



WAKE UP THE WORLD!

**CHARISM,
CHARACTER
AND CALLING.**

*Sisters of Charity
of St. Paul the Apostle
Year of Consecrated
Life
July 2015*

Be who God
meant you to be
and you shall
set the world
ON FIRE

- Catherine of Siena

Religious Life in 21st Century by Bishop Kevin Dowling

18th April 2015

On the 18th April 2015 Bishop Kevin Dowling C.S.S.R from Rustenburg South Africa spoke to the Sisters in St. Paul's Convent Selly Park on the themes of "Wineskins Holding Wine" and "Witness Mission and Ministry".



We come together today to ponder and identify the ways in which you are urging us to use our gifts, our talents, our presence to serve and walk with our people. Stir up your Spirit within to inspire and enlighten us, and help us to see new ways, your ways, O God.

Bishop Kevin through his words and reflections certainly stirred our hearts and minds and he gave us much food for thought and a taste of new wine.



Bishop Kevin with the sisters who have ministered in South Africa.

Some questions we were asked during Bishop Kevin`s reflection:

Where are we as Selly Park Sisters as we participate in this Year of Consecrated Life?

What is our charismatic GIFT(S) in the world?

What do we discern that God is calling us to in this GRACED time?

Do we really BELIEVE, in spite of our challenges, that we are a gift coming to birth in God`s hands?

SOME WORDS OF WISDOM:

We will not be able to discern the inspirations and invitations God wants us to hear and to reflect upon.....Because God is coming to us NOT from the past.....

God is coming to us from the FUTURE which is unfolding before us....even as we engage in the NOW

God is a God who never gives up on us! God keeps dreaming of what can happen through us, who sees in us what we cannot see.....

Julian of Norwich Tells us that we are not just made by God..... We are MADE OF GOD!

Meister Eckhart imagined us as God`s SEED And God`s seed must GROW INTO GOD!



YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE - THE INFIRMARY

Bishop Kevin visited the sisters in the Infirmary on Sunday 19th May, he shared a little of his talk with them and thanked them particularly for their ministry of prayer. He went round each sister and had a chat with them.



During the same weekend when Bishop Kevin was with us, there was a display in the Infirmary Community Room which gave a snap shot of some of the activities which the Sisters engage in. The display was most interesting and inspiring, many sisters viewed the display during the weekend.



**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF
CONSECRATED LIFE IN
HACKNEY**

Srs. Bernie and Dolores

On Sunday 26th April the Sisters of Charity of St. Paul the Apostle and The Religious Sisters of Charity celebrated the Year of Consecrated Life in the parish of St. John the Baptist. There was celebration of Mass followed by refreshments and power point presentations about the history and the work of the two Congregations.

The words of the Opening Hymn

“WE COME TO SHARE OUR STORY”

set the scene for the celebration which followed.

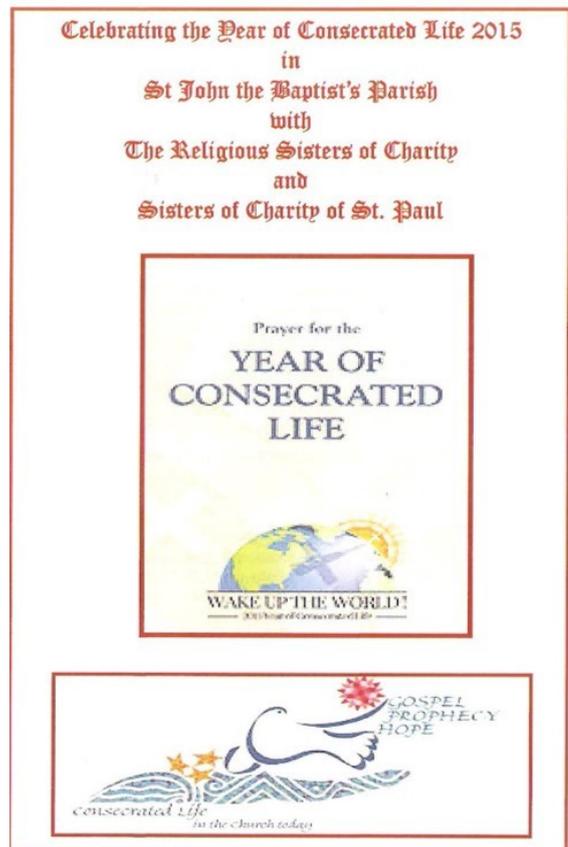
The following is the commentary as the symbols of each Congregation were presented.

