Dear Sisters and Associates,

Welcome to our Autumn edition of Seo & Siúd 2011. As we approached the Summer months our thoughts were on warmth, sunshine and time for renewal and relaxation! Well hopefully we got time for the R&R but our Summer was so disappointing, and even the Indian summer expected, failed to excite!! And now we look out from the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" towards the darkest time of the year. Winter, a time to hibernate perhaps, to look inwards, to become aware of all the activity ongoing under our feet in the fruitful earth November is a time also to remember and the 18 Sisters we prayed for at the recent Mass in Cuisle, are especially in our thoughts and prayers, that they are at peace. John O Donohue writes movingly about death and absence in his book "Eternal Echoes" when he says "May you know absence is full of tender presence and nothing is ever lost or forgotten. May you sense around you the space which holds the presences that have left your life. May you be embraced by a God in whom dawn and twilight are one"...

We remember again with gratitude the Team remaining and the Team to come in this interim period in our Region and we leave their fears and anxieties about the future in God’s mighty hands. We are grateful and indebted to them all, for their courage and commitment. We send prayers for a full recovery and best wishes to all who may be unwell at present and that we may find, that even in the darkest Winter, there lies within us an invincible Summer. Mary, Barbara, Dympna and Méabh

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Gleaning the Harvest

Rake the fields clean but be not mean, to bird or mouse or grouse. Glean the big sheaves to stack and store from barn roof to floor.

Let stubbled field when bare of all but some stray seeds and weeds share the meagre store of ears dropped from the stook with hungry finch and rook.

Ready the mill so to fill each hungry mouth and bill, of beast and bird and herd and flock and stock.

Let the grain grind to flour thus to empower with strength all humankind. The chaff will rise and blow and flow upon the tide or ride the wind to journey’s end.

Nature must now rest having done her best to feed and then to seed the field once more.

What a wondrous beneficence! An awesome benediction.

Marian McGreal
The Monaghan Associates’ first meeting of the season was held in Our Lady’s Monaghan on Tuesday 20th September, 2011. We invited the community to join us for the meal. The gathering was in the form of an Ecumenical prayer service titled Our Daily Bread followed by a LOAF meal based on the Christian Ecology Link’s principles - Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal Friendly and Fairly traded. The occasion was Creation Time which is celebrated in Christian Churches from 1st September to 4th Oct every year.

The service was in the form of prayer, thought provoking readings and discussion which focused our minds on modern day food production methods and shopping practices which result in the destruction of ecosystems, the addition of harmful chemicals and preservatives, unnecessary food miles and pollution of waterways. It seems we have lost our connectedness with the soil and seasons in our quest for perfection, uniformity and convenience.

The discussion lightened somewhat when one of the group, whose father was a local baker called PJ, reminisced about how PJ used deliver bread to rural areas of Counties Cavan, Monaghan and Louth. During the 1970’s when times were bad people would not have money to pay for the bread and would in lieu give items such as chickens, eggs or whatever they harvested. PJ would never complain or judge but would always readily accept what was given in payment. The cost to him travelling between some remote parts to deliver a loaf would far outweigh the price paid for the item. A social service was more important than an economic gain. He would always say “We have what will do us”….

On one occasion a farmer, dressed in his three piece suit, with collarless shirt, handed PJ a wad of notes and asked him to buy a fridge for him. He had been told that this was a wonderful new ‘gadget’. PJ duly drove home removed all the shelving from the back of his van, bought the farmer his fridge and delivered it to him. PJ then had to return home, clean the van and re-fit the shelving for the following day’s bread delivery. The trust and respect people had for one another was heart rending; helping a friend was never a chore, no matter how time consuming.

In the bakery on Christmas Eve the fire was allowed die in order for brick repair work to be carried out on the ovens. The heat of the cooling ovens was not be wasted as the neighbours used place their turkeys in the ovens to cook overnight. Again, this was considered a social duty. In the current recession perhaps we might learn something from this sharing.

At this stage of the evening we were filled with gratitude for the life-giving nourishment of food “our daily bread” and this heightened awareness certainly added flavour to the feast that ensued. The meal, which was a chicken dish, followed by a berry dessert, was a feast for the senses and savoured by the Associate members and Sisters who were present on the night.

Our heartfelt thanks to Srs. Catherine and Enda who so lovingly sourced, prepared and cooked the food. The beautiful table setting enhanced the conviviality of this memorable occasion and we all left with happy hearts.

