



# Newsletter

Issue 14 - February 2011



## Thank you ...

... to Sr. Moira Lever, as she steps down as Coordinator of the Extended Family. My abiding memories of our meetings will be her warmth, and her enthusiasm for Extended Family.

But behind those qualities is a strong, well-organised woman, always positive in her approach, always encouraging, and with the ability to enthuse others and get the best out of them. Thank you for your leadership and inspiration, Moira - you will be a hard act to follow!

*Patrick*

## ... and Welcome

The first meeting of the Extended Family Core Group with Patrick and myself as joint coordinators took place appropriately on 13<sup>th</sup> November. My "initiation" into the Group took place the evening before when a few EF members joined the St. Gabriel's Community and the EF Core Group for a prayer during which there was a "handing over ceremony". The beautiful prayer was focused on journey, light, and new beginnings, and Moira, as the "outgoing" EF Coordinator, handed a lighted candle to Patrick and myself as a symbol of our commitment to our Extended Family in order to continue the life-giving mission of Jesus Christ.



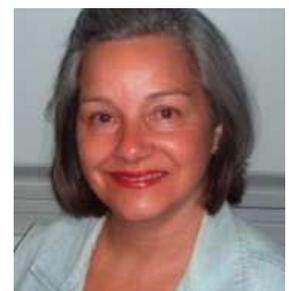
Moira's own commitment and that of the Core Group during the past six years was evident to me during the meeting the next day. The journey they have made has generated much enthusiasm among many people to know more about our mission and charism as expressed in our beginnings and in today's world. As the "new girl" I was welcomed very kindly into the Core Group. The Group, and especially Patrick and I, need to work out what "joint coordination" means in practice and we feel that it will become clearer as we continue the journey. I am grateful for the symbolic and actual initiation into the EF which were accorded to me so graciously and will do my best to respond to this "gift from God which is the SHM Extended Family movement" (cf. SHM Extended Family Guidelines).

*Catherine Dolan RSHM*

## New Leadership of EAP Extended Family Core Group



News from the East America Province that the Core Group there also has new Co-Chairs, Sr. Patricia Fahey (on the left) and Anne Randazzo. Our prayers and best wishes go with them in their work.



*"That all may have life"*

## Ut Vitam Habeant

The Latin may be familiar to you and you've seen it before. For me it takes where the inscription was engraved headmistress Sister Basil and also by a come to know as friends. I'm talking Sacred Heart Of Mary, the St Gabriel's reassuring presence in Carlisle for wonderful to celebrate with them the Ven. Jean Gailhac.



some of you may be wondering where me back to St Margaret Mary School onto the cross worn by my first good number of colleagues who I have of course about the Sisters of The Sisters. They have been a familiar and many years, and this year it was work and mission of their founder, the

The celebration took place at Our Lady and St Joseph's Church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010 which, appropriately, was the feast of The Sacred Heart of Mary. The principal celebrant was Fr. John Watson who, in his homily, spoke from, and about "the heart". The tone was gentle and meaningful and this atmosphere was sustained by the music and singing led by the Choir of Our Lady's.

After Mass we all made our way to the new Waterton Hall for a shared lunch and a very welcome glass of wine. The Hall was buzzing with conversations, recollections, catching up with old friends and meeting new. There was also a small exhibition outlining the work of the Sisters world wide and also some photographic memorabilia.



The highlight of the afternoon was the illustrated talk given by Sister André about the life and work of Jean Gailhac. Sister André got us all started by singing together, "You are the fire, You are the flame" and this happy mood carried on through the afternoon. Her talk was extremely interesting and well researched and everyone in the hall was absorbed. The time seemed to pass so quickly but Sister André found time at the end to answer a good number of questions.

And so that was it ... well not quite! The work of the sisters in the past is well documented but what of the present and the future? Sister André's talk helped to get us into the picture but for their work to continue the Sisters need our support and prayers. The Celebration in June was organised by a small group of interested people and it is hoped that this will continue. There may be other things happening. Please support them or even join them!

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## Gathering of SHM Extended Family in Castlemilk 12 November 2010



About thirty of us from the three parishes of Castlemilk gathered at the RSHM community house on Friday evening, the vigil of the day when we commemorate Father Gailhac's birth.