“On this Vocation Day we bring forward pictures of our Foundresses, Venerable Mary Aikenhead and Mother Genevieve Dupuis who were and continue to be an inspiration to their Sisters.

The two symbols reflect our Mission statements which remind us of our personal and congregational commitment through our Religious Vows of Obedience, Chastity and the Sharing of Goods in Common.

We bring before the Lord the broken bread, a symbol of all our Sisters who suffer through sickness and frailty and cannot be present. Through their prayers, presence and friendship, our lives have been enriched and strengthened.

We bring before the Lord this wine of rejoicing in our journey through life. We recall with joy and gratitude the lives of all those we have known and loved in our communities, parishes, schools, hospitals, and the many different places where we have lived and worked.”



**Prayer for the Year of
Consecrated Life**

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

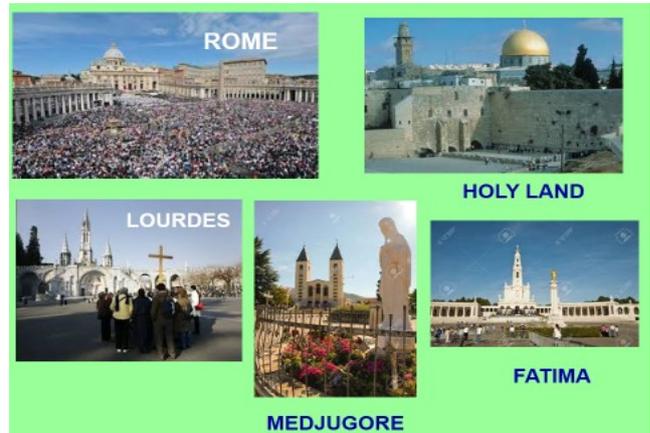
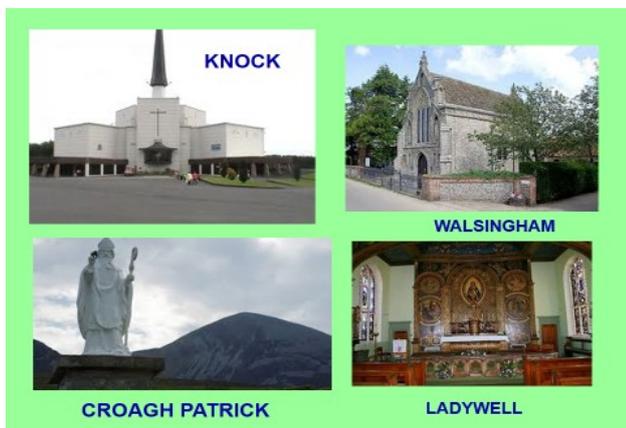
Please pray for:
The Religious Sisters of Charity
St Joseph's Convent, Mare St.
&
The Sisters of Charity of St Paul the Apostle
St. Paul's, Warneford St.



PILGRIMAGE – SELLY PARK 8th MAY 2015



As part of the celebration for the Year of Consecrated Life, Sisters Anne McLoughlin, Bernadette Hynes and Margaret Mattison led the Sisters in Selly Park in a reflection on 'Pilgrimage'. They reflected first on places where Sisters may have been, or will go, on pilgrimage before spending some time recalling our own history as a Congregation.



We reflected on the words of Mother Genevieve herself before joining in the singing of a new hymn composed by Sr. Anne based on the words of Mother Genevieve.



SONG USING THE WORDS OF GENEVIEVE DUPUIS

I value the gold of your Charity

I value the gold of your Charity, go on seeking God in all you do.

Be ever gentle in word and deed, Prayer is the key to each virtue.

Chorus: We hear your words Mother Genevieve,
we strive to live them each day, pray for us now and for our world.

may your words inspire us on our pilgrim way.

Be always in the presence of our Lord and God.

Listen to Him speak to your heart.

As long as we are rooted in Charity,

nothing will ever tear us apart....

More Charity more union more peace I pray,

to our dear Patron St. Paul.

Make an oratory in your hear and retire there.

My Blessings I impart to you all....

*Pilgrimage to Banbury
30th May 2015*



Sisters gathered on the Sanctuary at St. John`s Church



The Dupuis Centre Banbury

Words of Welcome from Sr. Kathleen

No doubt most of us heard of Banbury from the Nursery rhyme long before we had any idea of its significance in our future lives. Today we acknowledge that significance for us as a Congregation as together we make this “pilgrimage to the Cradle of the Congregation” to retrace the steps of our Foundress, Genevieve Dupuis, during the Year of Consecrated Life.