Brid Dowling and Mary Lenehan

Monaghan Associates Meeting

Monaghan Associates celebrate a L.O.A.F principles meal for Creation Time with Our Lady’s community in Monaghan at their first meeting of the year
Dear Sisters, This quotation from Francis of Assisi has been very real for me in recent months: "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows". You, as individual sisters and as groups have sent me so many wonderful greeting cards, encouraging messages, words of gratitude and offers of support as I prepare to return to Regional Leadership in February. When I reread each, I experienced myself surrounded by a kaleidoscope of great light. Thank you.

My six-month break has been and still is gift beyond measure. I thank CLT, the Region and in particular Eithne, Maeve and Mary for facilitating me in this most creative way. Hopefully, when February comes, I will be ready to "take down my lantern and go out" with Ann Matthews and Anne Murray as this prayer by Raphael Consedine PBVM calls me.

Take down your lantern from its niche and go out! You may not rest in firelight certainties. Secure from drifting of doubt or fear You may not build yourself confining walls... Go out! For need calls loudly in the winding lanes And you must seek Christ there. Your pilgrim heart Shall urge you still one pace beyond And love shall be your lantern flame.

Anne Kavanagh

Many thanks to the Sisters in the Region for their kind expressions of support in my recent appointment to the Irish Regional Team. I was very heartened and encouraged by your kind words and I will try to live out my “yes” to the best of my ability. Continuing prayers will be very much appreciated! 

Ann Matthews

The Diamond Jubilarians acknowledge with deep appreciation and gratitude all the greetings, good wishes and especially Holy Masses received for our celebration. We enjoyed reading your cards. Be assured of our prayers. 

Marian McGreal

On Monday June 27th the Taoiseach, Enda, raised the Green flag at St Louis Community School, Kiltimagh. It is a great honour to achieve the Green flag and we offer our congratulations to the whole school. For St Louis Sisters it is very gratifying to see the flag in front of the old convent building and to see the same building looking remarkably well and re-juvenated.

St Louis Community School U16 Girls are the All Ireland Basketball Champions. Congratulations to all concerned and also to all the students in Kiltimagh and in the other schools who have achieved excellence in so many areas. Deo Gratias!

Mary O’Connor
The Trias Thamaturga

When clearing out the Heritage Centre, among the exhibits we found a copy Trias Thamaturga by Margaret Anne Cusack, (the Nun of Kenmare), and foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. The Trias Thamaturga which tells the story of St. Patrick, St. Bridget and St. Colmcille was written in 1871 and was only one of many books published by Margaret Anne Cusack. Her works were widely circulated and the profits went towards the relief of the poor in famine stricken Ireland.

There is no record in the Heritage Centre as to how the book came to be there. As can be seen from the enlarged image below, it is a beautiful and elaborately bound edition and weighs 8lbs. It was decided to gift it to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace the Congregation founded by Margaret Anne Cusack in 1884. Mona had the book restored in Kenny's book shop in Galway and on September 13th it was presented by Anne Kavanagh to Margaret Healy of the Srs of St Joseph of Peace. So, it has now found a home in the Congregation whose foundress authored it and it may end up in their Heritage centre in the United States.

Anne Kavanagh

Acknowledgements

Maire Blair and the famuily of her sister Eithne Langan wish to thank most sincerely the sisters for their kind expression of sympathy and for their prayers and Masses for the happy repose of Eithne's soul. I was very impressed with the sisters who came to the evening service in Ballyroan at great inconvenience to themselves and especially as our own Juliana was being waked the same day. Your presence was much appreciated by all who knew and understood the circumstances. Many thanks and blessings.  Maire

Sr. Dympna Drury wishes to thank sincerely all the Sisters for their loving sympathy with her on the death of her dear sister Salome Mary (Sal) and very especially those who have had Holy Mass offered for Salome or enrolled her in future Masses during the year. May the Lord bless each and every one of you as only He know how. Many many thanks.

Dympna

Thank you, Sisters, for your king expression of sympathy on the death of my brother, Paddy. My family appreciate your love and support – Masses, letters, coming to his home, to the removal and to the funeral. This was a great source of consolation for all of us. Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Clare Ryan

Thank you most sincerely Sisters, for all your support at the time of my mother Hannah's death. Your presence at the wake and funeral, the Masses and prayers you offered and your letters and messages of sympathy were a great source of comfort to me and to the family. Mass has been offered for your intentions.

Maire Cannon

Thank-you to all the sisters for your kindness in sending Mass cards and letters of sympathy on the death of my brother, Tom. Your kindness and concern were greatly appreciated.

