



Extended Family Newsletter

Issue 23 - September 2015

EF Member News - Bereavements

We are sad to report the deaths of two people who were vital members of the Extended Family:

Ruth Long

Ruth was a founder member of the Extended Family in the Northern European Province, died on 11th June 2015.

Sister Andre Dullaghan

Sr Andre, who was closely involved with developing the Extended Family, particularly in teaching members about the history of the Institute and the charism of Fr Gailhac, succumbed to her illness and died on 15th September 2015.

Please remember them, their communities, and their families in your prayers. May they rest in peace

John Newby

Annual EF Gathering at Noddfa

At the time of writing, preparations are in full swing for this year's annual gathering, over the weekend of 2nd to 4th October. Around 30 people plan to be there to take part in an interesting mix of sessions, activities, and quiet, prayerful times too.

This year's theme, "Continuing the Journey 'That All May Have Life': The Road Ahead?" builds on the themes emerging from the recent Chapter Meeting and the Year of Consecrated Life. One of the aims of the weekend is to understand the collective view on the way ahead for the Extended Family; to understand how we can help it to grow and make it a sustainable source of support for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary in pursuit of the mission of the Institute – our mission together, Sisters and Extended Family.

One of the key parts of the weekend is the reports from each Extended Family Groups in the Province, which tell us what has been achieved in each area and how the journey has gone in this last year and how they are developing. This year, three questions have been asked of the groups:

- Where has your EF journey led you during the last year?
- What have you learned on your journey?
- How have you been able to develop the prayer life of your EF Group?

A member of each group was asked to briefly tell us informally, in just 5 minutes, what their experience has been, focussing on the successes of the year. Each group was also asked to

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prepare a short summary document and bring it along, so that we could display all together for people to read after the session and see the whole story. The hope was that this would help discussion between groups to help them to learn from each other and see ways of helping each other – to make the journey together.

We will issue a report of the outcomes of the weekend and provide a summary in the next edition of the Newsletter.

John Newby

Sacred Heart of Mary School, Upminster

Last year the order had to take the sad decision to move out of the convent next to the school and sell the property. With our tangible link to the sisters disappearing, it has become even more important for the school to keep the spirit of Jean Gailhac alive.

Having written my MA dissertation on 'The transmission of the Charism of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary' I realised that much had to be done. I visited the mother house in Béziers during the summer of 2014 which was a wonderful experience and I became determined to raise the profile of Fr. Jean Gailhac and the motto of the sisters in school.

We started the year with a whole school assembly in which we talked about 'ut vitam habeant' and what it meant to us. Year 7 then did some research on the history of the order and how our school came to exist in their CP lessons.

The week after February half term was mission week with the theme 'Life to the Full'. We were extremely fortunate that, despite having just finished a round of therapy, Sr. Andre (RIP) agreed to come into school and talk to different year groups about the history of the order. Just her presence was an inspiration as she was a great advert for living 'life to the full.' At the time she was about to take her grade 8 singing exam! She kindly donated a beautiful photograph of Béziers as well as pictures of Apollonie, Eugene Cure and Fr. Jean Gailhac which are now displayed in our reception area so that all visitors can see them. The week culminated in the celebration of Mass on founder's day. Three pupils received our 'life to the full' badges for their dedication and service to others in the school.

At this time our year 12 pupils were encouraged to support the 'Women at the Well' refuge at Kings Cross thus ensuring that others might have 'life to the full.' Sr. Kathleen came in to speak to them about the work that the refuge does. Each tutor group had to organise an event to help raise funds. They were incredibly enthusiastic with raffles and cake sales and a very popular talent show. Their collaborative efforts raised £900.

Over the year it has been satisfying to note that more staff and pupils talk about 'life to the full'. Our CDT teacher got her year 10 group to make tiny symbols that reflected the 'life to the full' motto. Pupils either made a cross or a shepherd's crook or a flame. We have started to see the motto gradually creep in to assemblies, Masses and indeed lessons. There is still much to do but we have made a start and hopefully the legacy that the Sacred Heart of Mary sisters left us will continue to grow and flourish.

Sharon Williams

Wednesday 3rd June: Meeting of the Extended Family in Béziers

For our third meeting of the year, Sister Valeria Erneio RSHM from Mozambique helped us to discover her country. In 1952 an international group of 12 RSHM led by Mother Ines de Jesus Teixeira, left Portugal for a foundation in Mozambique. They answered the bishop's call to put themselves at the service of children, youth and families in poverty.



That era was dominated by the war of independence and the civil war and long periods of poverty, several dry seasons or floods together with violence made life very difficult for the people of Mozambique and the sisters.

But they stood firm and, with the help of solidarity from the Institute, they built, rebuilt, or restored schools, secondary schools, hostels, the novitiate and community houses.



Go throughout the world to announce the Gospel to the nations is what we asked God in our final prayer, listening to the example of the missionary/disciple life of St. Paul to the Galatians. (Gal 1, 15-21) We take for ourselves Gailhac's recommendation: *May what God has begun in us live, grow*

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and become ever more perfect.

Before sharing the meal, we discussed and planned the programme for next year. In October 2015, we will have the joy of discovering the foundation of the province of Portugal; in February 2016 we'll go to discover the foundation of the Eastern American Province and in May 2016 that of the West American Province.



Lots of happy moments in the future as was the case this year!

Sister Thérèse-Marie

As always thanks to the contributors and to Lizzie Black and Sister Thérèse-Marie for their work on the translations to and from French.

The newsletter is published in English and French versions. If you (or someone) else would prefer to receive the French version then please get in touch.

Could you contribute an item to the newsletter? Photos and articles – no matter how short – are always welcome and will be held for the next available newsletter. Don't delay - exercise your literary talents now! Contributions in English or French (both, even!) are equally welcome.

Electronic copy by email or as an attachment is preferable, as are digital photos - but handwritten copy and prints are welcome too. See below for the email and postal addresses:

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