



# SHM Extended Family Newsletter

Eastern American Province

2011-2012 Events

[Volume 2, Issue 1]

## Advent Day of Reflection calls on Mary

By Dotsie Ryan-Beck

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, the Extended Family Implementation Group sponsored the annual Advent Day of Reflection in collaboration with EAP Vitality Implementation Group. Our day started with the celebration of Mass in the Marymount Chapel followed by a light lunch in the auditorium.



Event participants. Photo by Angel Hinojosa

The theme of the day was "Mary of Nazareth: Woman of Courage." Gloria Thomas, Ph.D. was the guest speaker. Dr. Thomas taught at Marymount College for 15 years and was an adjunct professor at Dominican College, Blauvelt, NY. She is a wife, mother and grandmother and is currently the Director of Religious Education in her Midland Park, N. J., parish.



Dr. Gloria Thomas. Photo by Ursula Mahoney

Dr. Thomas gave a historical background about Mary's life and time and introduced a review of Scripture passages about Mary from her 'Yes' (Luke 1:26-38) to Mary at the Crucifixion (John 19-25.) These passages were discussed from a modern woman's perspective with an emphasis on the justice/courage traditions of Mary.

Mary is a model for discipleship for all Christians. Her life is the story of someone who accepted an invitation from God that she did not fully understand. She accepted everything with great trust in God. What Mary is -- we are called to be.

It was an insightful presentation that was very well received. A lively exchange of thoughts and ideas followed with Dr. Thomas and those present.

Our day concluded with an inspiring ritual which asked the question: "How have I been as open to God and to others as Mary was? Do I make room at the inn for others?"



The Inn. Photo by Ursula Mahoney

The SHM-EF embraces all those who desire to share in the spirit and charism of the RSHM and their founder, Jean Gailhac, and foundress, Mere Saint Jean. The RSHM treasure the friendships and associations shared with students, faculties, staffs, families and colleagues over the years. All are invited to participate in the SHM Extended Family, which embraces all who want a deeper understanding of the challenges of the Church today and the RSHM Institute's focus on justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

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## **Extended Family in England celebrate Mere St. Jean's beginnings**

**By Michelle Phelan, RSHM and Marie-Laure Jakomin**

Our co- foundress, Mere Saint Jean, was the topic for our fall meeting of the SHM Extended Family meeting in Kingston. No doubt she was our inspiration, also. Sister Andre Dullaghan RSHM from the Northern European Province was our presenter. She brought to life many phases of the call of God in the life of Mere Saint Jean, starting with her family, the customs and life in general at that time in Beziers. Her accomplishments as co-foundress of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary was a learning experience for many of our Extended Family members.

They were very impressed with all this courageous young woman

faced in her early life and as a Religious. The meeting concluded with the presentation of cards of our co-foundress and the text, "Litany In Honor of the Mother Saint Jean." Those who attended were a mixture of



regular members, and for others, it was a new adventure. Several people could not attend due to previous commitments.

Please keep in your prayers two of our members who are very ill at present, both are very devoted friends of Marymount. To be a member of the EF creates a sense of belonging and is a very consoling thought at a time of sickness especially. We are grateful for the support of so many people, and in particular, our headmistress, Ms. Sarah Gallagher. A big "Thank You" to Sister Andre for her research and inspiring presentation. The Catering Service added to our joy with delicious refreshments.

## **RSHM Volunteering benefits both volunteers and RSHM sisters**

**By Susannah Bourbeau**



**Sr. Mary Heyser and Susannah Bourbeau**

In September 2011, the RSHM Volunteer Program launched at Marymount Convent. The EAP Provincial Council, the nurses, the life enrichment staff, and the Sisters of the third floor all agreed that friendly visitors might be a positive addition to the third floor community of RSHM at the Marymount Convent.

The volunteer recruitment effort was met with a positive response. The RSHM Extended Family, Marymount alumnae, and parishioners of the local church community were all invited to share their time with the Sisters at Marymount Convent. Many responded with a willingness to give back to the Sisters who had touched so many lives.