Sile Canty
On August 27, we, Associate-facilitators, met in Marianella and met with the Associate Leadership Team. It was a meeting of minds and hearts. Why is it only this Summer that I have noticed the brilliant sunflower ("as it turns to its God in the West"?) - six of them caught your attention as you stepped into the meeting-room. And then your eye went to the inevitable centrepiece - a lovely portrayal of the fire in the hearth. You saw it again on the cover of the prayer-leaflet beautifully prepared by Angela from the ALT, inviting us to 'light up the fire of love inside, and blaze the thoughts away'. Are these 'stages' of entry into prayer the contemporary version of the 'Remote Preparation' and Prelude 1 and Prelude 2 of our erstwhile meditation-book, preparing us for prayer? Of course, there is another difference - we didn't write poetry then (who would dare?) but we ended our prayer today with Dympna O'Daly's own poem. So, if today, when we started, "our souls, like the peacock's folded feathers trail(ed) in the dust", they soon "burst wide open, revealing vibrant colours and a breadth never dreamed of".

We checked over our fellow pilgrims - 67 members plus 23 waiting in the wings and one or two new groups on the way. We re-iterated our Identity Statement, looked at the essentials of our Formation Programme, listed again our sources for use in the groups, distinguished between the specific work of the preparatory period and the more wide-ranging possibilities for post-commitment members, and considered together a number of very rich ideas pertaining to our Faith and to our Charism - some from our own present writers. All of this was greatly enriched by the fact that it wasn't only the Sisters doing it but Associates as well, some as Facilitators and some as members of the ALT.

And then we lunched. Delicious food, prepared by Claire (Buckley) and Helen (Power) and consumed in the very friendliest of atmospheres - we were so 'at home' together. Yes, we met...... Mary Jo Hand

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**Our Recently Deceased Sisters**

**Sr Phelim Molloy**
Born: 14 Mar 1916
Died: 11 May 2011

**Sr Mary O'Driscoll**
Born: 18 Dec 1916
Died: 27 May 2011

**Sr Roberta Cowhey**
Born: 23 Nov 1916
Died: 17 June 2011

**Sr Clare Marshall**
Born: 5 Sept 1921
Died: 24 June 2011

**Sr Helen Regan**
Born: 29 Mar 1949
Died: 10 Sept 2011

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**Meeting at the Meeting**

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Máire’s Exhibition: The Soul has its Reasons

The Soul Has Its Reasons was the beautiful title of Máire Muldowney’s exhibition which was held at the prestigious Sol Art gallery in Dawson Street. Máire shared the exhibition with her friend Mary Queally. The opening on 4th November was widely attended by St Louis sisters and other friends of the artists. Una Agnew opened the exhibition with an inspiring speech which echoed the lovely introduction below which she had written for Máire’s invitations to the exhibition.

It was the French philosopher Blaise Pascal who said: "the heart has its reasons that reason does not know". Without prejudice to this giant of philosophy, I would hazard my own thought by saying that the soul, in so much as we know its attributes, longs to give utterance to what is hidden in the deepest source of creativity, in the depths of spirit. Indeed, the complexity of the human self is such that each one of us knows more than we are consciously aware of or can put into words. Art is one of those powerful emissaries of the soul.

The two artists, whose work is on exhibit today, engage in soul language. They attempt to achieve in shape, colour, perspective, light and shade a language that in the words of G. M. Hopkins: "Deals out that being indoors each one dwells". In dealing out their interiority through the medium of art, they create for us an ambience, rich in soul energy. For this we are extremely grateful. Aware of the endless solitary hours that one single painting entails, it is only fitting that we celebrate the seasons of the soul displayed here on exhibition today.

If we truly contemplate these painting we will find a well-orchestrated balance of inner and outer life. The artist, without being fully aware of it herself, reaches down into the wellsprings of her own inner life, into her Source in the Divine forming mystery that encompasses life and in the grip of this energy attempts to allow this spark of the divine to spill over and light up her canvas. It does not happen easily; hours of work go into attempting painstakingly to embody on canvas what Wordsworth calls "that first fine careless rapture" or what Kavanagh knows as the only worthwhile task: "to snatch out of time the passionate transitory". Our tow artists, each in her own way, has found subjects that inspired passion enough to be committed to canvas so as to make certain moments in time forever stand still.
The sun was shining and the sea was sparkling in Malahide on August 13th when a group of us met for a special lunch to celebrate our International Reflection Group. Who is this group you may ask? It is made up of about 20 sisters from all over the Institute, who have been reading and sharing personal reflections with one another, via emails, on the excellent book “Inner Treasure” by John Bingham, an Episcopalian priest and a Jungian therapist. We share our reflections on his wisdom and on our own struggles to dive deep to find the kingdom of God within, i.e. to find our inner treasure.

