It has been a dark, cold and a dismal Winter, where hibernation was inevitable, and nothing would have warmed our hearts and our bones, as much as a little, but prolonged sunshine and heat! Maybe the Romans had Ireland well summed up in calling it “Hibernia” or the land of endless winters!! It seems a long time since the first snowdrops dared to put their heads above the soil and other flowers are taking so long to come to bloom. Just today I read that the honey production will be down at least 50% this Summer as the bee hives have been devastated by the worst Winter/Spring in living memory, and bees are only now starting their foraging - roughly two months behind their normal schedule.

In spite of Nature’s cold attack on us for so long, we believe that miracles are happening all around us, quietly in the Earth under our feet. “Ag Criost an Siol, ag Criost an Fomhair”…. If we listen early in these mornings, it will delight us to hear the birds back with their amazing rendition of the dawn chorus, to awaken us back to life! Yet in the delightful readings of Easter, as we battled with the elements, in whichever Season it was, we looked to the Resurrection for signs of Hope and of Spring in our hearts, and in our Region, and in this in-between time of post-Easter, Ascension and pre-Pentecost, we look to the gifts of the Spirit to inspire and encourage us, in all the Strategic Planning and undertakings of the Region, as we work together toward a brighter Summer, at times life giving, at times wearying. We carry in our hearts all amongst us, or in our families and friends who are ill or burdened in some way, and pray for a brighter future for them too.

Come, Spirit, strength of the wounded ones,
Be warmth in hearts of those grown cold,
Empower the powerless. Rekindle the weary.

We thank Mary Kelly and Dympna O’Daly for the contribution they generously made, and the energy they gave to “Seo & Siúd” over the past few years, and we wish them well in the future. Enda, Barbara and Méabh will continue with producing “Seo & Siúd” for the next few years, and we will always welcome new articles, memories, personal reflections, reviews, throughout the year.

We believe there is still a lot of untapped memories and stories around the Region, which would be lovely to share. Everyone has a unique story, so why not share yours with us? We leave with you a little reflection from the late John O’Donohue to brighten your weeks and months ahead, with vibrancy and colour……

And when your eyes freeze behind the grey window, and the ghost of loss gets into you, May a flock of colours, indigo, red, green, and azure blue come to awaken in you a meadow of delight.

Barbara, Enda, and Méabh
It is difficult to do justice to the experience we had in Dromantine on April 14, as we, Associates and Sisters listened to and observed June Boyce Tillman introducing us to the person and spirituality of Hildegard of Bingen, Rhineland mystic of the 11th century (and now Doctor of the Church at the discretion of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI). Apart altogether from her excellent credentials and vast experience, whether as a hermit for fifteen years or reading Music at Oxford or as the current Professor of Music at Winchester University, June is a very gifted communicator and teacher and is naturally and unintentionally flamboyant.

The moment I relished most was when June donned her storyteller’s ‘shawl’ and sat down and started telling her personal story as if she were Hildegard. No better way to be introduced to the life-story of this great woman. So effective was June, so ingrained was that spirituality in her, that I continue to identify her with Hildegard with whom she certainly shares so much of the charism of the mystic.

Based on the fact that our bodies are composed of the four elements, earth, air, fire and water, June gave us a teaching on Hildegard’s familiarity with and creativity in the art of medicine as it then obtained. She talked about the four Humours: melancholic, sanguine, choleric and phlegmatic. This was very much in tune with holistic healing, as some of the more recent writings about her indicate. Beautiful, posters of these four Humours, brought all the way by June, were a prominent feature of the decor.

Of course, June’s musical genius was called into play too. This part she called ‘Singing the Mystery’. Accompanying a number of Hildegard’s writings, she played the keyboard (there was no zither around!) and sang these wonderfully, filling the hall with her sonorous voice, in spite of all her seventy years and more.