Volunteers gathered at Marymount Convent November 22, 2011 for an orientation. Sixteen volunteers were in attendance. Volunteers expressed how they attended a Marymount school or schools and were blessed by the gifts of the RSHM sisters. Many felt they wanted to thank the sisters in some way and this provided an opportunity.

In December, the RSHM Volunteers celebrated the Christmas season with the Sisters of Marymount Convent. Volunteer Collette and Sr. Angela shared in Christmas card writing to send holiday cheer to Ireland. Volunteer/ EAP EF SHM Co-chair, Annie Randazzo and Sr. Sabyna serenaded the nursing staff and the third floor sisters with Jingle Bells and show tunes. The sisters have shared stories of their childhood and stories of experiences abroad. The volunteers have expressed how much they enjoy their visits and the sisters of the third floor have expressed their gratitude for their friendly visitors.

The RSHM EAP Provincial Council and the RSHM Volunteer Program Co-coordinators are very grateful for the dedication of the RSHM Volunteers. If anyone is still interested in participating in the RSHM Volunteer Program, please contact Susannah Bourbeau at 914-631-8872 ext 214 or [sbourbeau@rshmeap.org](mailto:sbourbeau@rshmeap.org).

## December 4<sup>th</sup> Ceremony Honors Mother Butler at Fordham Campus

By Mary Heyser, RSHM

On Sunday, December 4, 2011, a room was dedicated as Butler Commons at Rose Hill Campus in honor of Mother Joseph Butler. Over 200 Marymount Alumnae, Faculty, Extended Family, and friends were present. In addition to the dedication plaque, around the room were placed many pictures of Mother Butler and Marymount College students.



Dedication ceremony. Photo by Fordham University

Fr. McShane, SJ, the president of Fordham, welcomed all and told them "he hoped that the space would be a new home for them...I want you back often. I want you to stay long. I want you to infect our present students with the spirit of Marymount, and inspire our present student and our future students with the vision that you received from Mother Butler."

Kathleen Fagan, RSHM (MC '63) spoke about the Network of Schools-- the legacy of Mother Butler. Kathleen Connell, RSHM (MC '61) reminded us that the connections between the Society of Jesus and Mother Butler ran deep. Both Mother Butler and Fr. Terence J. Shealy, SJ shared an "apostolic friendship" as they helped each other establish lay retreats. The Jesuits celebrated the Eucharist with the sisters and students each Sunday from the first day the college opened.

At the luncheon that followed the dedication, Dr. Eugenie F. Doyle, M.D. (MC '43), spoke of her time at Marymount and her memory of Mother Butler. Both she and Mary Murphy (MC '66) encouraged the alumnae to support the Marymount Legacy Fund which provides scholarships at Fordham for women relatives of Marymount alumnae. Shannon Tierney, FCRH '12, current senior at Fordham, thanked all for making her time at Fordham possible because of the Marymount Legacy Scholarship.



Dr. Eugenie Doyle. Photo by Fordham University

Traditionally, unwrapped Christmas gifts are brought to the Founders Day event and presented to the RSHM LIFE CENTER. Susan Gardella, RSHM, Executive Director of the LIFE CENTER, received the gifts and said "I do not thank you for the gifts, but I thank you for sharing in the ministry of the RSHM LIFE CENTER because whenever you donate, volunteer, join us at events, you are part of our mission." Click the following site to see the entire article from Fordham. [http://www.fordham.edu/Campus\\_Resources/eNewsroom/topstories\\_2249.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/Campus_Resources/eNewsroom/topstories_2249.asp)

Bottom six photos by Angel Hinojosa



RSHM sisters at luncheon event.



Dedication plaque.



LIFE Center past and present supporters.



RSHM sisters and former faculty.



Marymount College Alumnae Board Members.



Former Marymount College in Tarrytown Faculty.

