

JUBILEES



To the following Sisters who celebrate their **Platinum Jubilee:**

Leonie Paolo on 23rd April
Breda Campion and Mary O'Neill on 3rd May



To the following Sisters who celebrate their **Diamond Jubilee:**

Theophane Geoghegan on 7th June
Joyce Attwood, Joan Lynam, Agnes Lyons
& Gwen Power on 9th June



To the following sisters who celebrate their **Golden Jubilee:**

Catherine Dolan, Marguerite Marie Lyng
& Marie Paule Petit on 9th May.

CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS ENGLAND AND WALES 23rd -25th March

Barbara

The title of this conference was, “Awakening to the New: Transformation of Religious Life in the 21st Century”. There were two main speakers. Fr Michael Holman S.J., who finishes his term of Province Leadership soon, gave a talk entitled “If anyone would be a follower of mine: The challenge of leadership in Religious Congregations”. He shared some of his experiences of leadership and his personal journey during this time and led us into a reflective time of personal and group sharing.

Sr Donna Markham OP was more future orientated, focusing on community life as mission and the role of leadership towards inspiring this.

She asked: **How are we living a self protecting community rather than challenging and living at our prophetic best? In our own context what is happening that impacts and sometimes stops our focus on mission? What is it that we wish to create together?**

She particularly recommended: “Community the Structure of Belonging” by Peter Block.



There was a further update on a proposed new structures for Safeguarding.

Bishop Declan, from the Bishops Conference, encouraged this common initiative which seeks to have a “One Church” approach. It was clear a lot more discussion is needed; at the same time there is urgency to see that we have clear and proper structures in place, for the sake of all. We also had input from the “Medaille Trust” on trafficking, which particularly recognised the support and interest of Religious in this work.

Finally Amanda Francis, accountant, gave a stimulating financial review (yes even I found it so). Entitled “A glass half full”, her presentation was full of practical and necessary information and advice regarding our role as trustees and issues that we need to be aware of regarding bursars finance managers, risk assessment, investments, property and banking arrangements.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers have been with:

Sr Malachy Higgins on the death of her sister, **Sr Eilish Higgins**, a Sister of the Holy Rosary, who died in South Africa on 8th April.

The Sisters of the Eastern American Province on the deaths of:

Sr Trinity Brophy who died in Tarrytown at the age of 81 years and in the 61st year of her Religious Profession

Sr Kevin Kenny died in Tarrytown on 24th March at the age of 88 years and in the 70th year of her Religious Profession.

The Sisters of the Western American Province on the death of **Sr Mary Milligan** who died at Regina Residence in Orange on 2nd April at the age of 76 and in the 56th year of her Religious Profession.

MEETING OF THE MANAGERS AND THE PASTORAL CARE SISTERS

22-25 MARCH 2011

Paula Murray and Deirdre Kavanagh

The first meeting of this group was in Pen. Chris (Manager) Patsy Madeleine and Martin (Pastoral Care Sisters) from Arrowsmith House, Viviane (Manager) and Françoise (Pastoral Care Sister) from Bon Pasteur and Anne (Manager) Deirdre and Paula (Pastoral Care Sisters) from Madonna House had two days of prayer, meetings and valuable discussions on how we can best provide proper care for the Sisters who are needing care in our three Care Communities. Mary Jo McElroy facilitated our work very professionally. André acted as interpreter for the French group. Patrice, André and Patsy represented the Provincial Council. This meeting was designed to allow us to share our experiences of the health and pastoral care matters which arise daily.



There were some very memorable moments during our time together. On the first day each group presented a symbol which we felt represented our care community. The symbols were very touching reminders of what we are about as Care Managers and Pastoral Care Sisters. The managers also introduced the Sisters they care for photographically. This helped us to visualise the Sisters in the three Care Communities.



Chris presented a DVD on the topic of dementia which affirmed us in our understanding of this very topical health problem.

The Managers and the Pastoral Care Sisters met separately. This gave each group the opportunity to discuss and define its role and boundaries.

Our last session was spent composing our Mission Statement for the Care Communities. We finished our time together with a very beautiful para-liturgy in which we recommitted ourselves to our ministry of providing care. We concluded by saying our Mission Statement.

RSHM Care Communities' Mission Statement.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that Madonna House/ Bon Pasteur/Arrowsmith House is a place in which love, care, support and respect are experienced by all who live and work here so "that all may have life and have it to the full".

(Jn 10v.10)



JPIC NEP

A THOUGHT FOR LENT

Catherine Dunne

Lent is a time for reflection, a time of conversion.

Why not reflect a little more on Fair Trade when shopping?

(There are 600 Fair Trade Cities and one Fair Trade country in the UK and Ireland.)

Why not reflect on our sometimes extravagant use of water and electricity for many obvious reasons?

Why not spend a little more time in praise and thanksgiving for the marvels of spring bursting forth and the mystery of the Universe in our days and nights?

