

FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



## **Congratulations**

**to the following Sisters on the occasion of  
their jubilees of religious profession:**

**Sr Elizabeth McElroy**  
celebrates her Platinum Jubilee on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Sr Ursula Canavan**  
celebrates her Golden Jubilee on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### **CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

*The Conference of Religious of England and Wales took place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May. Bishop Kevin Dowling, a Redemptorist from the diocese of Rustenburg in South Africa, was the main speaker. Here are some words from his talk. Another part will be in the next Exchange.*

“...I do not pretend to have the answers to these challenging issues. I am just one of you, engaged in the same objective, viz. a search for an authentic expression of the charismatic calling of religious life, seeking to live out the call and mission of Jesus in a different, alternative way, by a vowed life and ministry in communion with others, and by committing to build the Reign of God in our suffering world and suffering planet.

The “place” of religious, it seems to me, will always be where God ‘seems’ to be absent and where the institutional Church is absent. As religious we are quintessentially the ones called to make God present through our charismatic presence in all such situations of “absence” – every form of discrimination, injustice, stigma, exclusion, marginalisation, abuse of power and domination, and every experience of poverty and impoverishment which diminishes and destroys the God-given dignity of the human person, family, and society - and the integrity of creation.

Ours is a call to “presence”, to “being with”, to “sharing in solidarity with”, to enabling God to be present to people and every dehumanising reality through the word we speak, the sense of belonging we bring to others, the search with the hurting and hopeless “little ones” of society and Church, so that together we find the door which God wants to open through our presence and communion with them, becoming ever more truly communities of solidarity and transformation with the children and people in the surrounding society.....so that all of us together can live more truly as communities of justice and compassion, and as stewards of creation.”

## BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers are with the:

Drumcondra Community, No 72, on the death of **Sr Kathleen O’Keeffe** who died in Dublin on 21<sup>st</sup> April at the age of 75 years and in the 57<sup>th</sup> year of her Religious Profession.

Sr Evelyn O’Reilly on the death of her sister, **Bernadette O’Reilly**, who died on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

The Western American Province on the death of **Sr Margery Flynn** who died in Orange on 7<sup>th</sup> May at the age of 81 years and in the 64<sup>th</sup> year of her Religious Profession.

The Portuguese Province on the death of **Irmã Celeste De Jesus Gonçalves**, who died in Fátima on 17<sup>th</sup> May at the age of 88 years and in the 66<sup>th</sup> year of her Religious Profession.

### **KATHLEEN O’KEEFFE**

*from the introduction to her funeral Mass*

Kathleen (for many years known as Sister Rose) worked in many communities in England – teaching, in province administration and in a community for elderly sisters – but what gave depth and colour to her living out of religious life was her time in Brazil, among the poor and the marginalised. This gave her a strong commitment to the poor and she had a bold voice when speaking on their behalf. This commitment showed in her work at international level in our Institute, in her work of fund-raising for missionary projects and when she was General Treasurer and Councillor.

Kathleen did not believe in working on her own. She involved others in the work of our sisters in Africa and Brazil, getting them to support projects where they could make a difference, whether it be water projects in Zambia, education and social projects in Mozambique or literacy in Brazil. A symbol of this collaboration was the pink bridge (called Rosa’s bridge) that was built over a polluted river, between the favela, where she worked with Margaret, and a district where people had access to schools, a daily market and more buses. Gay, who is here today, is still working with the people of this favela.

Kathleen was able to work in small community projects, making herbal medicines and detergents, and she was also able to enlist the help of those who worked in the financial world. She made friends with those from Apso and Misesan Cara who worked in partnership with RSHM projects. Her relationships were meaningful and bridged the gap between such different worlds. We thank the people of Ireland for their contribution to these agencies which support the work of communities in poorer countries

Kathleen believed in involving lay people directly in our missionary work as well as in internal posts in the Institute. She is remembered with great affection in Brazil and Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Kathleen was looking forward to coming back to Dublin, to being with Terry, Patsy and Karina in Drumcondra Road and to being near her family. It was not to be.

*We received many messages from all over the Institute expressing their thanks for all Kathleen had done in her work with RSHM projects.*



## “SUNFLOWER GROUP” 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> APRIL

The Sunflower group took part in the CORI meeting, to avail of the talks given by Pat Farrell and Sandra Schneiders. The following day we met in All Hallows for a discussion on the important elements from the talks and how they impinged on our reality. Mary Genino was present and joined in our discussions.

*If you would like to read the talks given by Pat Farrell and Sandra Schneiders, see the webpage for CORI ([cori.ie](http://cori.ie)).*

## MILLENNIUM GROUP

(PENMAENMAWR 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014) *Mary Dunne*



As we approached Noddfa the sun shone warmly, azaleas, lilacs and bluebells were in full bloom heralding happy days ahead. Greetings from the Pen Community were as usual warm welcoming and hospitable. Nothing was any trouble, up stairs down stairs down and up from shore free transport. The dining room gave us Michel le Roux fare, catering for all tastes.

