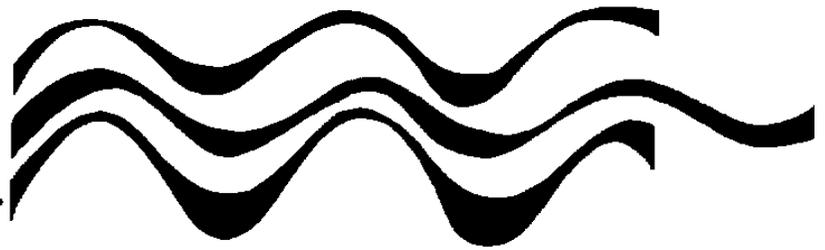


RSHM SOUNDINGS is a quarterly publication of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Eastern and Western American and Northern European Provinces, and Zambezi Region. Waves sent out, reflected back, reveal an inner reality not always evident on the surface. Thus SOUNDINGS probes RSHM life in expanding circles of ministry and community. You, our readers, are part of our life. We invite your comments and suggestions so that your thoughts may be reflected in these pages.

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Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
English Speaking Provinces

Volume XXIV, Number 2
Summer 2016

WORD OF WISDOM

by Catherine Patten, RSHM

BRONX, NY The occasion was Marymount Manhattan College's awarding of an honorary degree to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. He was unable to be present at the commencement ceremony at Lincoln Center, so he agreed to come to a special mini-graduation in his honor at the college. When Kerry Walk, MMC's new president, opened the program, she announced that MMC will be placing student interns with our RSHM NGO. Another WOW!

I was impressed by Ban Ki-moon's gracious, warm manner and the way he took time with each person he was meeting. His talk, in which he fleshed out a vision for the human community that resonates deeply with our RSHM mission was memorable.

First, at this turbulent moment in world affairs, we must not lose sight of the opportunities that are in our hands, today, that can set the world on a better course. One can easily be overwhelmed by the daily headlines, the latest terrorist attack, the latest extreme storm, new outbreaks of disease. This is no doubt a time of many dangers and terrors. We see war crimes, inequality, injustice, and the gathering storm of climate change. We see racism and hatred, at times stoked by political egos.

The world must unite against these threats, to resolve conflicts and to save lives today. The UN strives to do just that, every day, around the world, around the clock, through diplomacy, peacekeeping, and peace-building.

The Secretary General also shared some of his own experience as a child in Korea during the war. UN aid brought food to his family and UNESCO supplied books and pencils so education could begin even though the schools had been destroyed. It's clear that that experience "on the ground" of the UN mission fuels his belief that all of us—and the UN in particular—can make a difference in a weary war-torn world.

*By encouraging new mindsets that recognize the need for global cooperation, he said, we can uphold the core promise of the 2030 agenda: **To leave no one behind.** By 2030, there should be nobody who is suffering from abject poverty, there should be no hunger, and there should be gender equality—50/50 on this planet between men and women...*

...I know that, through me, your college is recognizing and honoring the tens of thousands of men and women of the United Nations who are working, even at this time, in very



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Sr. Catherine Patten, May 19, 2016.

many places around the world, often dangerous and difficult places, to promote political security, stability, development, and human rights....

*To realize our shared goals, to build a future of dignity for all people, the world needs more compassion....I'm asking you to have **both passion and compassion.** Compassion is the glue that will bring us together for the work that can only be done together....*

In closing, Ban Ki-moon gave what we may receive as a key **Word Of Wisdom** for this issue of Soundings:

*I'd like to say just one word. The world may be big, but this word is small: **We are living in a very small family.** Whatever you do should be beneficial to others. It is easy to lose sight of what is happening in other places in the world, and what is happening to many young people like*

(continued on page 6)

WHO KNEW?

by Gretchen Hailer, RSHM

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA Here I am, blessed to say that there have been many WOWs in my life! Primarily, there are the precious "Spirit moments" that all of us can experience, if we but pay attention. But other wows for me often issue from a keen, quiet contemplation of nature, especially in the garden (flowers, veggies, birds, butterflies, even bugs!).

My most recent WOW, however, happened as a result of pondering possible Christmas gifts for my two sisters (Marie - 90) and (Pat - 85). They certainly didn't need any more stuff! Who does? But, then an idea of something quite unique popped into my mind. "What about an ancestry search? Yes, I would gift the results to them as a surprise!"

Then I turned to the Ancestry website (wow, those Mormons really know how to help folks find their predecessors!). They were offering a two week free subscription. How could I pass that up? Right?