Even when we struggled with the complexity of Bingham’s interpretations of Gospel stories and with our own personal issues, we invariably enjoyed receiving the insights of others. What a wealth of spirituality is in the group. We have all been greatly enriched and challenged by the experience.

Fionnuala Cole, as part of her Mobility for Mission Role, set up the group and with the help of Rita Carroll provided each of us with a copy of the book. She also sent us the list of the participants and their email address. Thank you Nuala. It was Rita who chose the book and launched us on our way with a personal introduction from each of us. Each month Rita allots the reading and keeps the whole process on track. Thank you Rita.

We will have finished Inner Treasure in a few months time. Then a new group and a new book will be launched. Personally I am enjoying the experience and would encourage anyone interested to consider becoming part of the next group. The sharing is non-competitive, there is no right way and no wrong way, and there is no exam at the end!

Nuala and Rita arranged for us to meet in Malahide to share together over a meal. There was a wonderful buzz as we gathered in the foyer of the hotel. We had all been looking forward to meeting our “pen friends”. It is fascinating to realise that even though all present are long-time members of St Louis we hadn’t all met before.

Unfortunately, not all the participants in the reflection group could attend, but as we sat at table and contemplated the shimmering sea, the colourful yachts moored in the marina and Ireland’s Eye (a small island), in our direct line of vision we thanked God for the wonderful opportunity of meeting. We thought of the absent members of the group and sent angels to greet and bless all. In a special way we remembered our participating African Sisters who often have to contend with lack of email access to expedite their reflections or to receive those of the other members of the group. We prayed for our fragile earth and for those who are suffering from illness, war, hunger and violence.

In the beautiful dining room we were welcomed by the very friendly staff who served us a delicious meal. We were excited to share ideas and anecdotes with each other. The afternoon went much too fast but the spirit of the day accompanied us as we left knowing that wherever our future takes us, we will carry rich and happy memories of warmth, love and friendship shared. Thank you to each one and may we deepen our knowledge of Christ as the inner treasure of all our journeys.

Mary O’Connor
One night last June we sat over a late cuppa in Kiltimagh and began to chat about moments that defined our arrival in St.Louis. Fascinating stories! Mine seemed to depend on a little cuppa!

One summer’s day nearly 80 years ago my mother said to my sister Carmel and me “you two are going to a lovely boarding school in September and Daddy and I are going to visit it tomorrow” This info was greeted with shrieks of excitement “Will there be pillowfights and midnight feasts? We wanted to know “and “matrons”for the sick girls, and tuck shops for sweets?” Our literary lives at that stage were dominated by books with titles like “Fourth Form at Mallory Towers” and “The Princess at the Chalet School” and “Hilda at Hadding Hall” etc. They all had names like Hall or Towers etc, nothing as plain as St. Mary’s or St Joseph’s. And we were joining this magical world. We ran around telling our friends…Roll on September….

I have no memory of waiting for my parents to report back to us that day. We had not gone with them. Family cars were a rarity in the 30's and travel costly, but many decades later my mother filled in the story. They had set off on that long ago morning on what was quite a marathon by train, bus, train, hired taxi and finally arrived at the school.

She recalled beautiful buildings, lovely grounds, elegant parlour and a “lovely nun!” They did the business of fees, books, clothing and the famous cash’s marks etc. All grand, but my mother began to long for a little cuppa! So when Sister invited them to see the dormitories “Great” she told her tummy “When we get back the tea will be here” Alas they arrived back to find the mahogany table still shining but no sign of the tea! Eventually my father said they’d better get started on the long way home. As they left he asked her “What do you think?” And my mother said “No it’s too cold a place! Not here” that cuppa or lack of it changed history.

Later on that summer I do remember clearly being dressed in our best and taken on the tram out to Rathmines convent to meet the principal of Clochar Lughaidh Muineachán, the legendary Sr Laurentia Stuart. It was her custom to come to Rathmines every Summer to meet parents and prospective pupils for the boarding school. I vividly remember the warm welcome especially for the two small, very excited children of 10 and 11! No she didn't offer the pillowfights or the midnight feasts of our storybooks! But the 'matron for sick girls' was the much loved Sr.Canisius!! And above all Sr.Laurentia (or Siuir Lorcan’ as she was always called) must have ordered the tea in time, as 4 of our family spent a total of 25 years in the school! The rest is history!