The images, culled from Hildegard’s writings were very beautiful, as the following examples will attest: ‘O fiery Spirit, our Comforter’, ‘feather on the breath of God’, ‘gold within the flame of God’, ‘scent within the perfume of God’, ‘arc within the wheel of God’, ‘drop within the fountain of God’, ‘seed within the earth of God’, ‘praise within the song of God’, ‘harp within the hands of God’, ‘child within the arms of God’, ‘warmth within the kiss of God’. Translations from the Latin were all by June herself. That was our afternoon meditation! It included a dance to the music, taught by June and eagerly and smoothly picked up by all of us, young and old. About sixty of us, all together.

One might think all that was enough. But not with June. A marathon session followed where we were supplied with written quotes from writings on Hildegard covering her spirituality, holistic healing and advice for living. We studied these in groups of three and in due course each group commented on the contents of its particular page for the benefit of the whole group.

As Cicero would say, I will not speak of the many other aspects of the day – the decor, the centrepiece, the creativity and hard work of the committee, the generosity involved in ferrying June, the beautiful surroundings… it was June I was asked to write about, June and Hildegard.   

Mary Jo Hand
Dear Sisters, On my own behalf and that of my sister-in-law, Sylvia, and my nieces and nephews, I wish to express my sincere thanks for your kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy on the death of my brother, Peadar. The Masses offered, prayers and letters were a source of comfort and consolation to us all. Mass has been offered for all your intentions.

Sheila Finnegan.

Dear Sisters, On behalf of myself and my family, I feel the need to express my deep gratitude for all your support on the sudden death of my brother Michael. I valued all your messages, prayers, and Masses. I am also grateful to those who attended the Funeral Mass. Mass has been offered for all your intentions.

Marie McDevitt

Dear Sisters, On my own behalf and on behalf of all my family, I wish to thank you most sincerely for all the Masses offered, prayers and messages of sympathy we received, on the unexpected death of my dear sister, Veronica, last January. This support was a great consolation to all of us. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered for all your intentions. Thank you.

Marie Christine Colbert

**Recently Deceased**

Sr Vera Brennan

Born 2 Aug 1931
Died 6 Nov 2012
This is a difficult book to pin down but equally a difficult book to put down. It is amusing, insightful, depressing, searching, rewarding, readable and ultimately delightful. It is a memoir about life in all its beauty, but with all its heartbreak and tragedy as well. It is a book about faith and religion, about priesthood and marriage, about despair and hope, about celibacy and fatherhood, about love and loneliness, about emptiness and longing, about hearth and isolation, about darkness and unease, about a search for identity and for truth, about exclusion and inferiority, about mystery and life.

Born in Cavan in 1953, Michael Harding is a well known and award winning playwright and performer, and a columnist for the Irish Times. In his weekly column, he writes a creative chronicle of life in the Irish midlands and how nature in all its splendour, its dreariness, its misery and its intrinsic beauty, in mountains, lakes and trees, impacts on him, on his moods and on his life. It seems as if they uplift and depress in equal measure. ‘Staring at Lakes’ is a staggeringly beautiful and honest account of his depression and illness, and his on going struggle with the sense of darkness that pervaded his life, despite his faith, early years in the priesthood, marriage, fatherhood, his career as a writer and seventeen years of Buddhism.

He moves gently between the ambivalence, the contradictions, the painful truths, the joy and ecstases of life and love, but at the centre of all his meanderings, is a gentle, sensitive and vulnerable heart. I read in his vulnerability, a soul that has been hurt by systems, by early mistakes, by choosing a road less travelled, by missing out on early relationships, by love, by failures real or perceived, and by the dark devil of depression so often weighing on his shoulders. His journey is not an easy one because of the dark companion he has with him all the time. His relentless longing for meaning and faith. His sadness.

Harding explains that he has structured ‘Staring at Lakes’ exactly like a novel but that the difference is, he is not making up characters and he is urgently trying to tell the truth, so that if he died tomorrow, you would find him in the book. Every word is given its due energy. He lives in this moment, in the now. He writes “We often construct some sort of expression of hope in something more beautiful out there, and we miss that the eternity is now, the moment is now, that it is bliss now in this moment. Step into that moment, that’s enough. Life is a ‘KOAN’, the Japanese concept of intrinsic contradiction in every moment.” All of those contradictions rumble through the pages of ‘Staring at Lakes’.