So I typed in my parents' and Swiss and Irish grandparents' names and found about 36 3rd and 4th cousins, some only my oldest sister even knew about. Understandably these alluring results pushed me to delve further to find out how my DNA might narrow the search.

"WOW," I said when I received the results. Such surprises!

Well, I guess I already knew where the main focus would be—Ireland and Switzerland, right? Wrong!

Here's what I discovered: 57% showed Great Britain (which I reasoned might be related to the whole Northern Ireland troubles); 22% pointed to Ireland; 10% was the Western Europe piece; 3%; the Iberian peninsula. But then another 2% European Jewish; 3% South Asia, followed by 1% each for West Asia, Finland/Northern Russia, Italy/Greece, and the Caucasus.

Now are those WOW figures or what? ♦



NEXT ISSUE:
TRANSITION



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Printed by JAM Press, Elmsford, NY

AMAZING GRACES...

In 2008, on a cold November day, I was introduced to an unaccompanied minor—a 14 year old, Eritrean Refugee, just arrived in England. Her heart was broken and she cried continuously. We began our journey into a new world and a new culture together. Today she is a beautiful young woman, fluent in English, caring, courageous, and grateful for all that she received and is now becoming a British Resident. I am proud of her. Her dream is to return to Eritria and find her mother and sister.

*Breda Shelly, RSHM
Kingston, England*

The children here in the Life Center are, as all children, gifted with the awe of creation especially in springtime. Many of them work in two languages and do very nicely! How great it was to see my 2nd graders care for their tiny grass seeds which turned out to be a symbol of New Life in the form of pretty little Easter baskets for their parents They counted each blade of grass each day! WOW!

*Irene Kelly, RSHM
Tarrytown, NY*

It was hot travelling to the bank by car in the heavy traffic of Lusaka. I was feeling a bit sorry for myself and wondering if there would be a long wait in an over-crowded understaffed bank. As I parked my car and was about to get out, a young boy about ten years of age came up to me and looked at me with a broad smile and said "Sister, you know me. I am Joseph". That happened on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph. WOW!

*Dominique Treacy, RSHM
Lusaka, Zambia*

BRIEFLY HELD TREASURES

by Edith Hart, RSHM

BRONX, NY WOW! What a surprise! I have spent 30 years conserving valuable and beautiful works of art on paper for museums, galleries, and private collections. It is always a thrill to see so many of these pieces in gallery and museum exhibitions.

Last June I traveled to the Detroit Institute of Art for an important and comprehensive exhibition of the work of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to celebrate the fresco cycle murals painted by Diego Rivera from 1932-1933. These murals were commissioned by Edsel Ford as a tribute to the city's manufacturing and labor force. It was breathtaking to see these murals.

However, while wandering through the exhibition galleries looking at so many paintings, drawings and prints I came upon a watercolor and graphite painting on paper, "Soviet Harvest Scene" by Rivera. I had held this painting in my hands and had worked on it to repair damages to the paper and small areas of color. Since I had not expected to see anything that I had worked on, it was indeed a WOW moment.

This past February I actually had the final cartoon charcoal drawing by Rivera for the North Wall mural for the Detroit Art Institute. Since it was a working drawing for Rivera it had several tears and other small damages that needed repair. What a wonderful prelude to the exhibition in Detroit—another WOW!

I want to close with the response I received when I shared this submission to *Soundings* with Mary-Anne Martin, the most respected authority and dealer of Latin American Art. I have done much conservation work for Mary Anne. Before establishing her own gallery, she had created the Latin American Department at Sotheby's in the late 1970's. Dedicated to the promotion of Mexican and Latin American art, her gallery showcases works by major art-



Cat.10
Diego Rivera
Soviet Harvest Scene, 1928
Watercolor and pencil on paper
49.2 x 39.5 cm
Private collection, courtesy of
Mary-Anne Martin Fine Art, New York

ists of Latin America. With her review of this article Mary-Anne wrote:

I am so indebted to you for preserving so many treasures for future collectors and museum goers. I always feel lucky to have these works

in the gallery, like foster children that we can care for till they are ready to move on.♦

GRACES CONTINUED...

I was so happy when Stony Brook University Men's Basketball Team won the America East Conference Championship with a spectacular finish and qualified for the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Tournament! For me, watching the game was a "WOW experience."

*Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM
Tarrytown, NY*

Realizing that the only reality is to awaken to this instant, to this breath, is truly a moment of deep amazement and awe. The choice, the joy of living deeply the NOW is small but the difference is large and transformative. There is immense joy in living the deep happening which is life. Life to the full. WOW!!

