

December 10, 2017

SHM-EF Advent Day of Prayer – “Mary and Elizabeth: A Conversation Between Women of Faith”

by Clare Horn, SHM Extended Family Co-Chair

On Sunday, December 10, the Sacred Heart of Mary Extended Family (SHM-EF) day of prayer and reflection began with Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Senan Taylor, O.F.M.Cap. in Butler Memorial Chapel and lunch in the auditorium hosted by the SHM-EF.

In the afternoon, Jill Muller helped us imagine the many conversations between the young Mary and her older kinswoman, Elizabeth. Jill shared insights about what it might have been like socially, economically, and politically for these Jewish

women living at that time. Yet we know that their YES became an exultant praise of the greatness of God and of each other. Mary was certainly present in our afternoon’s reflection and sharing as Jill invited us to consider the conversations between Elizabeth and Mary as they listened to, accepted, and accompanied each other at a pivotal moment in each woman’s life.

We were asked, “Was there a challenging moment in your life when you felt affirmed or guided by talking with another woman of faith? When have you felt blessed by an elder or felt able to give blessing and support to another woman at an earlier stage in her faith journey?”

A special thank you to the Extended Family’s core committee who sponsored the day and especially to Jill Muller. We ended the day by praying together the Magnificat remembering God’s mercy, God’s promise to Abraham and Sarah, and God’s lifting up the powerless and filling the hungry with good things.

The Extended Family also supported the [RSHM LIFE Center](#) Christmas gift giving project. Sr. Irene Kelly accepted the gifts and thanked all for their generosity.

Books to read: Dangerous Memories - A Mosaic of Mary in Scripture drawn from Truly Our Sister by Elizabeth A. Johnson



**SHM-EF Advent Day of Prayer – “Mary and Elizabeth: A Conversation
Between Women of Faith” (continued)**



***Marymount Convent
Tarrytown, NY***

November 12, 2017

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and Sacred Heart of Mary-Extended Family Celebrates Anniversary of RSHM Founder's Birth at Marymount Convent

by Clare Horn, SHM Extended Family Co-Chair

On Sunday, November 12, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Mary-Extended Family gathered at Marymount Convent in Tarrytown to celebrate the anniversary of Pere Gailhac's birth. The day began with Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Senan Taylor. In the homily he spoke of Jean Gailhac's strong friendship with his boyhood friend, Eugene Cure and after Eugene married, with Appollonie Pellissier, his wife. The friendship grounded in mutual trust and love and a deep faith in God led Eugene and Appollonie to support the works of Gailhac and the founding of the Institute of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Fr. Senan invited each of us to be attentive, to follow in the footsteps of these three friends and to 'keep our lamps burning bright and always ready' for the Lord's invitation.



In the afternoon with more than 70 RSHM and SHM-EF present Margaret Morrissey in her well researched, dynamic and inspiring presentation titled, the 'First Extended Family' described the journey of the two boyhood friends, John Gailhac and Eugene Cure. Even in pursuing different life paths, they remained very close friends. This strong friendship nurtured their spirit and their souls. Eugene married Appollonie and for the 17 years they were married she too shared in their friendship. It was these strong bonds and deep faith in God that despite great opposition from her family led Appollonie after Eugene's death to give herself to the works of Gailhac and become the foundress of the Institute of the RSHM. In his later years Gailhac developed another significant friendship with Marie-Jean Leonard, the Abbot of Fontfroide. Their friendship was steeped in God's love and it nourished them and, as friendships often do, provided great comfort and helped each of them 'keep their lamps burning bright' on life's journey.

There was time for reflection, sharing and questions before the day ended. A final comment came from an Extended Family member and former student. With much emotion in her voice she said, "...and with deep gratitude and appreciation I want to say thank you to you Pere Gailhac for your founding the RSHM. These women (she named several of the sisters she had in school) have touched me and changed my life and I now share all that they have taught me and given me with my children and grandchildren."