In a way that is heartrending and genuine, Harding talks with humour and honesty in this book about his journey, leaving the priesthood in his thirties, settling in Leitrim with his artist wife, bringing his daughter to Mullingar to school, his endless struggle with illness, and how he ultimately found peace, contentment and redemption, through the acceptance of love, and recognising the importance of now.’

‘Staring at Lakes’ started out as a book on depression, a middle-aged man living in the midlands of Ireland, in the wake of the Celtic Tiger. Then it became a story about growing old, about the essence of love and marriage, and passing the time sitting in cars, and looking at lakes. This book teaches us that an enduring relationship is not about hearts and roses and visible romantic gestures, it is about blood, sweat and tears, about the marrow and sinew, about being there, witnessing and true companionship. It teaches us about being lost, creative, sick, loving, sad, compassionate, happy, lonely,--in short to be human. Yes, it is a ‘Memoir of Love, Melancholy and pages of Magical Thinking’! A good read surely, and well worth the effort of staying with it.

Méabh Ní Uallacháin

Book Review: Staring at Lakes
Saturday 23rd March last, with Strategic Planning Meeting over. Siobhan, Evelyn and I had the great pleasure and honour of being reunited with Patricia Byrne (nee Murphy) a former member of our ‘Set’.

Patricia is the author of the highly acclaimed book, ‘The Veiled Woman of Achill’ and of collections of poems including ‘Unstable Time’. A native of Bekan, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, she is a past pupil of St. Louis Secondary School, Balla and now lives in Limerick. She always had a wonderful insight into life and a great capacity to capture the essence of things in language. It was no surprise to us to learn that she immersed herself in writing and poetry on her retirement.

‘The Veiled Woman of Achill’ is set against the backdrop of the political and agrarian scene of Ireland and of Co. Mayo in particular at the end of the 20th Century. The story centres on Agnes Mac Donnell, an English landowner who lived at Valley House, in the north eastern part of Achill Island. She was brutally attacked by a local legendary figure named James Lynchehaun and her home was burnt. Agnes survived the ordeal and remained on the island but was so disfigured that she wore a veil in public for the rest of her life. James was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life imprisonment. However in a compelling account that resembles the Scarlet Pimpernel, he escaped many times and made it to the United States where he eventually won a legal case and managed to resist extradition to Ireland. Patricia drew on a volume of extensive sources in scripting ‘The Veiled Woman of Achill’. National and International newspapers, historical records and biographies, records of Court cases, minutes of the Westport Board of Guardians, folklore and in particular the diary of Br. Paul Carney were all explored. Br. Paul, who was a member of the Franciscan Community who resided on Achill, was her great grand uncle. He had a personal interest in the exploits of James Lynchehaun and recorded Lynchehaun’s movements in great detail in two sets of journals.

We highly recommend this book as a literary historical gem and wish Patricia every success in her writing career. It will be of great interest too to those from the west of Ireland and those who knew Patricia. Accounts of the tenant-landlord strife of the Michael Davitt era and the hardships endured by the Irish tenants are vividly portrayed.

Maire Cannon

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**The Veiled Woman of Achill**

**Memories of Strategic Planning Meetings**
Education continues to be our corporate ministry even though most Sisters in the Irish Region are now either retired from formal teaching or have moved into other ministries. Nonetheless, St Louis involvement with education both in the Republic and in Northern Ireland is considerable and influential.

We have a Regional Education Team, Anne Murray, Eithne Woulfe and Mary O’Connor. We also have an Education Group: Enda McMullan, Catherine Brennan, Margaret Agnew, Anne Jordan, Máire Cannon, Nuala Cole, Anne McCourt, Finola Cunnane, plus the three members of the team. Ann Matthews had been a member until recently when due to other pressures she retired. We also have an Africa Network.

In recent months, especially since the start of the Strategic Directions Workshops when the desire of sisters in the region to be better informed and more aware of the realities of the region was expressed, the education group decided to hold an open information day for all sisters who wished to attend.