Gabrielle O’Connell
Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) is an inter-denominational project that encourages churches throughout Ireland to celebrate the gift of God's creation, recognise the inter-dependence of all creation and care for it in their life and mission and through personal lifestyles. Its aim is to motivate Christians to adopt an eco approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, community outreach and contact with the developing world. For more information see our website [www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)

The Catholic, Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian churches are involved as well as the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Individual Church communities can apply for the Eco-Congregation's award for good environmental practice. Catherine Brennan SSL is the Catholic representative and chairperson and as such has the pleasure of presenting the awards to various churches and groups throughout Ireland.

Fiona Murdoch (Communications Officier)

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Belfast
Dundrum Methodist Church, Dublin
St Kilian's Deutsche Schule, Dublin
Church of Ireland Whitechurch, Dublin

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**Living In Right Relationship With Other Christian Churches and with God's Creation**

A lovely gentle book came my way recently and I'd love to share it with you, readers of “Seo & Siúd”. All of us at some time in our lives have had to bear the enormous loss of a loved one, and for most of the Region, the death of a mother is a painful and irreplaceable loss, with the moment etched on your mind and heart forever. Meghan O'Rourke records her experiences in this beautifully written and intensely poignant memoir, dealing with her loss, in a tender and unique way. Her aim in it, she says, is to understand the notion of death and mourning in a secular society that can't agree on what happens after we draw our last breath, and in some societies offers precious little ritual to comfort those left behind. I know this is not exactly our experience in Ireland at the moment, but is becoming increasingly so.

It was Christmas day 2008 when her mother lost her battle with colorectal cancer at 55, and what she describes is part love letter to her mother, and part mapping of the universal condition that is grief. The death of a loved one, may perhaps be harder to bear for those who don’t believe in an afterlife, or as she writes "the secular mind searching for its lost love”..

In exploring grief in its wider elements, she calls on the writings of Shakespeare, Freud, C.S.Lewis and Emily Dickinson, and though their writings give her new direction for her grief to follow, they cannot carry the same immediacy or relevance when placed alongside her own.

Every line she writes is so truthful, so unblinkingly direct, that every sentence knocks you right back into your own aching memories of grief. Every time I tried to become a detached reader, my thoughts kept coming back to my own experiences of loss. Meghan longed for time on her own, as we all do, to think through and reflect on the woman her mother really was and the great relationship they shared. Throughout “The Long Goodbye” memories are interspersed like photographs, and as time passes, this walk through "the valley of the shadow of death" helps her return to the world of the living, to the point where she is able to recall that, as much as we loathe loss, death is the limiting horizon that gives life meaning.

I found that there is solace (or sólas) to be found in this book, not only because it talks of the depths of loss and the possibility of emergence, but because of the beauty of the prose. Surely a worthwhile read….

Meabh Ni Uallachain
Earlier this year, 2011, a package addressed to me was delivered to the Mission House by a priest on leave from Ghana. While the package was addressed to me, the letter inside began “Dear Rev. Sisters”. The fact that Felicia had subtitled her letter “The Irish In Me” seemed to indicate that it was more of a memoir than a letter and might therefore be of interest, not only to those of us who had ministered in Ghana but, to Irish born St. Louis Sisters in general. I checked this out with Betty Dalton and Maura Diver - the three of us were in Kumasi when Felicia was a student there. They were of the same mind and suggested Seo agus Siúd as the way forward. Méabh of the Editorial Board, being a past “Ghanaian” read the text and was very happy to accept it. So here it is to speak for itself:

Kitty Fitzsimons

**THE IRISH IN ME**

Accra, Ghana, 2011

Dear Rev. Sisters, My father had christened me Felicia because he was promoted in the army the day I was born. In January 1959, I was admitted to St. Louis Secondary Institution in Kumasi, Ashanti Region. The school was run by Irish nuns under the late Mother M. Johannes. The surviving ones I know now are Mother Mary “Devictoire” and Mother Mary “Rooke” and M. du Rosaire. Because I had grown up in the North of Ghana, I had seen at first hand the raw deal that women were subjected to. My family (extended and nuclear) objected to the continuation of my education beyond basic level because I was an only daughter and at the adolescent age I must get married to continue the dynasty with children. As well as that, they could not afford to educate me further when there were many nephews and sons to go to school. I resented that female mistreatment with every fibre in my young body. But lucky for me my mother valued girl education and found a way to borrow money to get me started in St Louis Secondary School, Kumasi.

