

FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



NEP PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2013
PEN CHAPITRE PROVINCIAL 2013

Our Provincial Chapter part 2 is getting nearer (October 11th -13th). We hope that you have found the preparation material helpful for your personal reflection. The next stage is for us to take part in Area meetings, where we shall begin to work at building consensus in groups, in preparation for the Chapter. Our facilitators, Mary and Gabrielle, suggest that 5 or 6 is a good number for each group. They will base the work of the Chapter on the material we bring with us from these meetings. This is a way of making our voice heard at the Chapter, even if we are not able to be present in Birmingham. The opinion of those who are not attending the Chapter will be heard through those who are taking the group response with them. If there is a community where the majority cannot take part in the area meeting then it is possible to have the same meeting in your community.

There are about 70 RSHM attending the Chapter. We are hopeful that this will be a good experience of being able to share in decisions based on the outcome of the General Chapter. We look forward to seeing you in Birmingham.

For those arriving before lunch time on Friday 11th, the hotel can provide soup, salad and sandwiches. If you wish to avail of this, please confirm with Margôt by 1st October.

HOSPITALITY

We have great pleasure in welcoming two visitors during the next three months. Sr. Eugênia, from Portugal, is coming to Ireland to learn English before going to the Novitiate, in Belo Horizonte, as a member of the Formation community. She will stay in 72 Drumcondra Road while following a course in Dublin and will also spend some time in Ferrybank. Sandra is a pre-novice from Brazil who is coming to learn English before joining the Novitiate. She will be based in Kerrison Road community and will follow a course in London. We hope that, in both cases, other communities will be open to welcoming them.



BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers are with the Sisters of the Portuguese Province on the deaths of:

Ir Laurinda Macedo Da Silva who died in Braga on 5th September at the age of 92 years and in the 67th year of her Religious Profession.

Ir Maria da Conceição Baptista Maciel who died in Braga on 10th September at the age of 77 years and in the 55th year of her Religious Profession.

The Sisters of the Eastern American Province on the death of **Sr Filipa Cardoso** who died in Tarrytown, on 18th September at the age of 94 years and in the 72nd year of her Religious Profession.

APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE IN PORTO SEGURO *Karina Kelly*

I've been on apostolic experience for the last two months in Porto Seguro, a holiday resort on the North East Coast of Brazil in the State of Bahia. Bahia has a long history of poverty and oppression having been the centre of the sugar industry and the Brazilian slave trade for many centuries. More recently development in the area has been hampered by corruption and poor government.



We work at a Project founded by RSHM sisters in a settlement of about three thousand people on the outskirts of Porto Seguro. The Project provides workshops to local children and young people in: dance; theatre; crafts; computers; capoeira; music; English and football. It is part of a social inclusion initiative run by the Brazilian government that aims to provide children and young people in socially disadvantaged areas with access to activities that enable their personal and cultural development.



Working at the Project has been a very rewarding experience for me. The staff has developed warm and caring relationships with the children and young people there and it is clear the Project has a positive effect on the lives of the participants. It has been a real pleasure to see some of the skills the children have gained in different areas such as theatre and dance.



I have also enjoyed being able to bring some of the benefits of my training and experience as a teacher to the Project. I have been able to: teach English; support Niara (who took her first vows in January) in planning and developing activities for the children; make suggestions relating to pedagogy during staff meetings; provide training for staff in prayer and spirituality; and support staff in developing aspects of the programme that relate to personal and spiritual development.

While I have been here I have been actively involved in the local parish. Brazilian parishes have a number of 'pastorals' (organizations that enable parishioners to carry out pastoral work). I have been participating in meetings of the pastoral da Criança (which provides information and support for mothers with young children). Members of the pastoral da Criança visit children's



homes providing information relating to health, nutrition and development, and monitoring children's weights. Finally, with Sr. Cecilia I have been supporting members of the community in Vila Vitoria (the district in which the project is located) in creating a parish and celebrating their faith. It has been an active and fruitful time here for me in Porto Seguro and a wonderful first experience of apostolic life.