



## LIFE LONG FORMATION

### FORMATION TEAM MEETING

*Margaret Lee*

The team met in All Hallows Dublin on 19th – 20th September 2009.

We warmly welcomed Kathleen Buckley who completed the team. The team is now: Margaret Lee, Mary Dunne, Marie Dominique Treacy, Mary Gough and Kathleen Buckley with Philippa O'Sullivan as liaison member from the Provincial Council. As Philippa was unable to be present due to Joan's funeral in Ferrybank, we appreciated Barbara's attendance at the Saturday morning session.

Mary Gough updated the team on her accompaniment of a young woman who is interested in "coming to see" and was assured of the ongoing support of the team.

We had a very successful Team Building session with a facilitator Sarah Barry. We reflected on the rich resources within the team that enable us to do this work at the present time. With reference to Sarah's question - "What do you see as the vocation of this team?" The team felt that

- it is called to be a reflective and prophetic voice in the Province encouraging and generating new life wherever there are any signs of life
- enthusiasm and joy for the mission are infectious
- we are called to set ablaze the fire or "give reasons for the hope that is in us"
- we need to affirm the life that is already there

We had very fruitful and valuable discussions on possible areas of work that the team could focus on over the next two years. Our work will be based on the Province Plan, the Institute Guidelines on Life-long Formation and the General Chapter Document 2007. All of our reflections will be shared with the Provincial Council at the meeting of the two teams in Grange Road on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009

The next meeting of the Formation Team will take place in Dublin 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2010

We had an energising and enthusiastic meeting in the Provincial House, Ealing on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> October. The work was helped on by the Ealing communities who shared hospitality, especially Céline, who kept us so amply and creatively wined and dined.

Mary Gough shared and discussed with the group her work of accompaniment so far and her plans for the year ahead. Mary is networking with a number of resource persons, including RSHM, and the Formation team will continue to accompany her in this work.

The Formation Team's plans for the coming year 2009 – September 2010 were discussed and finalised regarding:

\*Prayers in community for RSHM vocations and prayerful support for those across the Institute who are discerning their vocation with us and for newer members.

\*Communities that have offered and will be welcoming Karina for short stays during the coming year and the importance of everyone building on the positive experiences she has had in her contacts with us so far.

\*Developing Reflection Groups in all areas in the Province, such as exist already for example, in Ferrybank and Fazakerley. Each will develop its own pattern. However, drawing on their experience, we envisage that these would:-

- Be open to everyone within and beyond the area
- develop their own rhythm for meeting regularly
- draw up their agenda and organise their meetings from within the group. They might use a video, book or share of experiences or courses attended as well as space for relaxing and praying together. Sometimes this may be an opportunity to raise awareness or deepen our reflections on some of the calls from the Institute and Province in our planning such as cosmology, trafficking, inters- faith dialogue or the Lifelong Formation guidelines.

During the course of the year the Formation Team will reflect on the Guidelines for Lifelong Formation with a view to developing a reflection process on one or two of the topics from September 2010. Another focus for the future will be helping communities to reach out and feel ready to welcome enquirers.

The Lifelong Formation Guidelines, a much slimmer and equally inspiring document, is now being printed and will be sent to us from Rome.