*Margaret Treacy, RSHM
Harare, Zimbabwe*

AN APOSTLE OF THE MISSIONS

by Kathleen Connell, RSHM

KINGSTON ON THAMES, ENGLAND In the early 1870s, a young girl, Johanna Butler, spent her free time sewing altar linens and vestments for her parish church in the Rower, in Ireland. It was her simple way of serving the Church and reverencing the Eucharist.

Decades later, that girl, now Mother Joseph Butler, foundress of many schools in the United States and Europe and general superior of a growing Institute (1926-1940), continued that practice.

She and other RSHM encouraged students, to gather together in Mission Clubs to sew altar linens and vestments and to prepare Mass kits for missionaries throughout the world. "Continue to teach the girls to appreciate the privilege of sewing for God's altar," Mother Butler said to M. du Sacre Coeur Smith. "You will draw them closer to God and help to make them useful women in this sad world." In the years after her death, Mother Butler Mission Guilds flourished in RSHM schools and parishes in the USA, Europe, Quebec, and Colombia.

In 1944, Marion Hanrahan Dolan, an alumna of Marymount College (Class of 1924) persuaded her parish literary club to become active for the missions by choosing *Mother Butler of Marymount* as their new book for discussion. Soon after they heard a talk by the Director of Catholic Charities from Manila, fifty women from Rockland County met in Marion Dolan's house and formed a Mother Butler Mission Guild to reach out to meet the needs of the Pacific Islands affected by WWII, especially the Philippines.

Almost a decade later, in June 1955, Clara Corpus was seeking an apostolate that could be done by women *in the home* in the Philippines. During a visit to New York, she was directed to Marion Dolan who told her about Mother Butler and her love for the missions and for missionaries, and described how the

Mother Butler Mission Guilds functioned. As soon as Clara returned to Manila, she visited the Archbishop to ask for his support and blessing. Then, she called together six friends, congenial women, who welcomed the opportunity to serve poor priests and missionaries throughout the world by supplying Mass kits, altar linens, vestments, and prayers. A subsidiary of the guilds, the Mother Butler Foundation, was inaugurated specifically to pray for priestly vocations in the Philippines and to support poor seminarians.

In February 1961, Clara discovered some of the units were gathering under a new banner—the Mother Butler Guild. Begun by Henrietta T. de Villa, this later group was organized along *parochial lines* with a focus, not on the Missions, but on serving those within the confines of their parish.

For more than fifty years, these two organizations—the Mother Butler Mission Guild (with about 5000 members) and the Mother Butler Guild (with about 15,000 members)—have co-existed, each with units throughout the Philippines.

They touch the lives of missionaries across the world and parish folk rich and poor, and those discerning vocations to the priesthood and poor seminarians, poor children and families, and all the women of the MBMG and MBG who serve the Church following the example of Mother Joseph Butler. She must be very proud of these groups. What a WOW! moment it would have been for young Johanna Butler, quietly sewing altar linens, to see the thousands of women in the Philippines bringing life to the Church and the world in the Guilds that bear her name.♦

GRACES...AMEN.

I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Holy Land with Mary Lang, RSHM, this past February, as a Jubilee gift from Mary's Aunt Bernice. Walking and visiting where Jesus lived was unbelievable. To see Bethlehem his birthplace, to sail on the Sea of Galilee, to walk the Via Dolorosa, to pray in the Garden of Olives, Gethsemane, and on Mt. Calvary. Thank you God for this miraculous opportunity during Lent!

Mary Heyser, RSHM
Yonkers, NY

"Oh wow. Oh wow. Oh wow." These words were reported by the Wall Street Journal as the greatest words of the year 2011. They are the last words of Steve Jobs, reported by his sister, the novelist Mona Simpson. "Before embarking, he'd looked at his sister Patty, then for a long time at his children, then at his life's partner, Laurene, and then over their shoulders past them. Steve's final words were: 'OH WOW. OH WOW. OH WOW.'"

"The caps are Simpson's, and if she meant to impart a sense of wonder and mystery she succeeded. 'Oh wow' is not a bad way to express the bigness, power and force of life, and death. And of love, by which he was literally surrounded." The full article can be found in the Wall Street Journal: December 24, 2011.

Richard Marie Beck, RSHM
Tarrytown, NY

Roz's election as General Superior was a WOW moment for me and for many, perhaps most of all for her!

