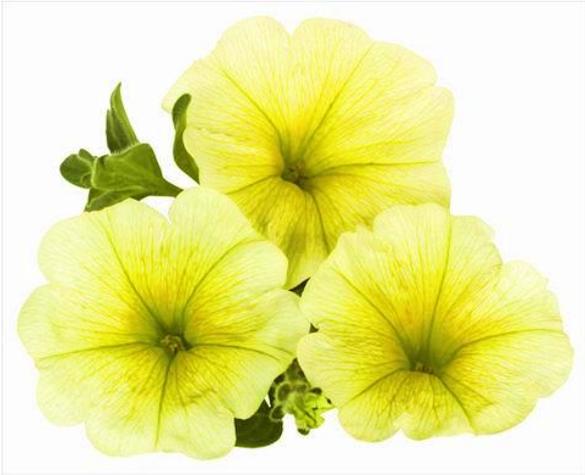


## FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

### *Congratulations*

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



#### **Diamond Jubilee:**

Sr Christina Clune 16<sup>th</sup> August  
Sr Regina King 16<sup>th</sup> August  
Sr Deirdre Kavanagh 30<sup>th</sup> August

#### **Golden Jubilee:**

Sr Margaret Fielding 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
Sr Philippa O'Sullivan 22<sup>nd</sup> August

We are conscious that it is holiday time for many and we hope you have been enjoying a break from your usual routine. However, there are certain things that we wish to send to you, as we bring our three years as a council to a close.

One is a short report of our visits to communities from the perspective of the Provincial Chapter priorities. We hope this will be a help to living out the commitments made at the chapter. Towards the end of August we shall send each sister a copy of what we have called an 'Advanced Statement of Wishes' to help us think about our personal future, our last illness and death. There are a number of practical questions which will be of great help to those who have to deal with the situation. Some other provinces and many congregations have done this and we have seen an increasing need for it.

The new Provincial Council and Team will take over on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Ursula's telephone number remains the same. See details at the top of page 23 in the Province Directory. Bernadette, Ellen, Kathleen and Rosemary can be contacted in the usual way. We shall send out details of Mary's phone number at a later date. The hand-over ritual will take place in Ealing on the 20<sup>th</sup> September and the London communities will be present. We ask you to pray for all of us at this time of transition.

#### **BEREAVEMENTS**

Our sympathy and prayers are with:

The Eastern American Province on the death of Sr Maryjane Fairley who died in Tarrytown on 25<sup>th</sup> June at the age of 74 years and in the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of her Religious Profession.

Sr Theophane Geoghegan on the sudden death of her brother, **Matt Geoghegan**, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

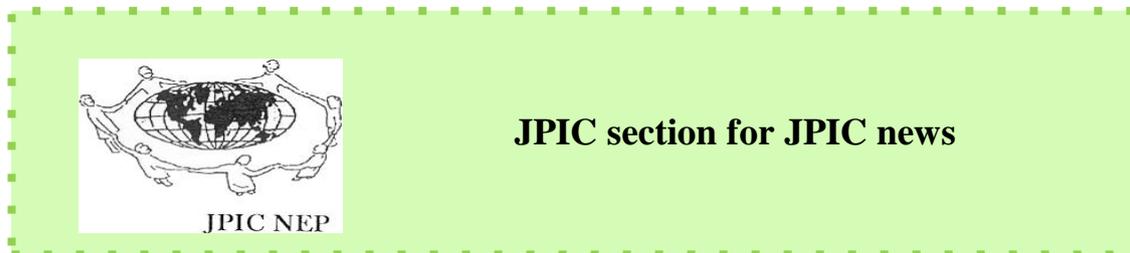
Sr Patsy Butler on the death of her niece, **Grace Falconer**, who died on 26<sup>th</sup> July

## CLOSURE OF INTER-PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY IN MEXICO

(Extract from Letter from WAP)

“At the end of June 2014 the RSHM will formally withdraw from our mission in Amacuzac. We reached this decision through a lengthy process of reflection, dialogue and discernment regarding the future of our life and mission in Mexico given our reality and limited resources, personnel and financial.

Amacuzac was established as an Inter-Provincial ministry (involving WAP, EAP and Brazil). Given the experience of diminishing personnel, it has been increasingly difficult to maintain this unique way of sharing life and ministry among the three provinces. We've experienced great joys and many challenges during our years in Amacuzac. It is with heavy hearts that we find that we have to let go of cherished people, satisfying ministries and treasured experience of being church.”



### CoR - England and Wales – another part of the talk by Bishop Kevin Dowling (Rustenburg South Africa)

#### The Vow of Celibacy - a Vow of Wholesome and Inclusive Love and Communion for the Reign of

So, reflecting on the Vow of Celibacy as Wholesome and Inclusive Love and Communion for the Reign of God. This is, firstly, a witness against a culture in many parts of the world, a culture of the use and abuse – indeed exploitation – of people and especially women, especially through a culture of entitlement with regard to sex, thus removing from sex the God-given ideal of expressing self-giving love in a relationship of reverence for the "other".

Being counter-cultural also requires that we try to offer an *alternative* which we strive to make possible together with the people among whom we minister, and which could provide inspiration to the individual and to our communities. This brings in the focus on the "mystery of communion" through which the Catholic Social Teaching Principles of "Person-Centredness" and the "Integrity of Creation" can offer not only ideals but practical steps to consider in the quest for a more humane and sustainable global community. "Person-Centredness" is a clear challenge and invitation to all to recognize the uniqueness of every individual person in their total social, economic, political, cultural and religious context, and from that foundation to create a *relational* spirit and attitudes which will transcend the boundaries of race, culture, gender, political affiliation and anything else that can become divisive in relationships between people. In addition, to transform that which keeps the marginalized, rejected and alienated in society *and* Church from being able to choose life and experience life as a person made in God's image, and hopefully bring about more authentic "communion".

I experience all this as a personal call to *witness* in living the vow of celibacy for the reign of God – a personal call to a life-long commitment through an inclusive, wholesome and unconditional love for the unique person in their total context so that they can gradually grow as people no matter what their condition. This understanding invites or challenges me to seek all the ways to transform that which diminishes in any way the fundamental human dignity of the person, family and community, so that relationships in society and Church can become ever more humane and expressive of the fundamental worth of the human being. I - and we - cannot take on the whole of society. We need to discern our call, mission and ministries where we are, where we live, and where we feel we can make a difference.

*If you would like a copy of the whole talk let us know and we will email it to you.*