The theme of the evening was *remembering*. Each person was invited to bring along a photograph or picture and to share some of the memories which the photo/picture evoked. There was a deep sense of gratitude for our past and a strong awareness of the 'communion of saints' as we remembered and gave thanks for people, past and present, including our founder, Jean Gailhac.

There were tears of joy and sadness and there was laughter aplenty. The mood of the evening was captured in the final hymn of our prayer service, which spoke of the "gold" that is gleaming "in a past we once knew" and the recognition that "in our tears and our laughter, it was LOVE that brought us through". [There is a Place - Liam Lawton]

Margaret Fielding RSHM

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*"That all may have life"*

## **"We Are Angels, We Have Forgotten These Things....."**



For our gathering of the extended family in November we chose the theme of Angels as messengers of Good News. The afternoon in Seafield, was attended by about 20 people, past pupils of Seafield and present parishoners of places where we work. Our time together was divided into three parts. We looked at a power point on Gailhac underlining the fact that he was an angel to the prostitutes and orphans in Beziers. Mere St. Jean, by sharing her fortune, was an angel to Gailhac enabling him to make his dream come true of founding a religious order.

The second part was led by Tracey Mc Connell who showed a video on the Annunciation, with the Angel Gabriel bringing the disturbing news to Mary that her life was going to change radically. She called us all to use the season of Advent to bring Christ to birth in our world. Kath Nolan led the final reflection on how we can, in our day to day circumstances, be angels to those around us in need of love and support. To remind us of this challenge she gave each of us a little angel to keep us alert during the Advent Season. After a very welcome cup of tea and cakes anyone who wanted joined in a circle dance in the front hall: "We are angels, we have forgotten these things." Everyone was grateful for the reflections and very appreciative of the warm welcome and hospitality they received from the Seafield Community.



*Eleanor Dalton RSHM*

## **Lisburn 13th November**



Lisburn Community, aware of our heritage as the first foundation after the Mother House, were happy to celebrate Fr Gailhac's birthday with some of our friends.



We invited some past pupils to join us in prayer and celebration on the Saturday afternoon. There was a presentation on the life and work of Fr. Gailhac, and the coming of the Sisters to Lisburn. Our friends then joined us in prayer and our evening meal.

*Lisburn Community*

*"That all may have life"*

## Ealing

Although almost a year since our last meeting, it was an enthusiastic group of sixteen that attended our second meeting on 11th November at 44 The Park. This group included three new members which was very encouraging.

Aline began with introductions and a brief résumé of what happened at the last meeting. As the 11th was close to the birthday of the Founder we continued with the reading of part of a letter from Mother St. John to the Founder on 13th November 1849. Kathleen was then invited to light the Extended Family Candle as we were meeting close to the celebration of Extended Family Day throughout the Institute. This was also to remind us all of the Founder's words encouraging us to fan into flame our love for God. André then taught us the beautiful song "Fire and Flame".



The song introduced us to the main event of the evening which was André's beautiful Powerpoint presentation of the life of Father Gailhac. Buzz groups followed with some interesting questions. The main ones were:

1. When did we change the original habit?
2. What Ministries are the RSHM involved in today around the world?
3. Interest was shown in organising a trip to Béziers.
4. Interest was also shown in learning/reading more about the history of the Institute.

Aline then took the meeting forward with three pointers as to the purpose of the Extended Family. At our next meeting we hope to have a presentation on the life of Mother St. John, and we fixed a date for 22nd February 2011, at 7.30pm.

*Aline Leonard RSHM*

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## Core Group

The enlarged Core Group is meeting at Upminster on the weekend of 12th and 13th February. A major item on the agenda will be another Extended Family gathering at Noddfa at Penmaenmawr on 6th - 8th May. Put it in your diaries now!

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## Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Lizzie Owens who usually provides the translation for the French edition of the Newsletter. And on this occasion thanks to her husband Nathan who has undertaken it in Lizzie's absence.

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### THE NEXT ISSUE -

- should appear after the gathering at Noddfa, with reports of the meeting, plus, I hope details of all your activities between now and then. Keep them coming and, as ever, could you please e-mail your pictures to accompany them. Many thanks.

- *Patrick*

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**Best wishes from the SHM EF Core Group (NEP)**

*"That all may have life"*