Prayer services were prepared by Dunmurry and Barrow Communities leading into rich

sharing and reflection. Mary Jo and Mary Dunne gave an overview of the C O R I Conference in Malahide, concentrating mainly on Sandra Schneider's input. Having considered the second paper by Pat Farrell we felt it was more conducive to personal or individual reflection.

The sharing and reflections that followed brought up many serious and searching ideas and thoughts regarding where we find ourselves to-day, our charism and identity. We agreed we are in a good place, even if it appears stateless and roleless. We enumerated the various ministries throughout the province with connections and networking in the different areas. There was pastoral work, prison work, chaplaincy ministry sisters engaged with the trafficking issues, many working for those on the margins of society. This is our charism serving the most needy who were the great concern of our Founder.



At another session we had an animated exchanging of poems, extracts, books of interest, and ministry experiences. Who thinks this group are about to hang up their clogs? Nay, nay!!

The energy and spirit we experienced was amazing even to ourselves. A Capacitor session with Patrice and Mary Jo put us in the mood for a night of

fun and laughter. We had quizzes, jokes, riddles, stories and a very big problem to get the goose, fox and sheaf of oats across the river? A good laugh is better than a tonic.

May the Good Lord watch over us and keep up our spirits as we look forward in joyful hope to a different but equally profitable and enriching Gathering 2015.



## FORMATION TEAM from Mary Dunne

**CORI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014**

**“Religious Life Evolving Faithful and Free”**

*Extract from Talk: “Sustaining Transformation” given by Pat Farrell OSF on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014*

“In the surrender of contemplation God takes us to a deeper inner place where another kind of wisdom and resiliency become accessible to us. Contemplation is the crucible where the treasure we carry in earthen vessels is purified and where God’s way unfolds from our most authentic selves.

Nancy Sylvester, IHM describes it this way:

*“When we can keep going to our deepest core with all its passion, that perspective changes our priorities, it changes our behaviors, it changes our beliefs. A contemplative approach to life is a way of being and if we embrace it, it can change everything... We might not be able to change situations, but a contemplative approach can help us to change the way we enter into a situation, how we respond, how we are creating it... The contemplative posture is one that opens us up to ambiguity, paradox, and the unknown because it releases for us a lot of our preconceived ways of being and thinking and it releases us of our ego.”*

We cannot do this of our own power. It is not the fruit of willfulness and striving.  
It is the gift of the Spirit who moves in us.”

## **RE: ANNUAL MARY MILLIGAN LECTURE**

This lecture is available on the internet. In order to access it, go to Google and type in 'Mary Milligan Annual Memorial Lecture'. Select the relevant title. There are a couple of introductions but if you move the cursor along until 12 minutes is indicated, Elizabeth Johnson begins her lecture at that point.

### **INFORMATION RE SENIOR RELIGIOUS**

The Awareness Education Services has produced a CD which is available and entitled:

#### ***Recognising the Influence of Senior Religious***

The presenters and topics covered on the CD are as follows:

**Rev Dr Tony Byrne CSSp, author, researcher and lecturer,** speaks about the role and ministries for senior religious and their influence on younger generations.

**Sr Kathleen Maguire, PBVM, MA, author, lecturer and researcher,** speaks about the witness of prayer, stability and commitment given by senior religious.

**Abbess Marie Fahy, St Mary's Cistercian Abbey, Glencairn,** outlines a relevant spirituality for senior religious.

**Dr Marie Murray, clinical psychologist, author, broadcaster and researcher,** outlines ways of improving self-worth.

**The four topics covered are:**

**"A relevant spirituality for senior religious";**

**"Appreciating the witness of faith, prayer, stability and commitment given by senior religious";**

**"Identifying the influential and formative role that senior religious can give to the younger generation";**

**"Self worth of senior religious".**

*If you wish to order a copy of the CD it costs €18 or £15 and Cheque made payable to Awareness Education Services at 3 Cabra Grove, Dublin 7 Ireland.*

## RSHM CHANNEL on YOUTUBE

Visit the RSHM Channel = YOUTUBE today to watch the four part presentation by Sister Gabrielle Corbally, RSHM, four part presentation on the RSHM Charism, Spirituality, and Mission as seen through Gailhac's Letters. To watch these click on any of the following.

Part 1 <http://youtu.be/4eAyACegDzE>; Part 2: <http://youtu.be/af0-2XQf08U>;

Part 3: <http://youtu.be/CZbwyPLuges>; and Part 4: <http://youtu.be/RKfSkB0awOE>.

## FAREWELL TO MARY GOUGH AT THE ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARDS DAY

from *The Munster Express* 27/05/14



Ms. Cahill, the Principal of Abbey Community College, commended Sr. Mary Gough who has decided to retire from teaching to take up a new challenge in her work for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary. “Sr Mary has been with us in Ferrybank for 20 years and her contribution to the school has been beyond fantastic. She has been the backbone of the RE Department, the expert on Personal Development in TY, the Evening Study Boss and the Powerpoint Guru. Her positivity and humour, her friendship and hugs have been a great asset to the development of this college and we will miss her terribly.”

*Ms. Detta Cahill, Principal, Sr. Mary  
and Mr Colm Rice, Deputy Principal*