We would give as much information as possible and answer questions on any topic relating to our corporate ministry and to what is being done in the name of all of us.

We chose Monaghan as our venue and this return to source was the inspiration for our opening prayer which was grounded in our heritage from the past, fixed on our commitment in the present and our hope for the future. We quoted Louise Humann and Louis Bautain. Gabrielle Mary lit a candle to the past, Siobhan Dillon a candle to the present and Eithne Woulfe lit a candle to the future.

Anne Murray, as a director of both the le Chéile and Síol Companies explained the complexities of trusteeship and how we worked with 13 other Congregations over many years under the expert guidance of Dr David Tuohy, SJ to establish the Le Cheile Trust and the Síol Company. The latter manages the seed capital of the Trust. Le Chéile has trusteeship responsibility for almost 60 secondary schools.

Le Chéile holds cluster meetings for the principals and chairpersons of the Boards of Management. There are also meetings for the Re teachers in the schools and the Faith Development Officer does catechesis with them in which they share on Gospel values which are to permeate every aspect of school life and policy. I think Bautain and Louise would approve!

Anne explained that Le Chéile is responsible for the enterprise of education and that we have a Commission and Licence Agreement on the property. Anne shared the maps of our properties with the group. There was understandably considerable interest in these details. An interesting fact is that 50% of sisters in the Region live on a shared campus with Le Chéile. All our secondary schools are shared campuses.

Eithne talked briefly about her considerable involvement with Education in Northern Ireland and in particular with our two Grammar schools in Ballymena and in Kilkeel. Over the past number of years enormous change and re-organisation has been planned in N.I. and Eithne has been at the coalface of it, due to her involvement as vice-chair of CCMS, (currently acting-chair) and in the Post-primary Review, Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education ( NICCE) and the Trustee Support Service.
In NI there is an over-supply of 80,000 school places so rationalisation is essential. The old chestnut of academic selection, (11+) has been stalking the corridors of power of Church and State for many years. The Wisdom of Solomon may be required there and Eithne has brought considerable wisdom and energy to this task. She was chair of the BOG in Kilkeel up to February of this year, where she faced difficulties and opposition in her endeavours to implement and bring forward the Area Plans agreed by the parties in Church and State. The complexities there are great. Ballymena is adapting to the changes with less difficulty.

Eithne is the education director of Cori and she has written an article about the recent consultation with parents concerning their preferred patronage in Primary Schools in the Republic. She analyses the findings and gives fresh insights into some of the survey. You can read about this in the current issue of the Cori Newsletter.

Mary talked about our involvement in our 3 Community Schools. Partnership is central to all our involvement in education. Our trustee partners in the community schools are the local VECs. Mary paid particular tribute to the sisters in the local communities, who maintain all an interest and a friendly and open relationship with the school community. The Department of Education owns the property of Community Schools. The Deed of Trust (a legal document between the joint-trustees and the Department of Education) took many years to be agreed. It must now be changed to meet the changed reality of Religious congregations and of society which is now multi-cultural and secular and very different from that of 40 years ago.

The audience was lively and interested. For all of us there it was a pleasant and worthwhile afternoon. The education team deeply appreciate the efforts made by the sisters to be present. We were in the upstairs room beside St Louis House which had so many memories especially for the former Monaghan pupils whose senior room it was. Others knew it as an oratory and more recently as the Day Room of St Louis Nursing Home. All these memories and many others enriched the day.

Mary O’Connor
Monday 22nd April saw many St. Louis students take part in a different type of learning experience. Representatives from our Irish St Louis Network schools, met in the Crown Plaza, Blanchardstown, to participate in exploring complex and challenging topics and hopefully, develop skills to engage with others on development education issues.

Over the past months each school had been involved in promoting and working on Millennium Goal 7 - Sustainability. Schools had been invited to approach this from a local as well as a global perspective. This St Louis Network Day, also known as ‘Africa Day’ is to facilitate our Irish schools meeting for workshops and shared experiences. It helps revitalize and sustain their interest and push their projects to another level and keep the focus on Development Education within their particular school.