When I arrived in that school (a whole month late) I was already a militant bundle for women’s rights. I doff my hat to the Nuns that they immediately found in me a kindred spirit. Sr. Joannes used to say to me, “Felicia Twum, one day, your militancy will make you an asset to the women of Ghana!” I count myself to be lucky when I was admitted because to day, I can confidently proclaim that, when it comes to women’s emancipation, our St. Louis Nuns were way ahead of their time. They heralded women’s emancipation as no one ever had, nor ever has since.

Fate was on my side in St Louis Secondary School. In spite of my late start, I was able to catch up and, as the years passed, with the help of a bursary from the nuns, I completed my High School. Proudly out of the batch of 63 girls enrolled in 1959, I sailed through to the University.

But in between times all was not roses. The nuns could not always contain my hyper or extrovert nature. I was several times suspended, dismissed and punished unfairly. For example, I was made the scapegoat of a student body riot one day when in fact I was on admission in the hospital. I was just too much for them - their moonbean. But they “loved and cared” for me too. During one of my suspensions (for being rude, bold and rebellious to Miss S.) the Entrance Examination for the new St. Louis Junior Training College was announced. I was recalled from my village, 9 miles away, to come and sit that exam. My suspension was cancelled and I was allowed me to resume my studies in the Secondary School.

After that it was cool right up to A Levels in 1965, after which I left to attend the University of Ghana at Legon where I obtained a BA degree in Humanities. I then took after the nuns to become a teacher for 33 years, holding several positions, including Director of Education, till I retired in 2003.

But the Irish influence coloured other parts of my life. In 1972 I was married by an Irish priest; then I had a baby girl on 17th March 1973. This girl married an American- Irish in 2009 in Washington. Proudly, as Mrs Mc Connell, she now holds a high position in the World Bank IFC.

As a retired educationist, I am proud to say that, due to my Irish influence, I was able to lead a fruitful and productive life. I educated over 4,000 students some of whom are doctors, lawyers, pastors, parents, teachers etc. all because of the chance the Irish nuns offered me. May God bless Ireland, the priests and nuns and St. Patrick for converting Ireland to Christianity. Thank you, Felicia Adofo (née Twum)
On August 11th the Diamond Jubilarians gathered from U.S.A., England & Ireland in the Mission House. We were warmly welcomed, greeted each other while having a cuppa and goodies. Twenty of us had entered: Sr. Celsus titled us ‘Sr. M. Ernan’s uncut diamonds’. Three of our group – Srs. Marie Henry, Molua Conheady and Bernadette Marron, have passed on; we remembered them. Mary Clancy and Eileen Ryan had chosen a new way of life; we were happy that Mary was with us. We also remembered Srs. Josephine McVeigh, Clare McManus, Anne Murphy & Claude Lynch who were unable to be with us.

The initial greetings over, we moved to the chapel where we participated in a moving Eucharist, celebrant: Fr. Sean Hayes S.M.A. Theme: ‘If you only knew what God is offering’, readings from ‘Song of Songs’ and ‘John’s Gospel’, and a shared homily by the jubilarians. It was good to hear Anne Lynott leading in singing the psalm: ‘My Soul is Longing for your Peace’.

Then it was on the bus to the Camden Court Hotel, where we were specially welcomed and had a delicious lunch in beautiful surroundings. After lunch we moved to a private room. Here we laughed and chatted as we read all the greeting cards from so many sisters and others. We wish to thank most sincerely all who had masses offered, prayed for us and sent greetings. We were really touched by so much love. Also, we thank the Srs. in the Mission House for their homely welcome.

Clare Ryan

On August 11th the Golden Jubilarians arrived at No 7 Grosvenor Rd to begin their ‘Set’ celebration. The excitement was wonderful as we greeted each other and hearing that Jenny Gibbons, the Prioress of the Carmelite Monastery in Tallow, Co. Waterford would be joining us added to our joy. In all we were 11.

The No 7 Community went to great trouble to have everything ready for us. Mass was at 11am and was followed by ‘Goodies’ arranged by the Community. Thank you one and all.

We then headed to the ‘Purple Ocean’ in Dunlaoire where we dined in style. Those of you who are familiar with the place will know that it is situated with a perfect view of the harbour. Memories were shared and stories were told that made us laugh and appreciate the times we shared together. It seemed as if time had not changed any of us. Marie Byrne