Bea McMahon, RSHM
Bronx, NY

TRULY WONDER-FULL

by Pierre Dullaghan, RSHM

BARROW, ENGLAND I spent some time trying to remember some 'wow' experiences which would make interesting reading when suddenly it occurred to me -wow!- I am living in one at the moment.

My sister Andre, also RSHM, who died very suddenly in September and whom I miss deeply had a great love and talent for all aspects of music. She had achieved a very high standard and devoted much time and enthusiasm to training young people to sing in choir. Not long ago I received from the Secretary of a group called 'Friends of the Musicians' Chapel' a letter with information as follows: *'Integral to the work of the Friends is the Book of Remembrance in which the names of musicians who have died are inscribed. The Committee wants to record the name of Sister Andre in the Book of Remembrance and to*



commemorate her at the annual Service of Thanksgiving.'

She goes on to say: *'Sister Andre's contribution to the world of Music is such that we want to have her remembered. She is well known in this field for her work as a singer and teacher and we feel she should be honoured for her work.'*

You can imagine what all this means to me, my brother Tom, our

relatives and friends. The Service of Thanksgiving is being held at a traditional Choral Evensong. I believe Andre attended this service every year and we feel so proud that her name will actually be inscribed on that day this year. She will be listed with many famous musicians of today and of the past. It will be a wonderful experience and my brother and I hope to be joined by friends, past pupils, colleagues and many RSHM (including some from the Eastern American Province).

I mentioned in my eulogy at Andre's funeral that she saw all her experiences as FANTASTIC and that I felt she would have seen her sudden death as the ultimate fantastic experience of her life. For me this is yet another fantastic experience and I will feel very close to her on that evening. WOW!♦

A GREAT MONTH OF LEARNING

by Grace Nthyola and Naomi Muulu

CHOMA, ZAMBIA Wow is the best word to describe the amazing time we had in Zimbabwe during the month of March 2016. When we (Grace from Malawi, Naomi from Zambia) were first told that we were going to Mabelreign for our one month community experience as pre-novices we were scared for a variety of reasons. Among them were: we had never been to Zimbabwe before; we did not know the Shona Language; and above all we had never met the sisters there. (Kathleen Murphy and Margaret Treacy) Then we remembered the words of a beautiful song: "...hold my hand oh Lord in my journey..." and that encouraged us.

Crossing the border from Zambia into Zimbabwe we met two very large elephants and we felt "wow"



Pre-novices Naomi Muulu and Grace Nthyola

that was our first big welcome. On arrival in Chinhoyi we were received warmly by the sisters there and that put us at ease. Attending Mass at the local parish, Musha we Betania, (*Home of Bethany*) we were amazed by the number of people attending daily Mass. Shortly after breakfast

our journey continued to Harare. Wow, little did we know what wonderful experiences awaited us in the capital city.

We loved working with the children in Mabelreign Life Centre and we enjoyed each moment with them and especially when they sang songs like "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands...." We were touched by the Sacred Heart of Mary Prayer Group in Mabelreign Parish. Here we found ordinary people who were so open to each other and who made us feel very welcome and at home. Their sense of prayer and joy encouraged us on our own pre-novitiate journey. Their practice of Lectio Divina was very helpful to us and now we often pray that way ourselves. At Arrupe College, where we attended Mass every Wednes-

(continued on page 6)

day evening, we were amazed to see so many young men preparing for the priesthood. The singing was in many different languages and WOW that made our hearts happy. The Garden of Oneness and the Cosmic Walk on the grounds of our house in Mabelreign were also highlights for us. We were beginning to see the reality of the phrase "I am you. You are me and WE ARE ONE."

We also became very aware that all is not well in Zimbabwe. As a result of drought as well as bad management, more than three mil-

lion people are at risk of starvation at the present time, especially those in the southern part of the country. We were happy to be informed that Jesuit Relief Services re-opened their services and that local people and donors were able to help by supporting them and working with them to alleviate hunger.

Not only did we become aware of the reality of our three communities in Zimbabwe (we spent our last few days in Dangamvura and loved it) and the good work that is being done by our sisters in Zimbabwe but we also improved our English and

even our Portuguese skills. This happened through the help we received on a daily basis as well as through formal English and Portuguese lessons.

WOW! We return to the pre-novitiate in Choma full of gratitude and amazement and filled with zeal as we continue our journey in preparation to become Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary.♦

WORD OF WISDOM cont. from pg.1

yourself in other parts of the world. The national boundaries do not mean much to all of us; forget about all these national boundaries, and have a greater global vision. Be a global citizen. That's my message to you.♦

CONTRIBUTORS

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