## **New and improved EAP-WAP Website launched: [www.rshn.org](http://www.rshn.org)**

**By Joanne Safian, RSHM**

After a year of work, we are delighted to announce that the new website of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Eastern and Western American Provinces, is now live at [www.rshn.org](http://www.rshn.org).

The EAP-WAP website team of Pauline MacDonald, RSHM, Joanne Safian, RSHM, Mary Alice Young, RSHM, and Cecilia Brizzuela, our Director of Communications, worked for over a year in bringing the new site to fruition. Sister Pauline and Cecilia are in Los Angeles and Sisters Joanne and Mary Alice are in New York. The company is based in Minnesota. Thus, much of our communication was carried on by Skype and web meetings, and we were delighted not only at how effective this was but with the working relationships and friendships that developed.

The process involved finding the right website design company, one that had worked with women's religious congregations, and reviewing the sites of those congregations. What followed over several months were many conversations about marketing

and branding, many proposed designs, and lots of adjustment of the site map. Along the way, we learned a great deal about landing pages, effective navigation, best methods for links, and much else.

Once the site was constructed, we were trained to use the user-friendly content management system to populate it. In such a system, while there are skills to learn, one can work in English (or Spanish for that part of the site) and we didn't need to learn html language or complicated programming. It is easy and lots of fun to add text and pictures, links, and even pages to the site. We were also helped by the sisters in both provinces who contributed their time and talent as writers, translators, photographers, and proof readers. We are still working on inserting metatags of key words so that search engines will find the right site when people Google words and phrases related to the RSHM. Apparently it can take a while for search engines to catch up with new or redesigned sites.

The site highlights our mission and ministries, our history and internationality, recent news, and information about joining us in our mission, including pages about the Extended Family and the new EAP Volunteer Program. There are also links to our other provinces, to many of our ministries, and ways to contact us.

It is our intention to keep the site updated, so we count on your sending us news and pictures in the future. We are happy to post Extended Family events and news on the RSHM Recent News and RSHM Upcoming Events pages and to update the actual Extended Family page when necessary. You can forward materials to us at [contactus@rshn.org](mailto:contactus@rshn.org). We also look forward to your comments and ideas.

We also invite you to visit our RSHM Channel on YouTube where we tell stories of our sisters and their ministries. We also hope to be on Facebook soon. Finally, let your family and friends know about our new site!

### ***Upcoming Events for EAP EF and RSHM***

- **LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION–Sunday, March 11, 2012**, Eucharist at 11am, light lunch, input/reflection. Marymount Convent, Tarrytown. RSVP [shirleys@rshmeap.org](mailto:shirleys@rshmeap.org) 914-631-8872.
- **RSHM SPONSORED PROGRAM-Saturday March 24, 2012**: “The True Cost of the Low Price. A Day on Labor Trafficking and Consumerism” at Fordham, Rose Hill, 9:30am to 3:30pm. RSVP by March 14, 2012 to Shirley at: [shirleys@rshmeap.org](mailto:shirleys@rshmeap.org) 914-631-8872.
- **SHM EF RETREAT-Friday, March 30- Sunday, April 1, 2012** at Cormaria Retreat House, Sag Harbor. Cost \$180. Registration required. RSVP by March 1, 2012 to Shirley at: [shirleys@rshmeap.org](mailto:shirleys@rshmeap.org) 914-631-8872.
- **RSHM SPONSORED PROGRAM-LifeWay Safe House Benefit, Thursday, May 3, 2012**, Marymount School, New York, 6:30pm- 8:30pm. Information to follow. The LifeWay Safe House opened in February this month and located in Metropolitan New York.
- **MARYMOUNT COLLEGE, TARRYTOWN, REUNION-from Friday, June 1 2012 - Sunday, June 3, 2012** at Fordham, Rose Hill. Invitation forthcoming in March

## **Meditation brings opportunity of deeper faith and awareness**

**Catherine Bennett, RSHM**

Twenty years ago I was introduced to meditation - a prayer form whose history goes back to the 4th Century desert fathers. In this prayer, we let go of thoughts and feelings and remain in the presence of God, aware of the Divine Presence within us. Meditation is *being who we are - children of God Who dwells within us*. This prayer form is '*Being to being*'. John Main, OSB, (1926-1982) (in England) and Thomas Keating, OCSO (1925 -) introduced meditation to the modern world. Christian Meditation is a growing awareness of God within us. We remain in silence and stillness for about 20 minutes, using a *mantra* to enable us to be *still and silent*.