Sr. Finola Cunnane welcomed the students, teachers, Sisters and workshop leaders, drawing attention to the significance of the day that was in it - World Earth Day. Louise Mulligan, Chaplain to St. Louis Monaghan and Carrickmacross, who was the driving force behind the organising of the event, directed the students to the various workshops, ensuring each student had the opportunity of partaking in two workshops. The workshops were led by representatives from Trocaire, Development Perspectives, Irish Aid and Eco-Unesco. Sisters Nuala Cole, Catherine Brennan, Anne Murray, Mary O’Connor and Enda McMullan, were available at various times to meet and greet.

These shared workshops on Development Education issues are aimed at giving information, changing attitudes, getting insights into sustainable development and our role in it, understanding how the world works and how we are involved by our choices in keeping systems in place or changing them. It would be hoped that some of the student’s values and beliefs might deepen a bit and that some of the shared responses might have effect on their lives and empower them to have a new attitude, a stronger resolve and a fuller passion for sustainable living. All spoke of a sense of connectedness and a greatly heightened awareness of our responsibility in this regard. It would be hoped that the myriad and diverse personal costs demanded would not be too overwhelming for them.

The following are some extracts from the students responses:

“We discussed important and topical environmental issues such as water conservation, upcycling and the truth behind consumerism and how to combat wastefulness. Overall, the day was really eye-opening and a good opportunity to reflect on the way we are treating our planet.”

Emer Slattery & Ciara O’Mahony
(5th Yr – St Louis High School, Rathmines)

We took part in two workshops where we learned about sustainability, infant mortality, development education and about other St Louis schools overseas. I found both workshops very interesting and I was able to bring much of the information home to my family and fellow students.

Eimhin Charlton (2nd Yr Kiltimagh)
I felt it was a very educational day and it enlightened me about the unsustainable way in which the first world countries consume foods and burn fossil fuels. I remember especially the statistic that was given to us by Gen, from Trocaire, that the ratio of items consumed in first world countries and third world countries is 32:1.

Liam Kelly (2nd Yr Kiltimagh)

Our first workshop was with Gareth from Development Perspectives. We started off with an icebreaker, which helped us to settle into the workshop....... We then took part in a walking debate, involving issues based on Climate Change. During this we were given the opportunity to voice our opinion on this subject. For example, we were asked, “Do you think you contribute to climate change?” We watched a video, based on mass consumption in America. This was very interesting as we learned a lot of things we did not know before, such as ‘99% of goods bought for the home are thrown out within six months of purchasing them.’

We then split into groups to discuss ways of reducing our carbon footprint. We came up with ideas such as up-recycling and reducing aerosol can use. We then presented our ideas to the group. Our next workshop began with a presentation from two 3rd Year C.S.P.E students from St. Louis, Dundalk. Their presentation was also based on climate change, mainly based on water and sea levels.

Rosie Dunnill and Hannah Cahill.
Carrickmacross

To date many of the St. Louis schools involved have been partnered with one other St. Louis school in either Nigeria or Ghana. The future aim would be to connect more as a network of schools rather than just with the partner school and to open the network to St Louis international schools, which, also include France, USA, UK, and Ethiopia. For the moment we will continue to promote activities already running in the schools and plan for an extended network.

Enda McMullan

Friday February 1st, La Fheile Bride, saw an impressive gathering of Board of Management members and staff, past and present, to bid farewell to 9 staff (including our own Cecily O’Flynn!) who had retired from St. Mark’s Community School over the past 2 years. The venue was the Louis Fitzgerald hotel at Newlands Cross and the Social Committee had set up a real night to remember.

The speeches were very well organized with a current member of staff assigned to address each retiree. Quite fittingly a science teacher spoke of Cecily’s diligence, conscientiousness and her enormous contribution to the school during her twenty plus years there. She brought order into the science lab and was a role model in how to set out experiments!

