zambian sisters as they celebrate **INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

Happy 61st birthday of independence Zambia!



On this [Sunday](#) when we celebrate the [#UN80](#), we echo the message of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

“The United Nations is more than an institution. It is a living promise – spanning borders, bridging continents, inspiring generations. For eighty years, we have worked to forge peace, tackle poverty and hunger, advance human rights, and build a more sustainable world – together. On this UN Day, let’s stand together... Let’s show the world what is possible when ‘we the peoples’ choose to act as one”. *UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.*

Photo taken by Sister Veronica Brand, RSCM representative at the UN, in September, when attending the “Living Legacy” of the UN at 80.

BEREAVEMENT



We offer our sincere sympathy to **Sr Kathleen McCartan** on the recent death of her brother Patrick.
May the McCartan family be consoled at this sad time and may Patrick rest in peace.



Halloween Magic

Beneath the moon's eerie, haunting glow,
In the midnight hour, when shadows grow,
Ghosts and goblins begin to creep,
Through the darkness, they silently seep.

Pumpkins grin with loathly delight,
Their faces glowing in the night,
Witches cackle, broomsticks soar,
As they cast their spells, the spirits roar.

Skeletons dance in a macabre waltz,
While black cats prowl with stealthy false,
Trick or treat, the children cry,
In this spooky world where spirits fly.

Halloween's magic fills the air,
A night of fright, a night to dare,
With costumes and candy, we celebrate,
In this eerie, enchanting, haunted state.