There are two weekly meetings for meditation:

- Marymount Convent on Wednesdays: 10:15AM - 11:00AM
- Transfiguration Parish on Fridays: 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Meetings are open to anyone. A donation of \$1 is asked per week to contribute to the WCCM for its support (World Community of Christian Meditation). One does not have to attend consistently every week to participate. RSVP and experience are not necessary. Please bring your good intention to learn how to meditate according to the Desert Fathers of the 4th Century.

## **Vocation Office Sponsors a Day of Prayer with Single Women**

**By Cathy Duebel, RSHM**

In this present day and age, it is not an easy task for women to find time to be still and listen to the wisdom and whispers of God within. We live in a world filled with technological distractions and a myriad of inter-relational problems, as well as family, school and work place difficulties and responsibilities. Mired in an overwhelming amount of multi-tasking endeavors, one can easily lose site of the need to "take time out" and spend precious moments with our loving God.



In an effort to provide women with a venue for spiritual nourishment and growth, the Vocation Office of the Sacred Heart of Mary host a Saturday afternoon of prayer, reflection, and sharing for single women every other month at the Provincial Center in Tarrytown, NY. RSHM who invite a young woman to one of our gatherings are also invited to participate fully in the prayers and blessings of the afternoon.

Prayer participants at the Marymount Convent.  
Photos by Sr. Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM

Our afternoons begin with a light lunch, followed by prayer, silent meditation, and sharing. We listen to Gospel truths and in, silence, our God within. For some it may be a treasured time to get in touch with inner feelings and God's intervention in a particular situation. For others, it may be a time to prayerfully discern God's call to religious life, or the option of serving within a secular life style. As baptized Christians, we are all called to follow Jesus in love and service to others. When Jesus is central to our very being, we are energized and can more easily reach out to others in a spirit of gratitude, love, enthusiasm and joy!



## **LifeWay Safe House for survivors of human trafficking**

**Mary Heyser, RSHM**

The RSHM are one of the 30 congregations of an anti-human trafficking group, the New York Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop Trafficking of Persons (NY-CRC-STOP). Through the support these congregations and many others, the LifeWay Safe House announces the opening February 2012 in the New York Metropolitan area.

Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary

servitude, commercial sex or debt bondage. The victims are often transported to wealthier nations such as the US where they are sold into prostitution or forced labor to “work off their debt.” To learn more about human trafficking, attend a workshop on “The True Cost of the Low Price: Labor Trafficking and Consumerism” at Fordham University, Rose Hill campus on Saturday, March 24, 2012. To register or for more information contact: [mheyser1@fordham.edu](mailto:mheyser1@fordham.edu) or call Shirley Solivan at 914-631-8872.

The Goal of the LifeWay Network Safe House is to provide a

welcoming and supportive environment for women survivors of human trafficking so that they may be able to establish independence and expand their own supportive networks through education, social services and community life. For more information or to send a donation please contact Sr. Joan Dawber, SC, Executive Director of LifeWay at LIFEWAY NETWORK, P.O. Box 754215, Forest Hills, NY 11375, [jsdlifeway@yahoo.com](mailto:jsdlifeway@yahoo.com). On May 3, 2012, a fundraising event will be held at Marymount School, NYC, from 6:30-8:30pm. More info to follow.