On a more general note, many of the speakers paid tribute to the caring support which has been a feature of St. Mark’s over the years. Mention was made of the various Principals and Vice Principals and the vital role they played in setting the ethos of the school. Apart altogether from the speeches, the presentations and the lovely meal, the most wonderful aspect was the opportunity to chat and reminisce with friends not seen for quite a while, and indeed to remember absent friends.

Noreen Shankey

Cecily’s Retirement “Do”
This August Rathmines celebrates 100 years of St Louis presence in Dublin. August 14th 1913 saw the arrival of five sisters to Charleville House, Rathmines. The detailed annals of the young community, give us a flavour of what life was like for the sisters in the early 20th century. The new Dublin house quickly became a port of call for sisters everywhere and is referred to as Charleville. A recurring theme is the mention of sisters coming out to Charleville for dinner.

Travel then was slow and uncomfortable, so an overnight stay was usually essential for a long journey. Picture roads with no tarmac, cars with no heating and inadequate springs and an average speed of 25 miles per hour. A lot more travel by train was possible in those days. The sisters could have travelled from Monaghan and Carrickmacross and Middletown by train. There is frequent reference to sisters coming from the station by cab.

Travel in the city was by tram or by horse-drawn cab. The electric trams were very reliable and inexpensive. The terminus for the No 15 was at Terenure corner and for the No 14 at Dartry. Beyond Terenure and Dartry was open country where there was, of course, no transport unless somebody "gave the sisters a motor-drive" which was a common enough event. All sorts of people gave "motor-drives". Touring cars with two rows behind the driver were the norm and the annals often list five or six sisters "going on the drive". They went such exotic places as Lucan, Greystones, Killiney, Howth, never further away, and there is never any mention of the proverbial cup of tea so they must also have observed the monastic regulation of not eating with seculars! But they had a great time and what we call today a lovely "quality of life"!

The following entries is typical of the hospitality offered by Charleville in those days. "The sisters from Carrick dined on their way south". "The sisters from the Cork course stayed overnight on their way back to Monaghan and Carrick". "The sisters have motored up from Monaghan and were very tired after the long journey."

If sisters were in hospital they frequently "came out to Charleville for dinner on Sunday". One fairly typical entry in 1926 reads "Mother General and M. Aquinas came out in a cab from the Mater. About 5 they left by cab to go back to the hospital. Shortly after Mother Agatha and Sr Elizabeth arrived. They had left Sr Eunan to hospital. Mrs Monks arrived to see Mother Agatha".

Care of the sick figures prominently in the annals. There are frequent references to the Mater, St Vincent's on the Green as well as private nursing homes like "Miss Quinn's Home on Mountjoy Square" or "Fitzwilliam Home on Pembroke Street", where patients would go on leaving hospital. The annals report on the various patients who in those days had much longer stays in hospital. There are quaint little references to the companion who had come up from the country and would wait in Charleville to see how the sick person was. one entry reads "Sister X stayed out in the hospital in case the patient might be lonely." In those days too, numbers in the hospital relative to the general population were very small. the most frequently mentioned medical name is Dr Meenan who was a very good friend to the community down the years. It is hard in these days of high-tech medicine to understand an entry like the following: "Dr Meenan motored out to tell Rev Mother that Sister X was suffering greatly and he thought she needed an operation. Tomorrow is the day arranged." Dr Meenan was always "motoring out to Charleville to give news of some patient and on one occasion we read that "Dr Meenan sent his own motor to take the sisters home."

When holidays came the sisters all went to other houses. We read "None of the sisters of this community are here at present, but the house is full of sisters who have come from everywhere on vacation."
Letter-writing was the main source of information and the annals continually refer to “letters about a new foundation in England” or “a letter came today to say Sister X is needed in Carrickmacross!” We come on news of foundations in entries like the one in 1920 which reads Srs Coletter and finbar stayed overnight on their way to the new foundation in Great Yarmouth.” In 1922 we read that two sisters “came up to Dublin to do a big shopping for the new convent in Kilkel.” The Bury St Edmunds foundation is referred to with the following description in January 1924, “About 7 o’clock Fr McNamee, Mother Raphael, sisters Ephrem, John Fancha and Regis had tea in the parlour. Then two taxis came and M. Raphael, the sisters and two maids went to Kingstown where they remained the night in order to set out for bury St Edmunds on the morning boat.” The journey from Rathmines to Dun Laoghaire would have been far too arduous early in the morning.