When asked about the origins of the Congregation, I feel it’s a bit like the opening of St. John’s Gospel “In the beginning was the Word...” For us it’s in the beginning Genevieve Dupuis came to Banbury in Oxfordshire and so the story continues.... and we are so glad that we still have a Sister here “to rock the cradle”.

Our pilgrimage today brings us back to our roots in England and to ever greater appreciation of the courage, faith and trust in God of Genevieve Dupuis and her companion Marie Joseph Sapiens and gratitude for the impact they have had on our lives as Sisters of St Paul.

It is good perhaps to recall the beginnings briefly from Professor Scarisbrick’s history of the Congregation in “Selly Park and Beyond”

Returning to our roots is inevitably linked to our charism. Charism is demystified when we see it as "a particular grace from God for a particular purpose". Faithfulness to our charism does not mean writing it on parchment and framing it but keeping it alive in our own time and circumstances. And we remain faithful to our tradition too.

As a non-musical person I dare to quote the composer Mahler who was a Jew and converted to Catholicism and we know how important tradition is for Jews – even if we only watched “Fiddler on the Roof”. Mahler says “faithfulness to tradition is not to worship the ashes but to pass on the flame”.

In declaring this special Year for Consecrated Life Pope Francis asked us

- > To look to the past with gratitude
- > To live the present with passion
- > To look to the future with hope

Our pilgrimage here to Banbury "the cradle of our Congregation" has given us this opportunity to respond to these three requests for this year. It has also given us the opportunity to appreciate and preserve our identity as Sisters of St Paul and to strengthen our unity in community and mission.

Sr. Thérèse O'Neill with the support and encouragement of the committee for the Year of Consecrated Life has made this possible. Like Genevieve she could have said "I'm new here, I'm on my own and I'm living in a parish house" but no - with the co-operation of the equally new parish clergy and a dynamic parish community this very special occasion has been possible. Our sincere gratitude to you Thérèse for giving us this gift and to Father Richard for your gracious welcome and hospitality. This is surely a day to remember for all of us - those here present and those participating through the miracle of modern technology.

May the memory of this pilgrimage not just remain in our hearts and minds as a lovely outing to beautiful Oxfordshire but spur us on to live our consecrated life to the full, bearing witness to the risen Christ through the authenticity of our lives.





HOMILY GIVEN BY FR. RICHARD WALKER PARISH PRIEST AT ST . JOHN`S BANBURY

On 25th June , 1847, at the invitation of Dr. Tandy, the then Missionary Rector of the parish, before the days of Parish Priests, at his invitation Sister Genevieve Dupuis and Sister Joseph Mary Sapiens arrived here at St. John`s, to begin their educational and pastoral work. Immediately upon arrival Dr. Tandy moved out of the presbytery and they moved in. On more than one occasion recently, Sr. Thérèse has remarked to me what a lovely house the presbytery must be to live in. I`m hoping she doesn`t have a similar idea.

So, in 1847 began the 168 years of pastoral ministry by the Sisters of St. Paul in this town. It really is a wonderful example of faithful and dedicated service that you`ve shown, not only to the parishioners of St. John`s and St. Josephs but to everyone whose lives you have touched here in Banbury and in the surrounding area. And, thank God, in Sr. Thérèse, and up until recently , with Sr. Elizabeth, who we remember today, thank God this ministry continues to flourish.

Of course, from here your ministry spread far and wide, with the foundation of your Mother House in Selly Park in 1864 and the setting up of schools and missions not only in this country but in the rest of the UK, Ireland, Romania and South Africa. It shows us the strength and vibrancy that springs from a love of the Lord and a willingness to consecrate one`s life to His service. It is an active life, but an activity that is rooted in Christ.

When I hear the Gospel passage of Martha and Mary, I often feel a bit sorry for Martha. There she is, busy looking after everyone and everything, working hard and doing the right thing, and Jesus almost appears to criticise her for her distraction.

And yet of course, we know he`s right. We know that the starting point for anything done in the name of the Lord , is first of all, to listen to Him. You know that there is no substitute, in a life consecrated to God, for a faithful and sustained life of prayer as the foundation of all that we do. We need to experience God`s love for ourselves first.

Pope Francis addressing a Congregation of novices and seminarians in 2013 said, “Every Christian and especially you and I, is called to be a bearer of the message of hope that gives serenity and joy. But if we first experience the joy of being consoled by him of being loved by him, then we can bring that joy to others.”