## **Annual Extended Family Gathering Reflects Prophecy**

**By Patricia Fahey, RSHM**

The SHM-EF Gathering in memory of Pere Jean Gailhac, founder of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, took place November 12, 2011, in St. Joseph's Hall, Tarrytown, N.Y. Sr. Catherine Vincie, RSHM, Professor of Sacramental and Liturgical Theology at Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, Missouri, addressed the group. Dr. Vincie explored the theme, “Prophecy - Looking at the World with New Eyes.” Her input was inspiring and challenging.

We were reminded that the spirit of the RSHM is one of Faith and Zeal, which were so evident in Pere Gailhac's life. This spirit is shared through the mission of the RSHM which is “to know and love God and to make God known and loved, to proclaim that Jesus Christ has come so that all may have life.” (RSHM Constitution). Father Gailhac did this by responding to the needs he saw in his time, his community and his world. The SHM-EF gathered on November 12<sup>th</sup> to endeavor to look at our world with new eyes and reflect on how we can live this charism, a gift of the Holy Spirit, in our lives which include events, relationships and prayer. Much interest was expressed on the part of the participants about the Surplus of the Gospel, an article by D. Goergan, OP and its implication for the laity, and in particular, women.

A lively questioning, discussion and interchange followed Sr. Catherine's input around such questions as: Do we need prophets today? What shape does/could prophecy take in our age? Where are the places that need to be challenged/ overturned? Are there prophets today who are bringing a new vision? Is/how is the church being prophetic in our world? Do our images of God support royal consciousness or do they align God with the marginalized? Have I been prophetic? Do you expect religious to be prophetic? What has been your experience of the RSHM? What would you like to see the RSHM doing?

## EF core group co-chair's insight to commitment to spirituality connections

By Annie Randazzo



Annie Randazzo and long-time friend Katie Brennan Taylor.  
Photo by Angel Hinojosa

I feel very blessed in life to have the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary as role models. Being part of RSHM Extended Family gives me the opportunity to be united in thought and prayer with the many ministries and good works of the sisters. Because I live in Tarrytown, it means that I can volunteer and engage in some of these local ministries. This empowerment strengthens me to be the hands and feet of Christ in my daily endeavors whether at home, work, or in the community. Throughout the year, planned days of reflection, guest speakers, as well as the annual Sag Harbor retreats help to renew me.

When I was asked to co-chair the EAP EF two years ago with Sr. Pat Fahey co-chair, I was most honored and questioned what I could contribute. Throughout the years of being a part of the EF Core Group I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful alumni and families whose lives have also been enriched by the sisters. It is my hope that we can encourage others who have been educated and or have worked with the sisters to participate in the Extended Family. Together we will spread the "light" of the RSHM so "all may have life to the full."

## RSHM NGO participation at UN update

By Brigid Driscoll, RSHM

The RSHM gained non-governmental organization (NGO) status at the UN in 2006 and, through this ministry, are able to expand their global outlook and outreach. Consistent with the Institute's Mission Statement which directs all members to "use our individual and corporate talents to work creatively in diverse ministries for the promotion of justice" the NGO office offers education and encourages action on issues of justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC). Among the issues that currently receive particular attention are extreme poverty, exploitation of women and children in all forms, education, and sustainable development.

The NGO office:

- regularly issues *Newsletters* which alert members about policies, issues, and actions that affect the promotion of justice;
- offers the UNEP (UN Experience Program) which provides mentoring, study, observation and networking for RSHM interested in global concerns;
- responds to requests from the Provinces and Regions for information or networking contacts;
- responds to requests from the Network of Schools to support their goals and provide education for members;
- collaborates with other NGOs as well as UN commissions and committees, and advocates with governments to insure that the human rights of all individuals are secured.

This ministry is an expression of the RSHM commitment "That All May Have Life."

### Eastern American Province Extended Family Implementation Group

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*SHM-Extended Family is a publication sent via email. It provides a review of local events in the Eastern American Province.*

*To include others in receiving this email, update your contact information, and/or receive event information, please send an email to [shirleys@rshmeap.org](mailto:shirleys@rshmeap.org).*

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