Wires were a marvellous means of communicating more urgent messages. The telegraphic message was written on a Post Office form, 12 words for a shilling. An interesting entry reads, “a wire came back from Monaghan giving permission for Sr Columbanus and Sr Agatha to go to the concert in Carrickmacross tonight.” But the more usual wires in the annals concern deaths, operations, congratulations, and the annals are full of them.

The early twenties saw the beginning of radio, called wireless, and that brought a new dimension to life. In 1924 we read "Mrs Nash invited the sisters over to hear her wireless." "Mrs Nash gave a wireless concert. The wireless was set up in the parlour and the sisters turned it on themselves." There were also "gramophone recitals", and the biggest excitement of all was the "moving pictures" which first came to Rathmines in 1928.

The sisters were invited to Rathmines parish in the capital city by Canon Fricker, some 50 years after their arrival in Ireland. The Archbishop of Dublin at the time, William Walsh, didn’t make things easy for the Canon and his plans. “There is a real risk in taking an Order into the diocese when their headquarters are in another diocese,” he wrote to Canon Fricker, “How do we get them out if they are not satisfactory?” He laid down that there would be a probationary period of 5 years after which, if the Archbishop was dissatisfied the Rev Mother would remove the community altogether. The Archbishop in a further attempt to assert control over the newly arrived sisters, forbade them to do any visitation of the poor. “There’s enough people doing it, and anyway nuns gossip too much.” Mother Antonia Farrell, the Superior General at the time of the Rathmines foundation, wrote of her dealings with him. “He said he’d like us to keep very quiet. He heard we were very go-ahead and we might be a bit too go-ahead for his taste and for the good of the city!” This is an interesting reversal of the commonly held view that city dwellers are more "advanced" than their country cousins. The archbishop was obviously nervous of these “go-ahead sisters” from down the country. Is it possible that "unsatisfactory" in the Archbishop's vocabulary meant advanced or progressive? A quality which wouldn’t commend them to a traditionalist clergyman! So, was he thinking that if the new sisters into his diocese should prove too modern for his conservative mindset, they could be asked to leave. History doesn't record whether his fears where assuaged or confirmed. The archbishop died in 1921 three years after the end of the allotted probationary period. The small community of 1913 has grown and prospered and the “go-ahead” sisters are now celebrating 100 years of life in Charleville.

Gabrielle O’Connell

Born 1913 - 100 years

Maddie Kelly receiving her cheque and presidential greetings when she celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year
Platinum Jubilarians
Brid Costello
Cecily Dolan
Dympna Drury
Margaret Eaton (California)
Ancilla Fox
Marie Grignon Hayes
Mochua McNicholas
Bried Mulhern
Pia Mulligan
Ursula O’Keeffe
Conla O’Malley
Miguel O’Reilly (California)
Deceased
Fiacra Moloney
Eileen McAlindon
Bernadette Sharkey

Diamond Jubilarians
Conleth Conheady
Betty Dalton
Constance Farrelly
Kathleen Foley
Lucille Foley
Catherina Gibbons
Mary Hayes
Medina Kennedy
Brianan McGinn
Triona McGinty
Vera McGrath
Deirdre O’Hanlon (France)
Breda O’Hanrahan
Monica Quigley (California)
Deceased
Margaret Mary Duggan
Carmel Mary McCarthy
Patrick Mary McManus

Golden Jubilarians
Margaret Healy
Anne Jordan
Mary Kearney
Enda McMullan
Maud Murphy
Anne Murray
Dorothy Yayock (Nigeria)

Silver Jubilarians
Maria Ilo (Nigeria)
Elenice Natal de Lima (Brazil)
Josephine Tiav (Nigeria)