It is the love of God for us that leads us to mission. Without a constant loving relationship with God, the mission becomes no more than a job. So we take Jesus as our example and our model, who, before any important decision or activity, recollected himself in prolonged prayer.

The more our mission calls us, the more active we`re required to become. Then as you say in community prayer, “no labour is too burdensome, no sacrifice too great, no price too hard to pay.” It is contemplation in action. It is both Martha and Mary.

Some of you, and I suppose and many of those who were unable to be with us today, have now reached the stage of life where the active mission is no longer possible. Now there is an opportunity to accept the better part, as Mary did, to listen to the Lord and to pray for those of your sisters and people like Fr. Craig, Fr. Bill and myself, who are in need of your prayerful support. And I can assure you, we are.

To finish on behalf of the Parish, and of the town I would like to thank all of you for everything you have contributed, now and in the past, to help build the Kingdom of God in this town. We have been and are richly blessed by your presence and by your example of the joy and fruitfulness that comes from a life consecrated to God.

Memories of the Day



NORTH EAST PILGRIMAGE

The idea of making a pilgrimage to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle – in the footsteps of Genevieve Dupuis – surfaced in January during our Congregational gathering in Selly Park for the Feast of St. Paul and Genevieve Dupuis. Plans began almost immediately when a number of Sisters with links to the North – East expressed their interest in embarking on such a journey. As there are no longer any members of our Congregation living in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle plans were made to visit all the graveyards / graves where our Sisters were buried.

After Mass and a short prayer service at Mother Genevieve’s grave the journey began to the North East. In the next few days cemeteries in Denton Burn, Stella, Jesmond, Dipton, Brooms Blackhill, Esh Laude, Crook, Darlington and Stockton were visited.

At each place we prayed for the deceased sisters and left a small stone from Mother Genevieve’s grave. Our last visit was to Stockton, we attended Mass in St. Mary’s Church and were welcomed by the parish priest and thanked for the work and witness of our sisters over the years.

On our return to Selly Park we placed on Mother Genevieve’s grave one small stone from each of the graves we had visited and remembered very vividly that “we are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us.”



FUTURE EVENTS

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM – YoCL

A day of input, reflection, prayer and gentle conversation will be led by Sr Una O'Neill RSC on Saturday 10th October 2015 from 10.30am to 3.30pm. This is entitled "*New Evangelisation: Bringing to life the Gospel vision of hope, love, justice and compassion in the reality of people's experience today*", and will take place at St Francis Hall, University of Birmingham Chaplaincy, B15 2TT (Edgbaston Campus). For further details please contact:

Sr Anna O'Connor on a.oconnor26@yahoo.com

What's New?

Laudato si' - On the Care for our Common Home is the Pope's Encyclical Letter on the environment and human ecology. Pope Francis challenges us to consider the kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us. It's not just an 'environment encyclical', it leads us to ask ourselves about the meaning of existence and the values at the heart of social life: "What is the purpose of our life in this world? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?"

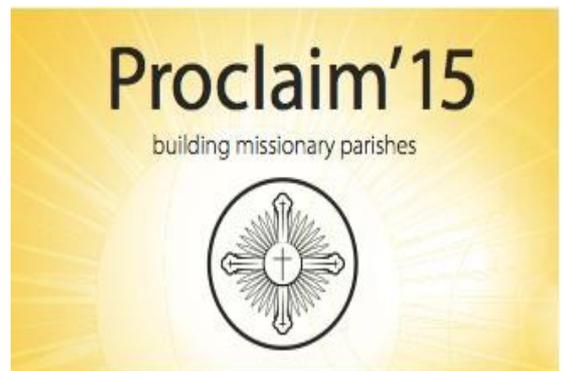


**"When we can see God reflected in all that exists,
our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all
his creatures and to worship
Laudate Si #87**

PROCLAIM'15: BUILDING MISSIONARY PARISHES is the name of a major initiative that has been launched this year by the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation, to help parishes become more effective in their missionary outreach.

For more information on this visit the website

<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15>
Here you will find resources, prayer leaflets that can be used in parish/communities



Thank you to all who have contributed towards this Newsletter.

If you have any news, events you would like to share with the Congregation please contact :

annsullivan@sellypark.org or secretary@sellypark.org

Enclosures with this Newsletter:

Bishop Kevin Dowling Presentation 1 and 2

Day for Consecrated Life Diocese of Limerick