



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

St. Benedict's Priory, The Mount, Cobh, Co Cork

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Sacred Heart Newsletter 2018

Celebrating 25 Years in Ireland!



Dear Friends,

Some weeks ago now, those of us who had the grace of attending the Easter Vigil heard proclaimed the wondrous conclusion to the Exultet: *"Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honour of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever."*

Over the last 25 years, Ireland has witnessed with some intensity the struggle between light and darkness. On 31st July 1993 during our Opening Mass, Bishop John Magee, preaching on the theme "never forget the Lord your God" said: *"As the inauguration of St. Benedict's Priory takes place today I believe that a new star has come to shine in our midst. This star will shine throughout the night looking down on the Cathedral of St Colman and on the dear people of Cobh. May its' light ever be a reminder to us all never to forget the Lord our God and may it join with the many lights which have been kindled in the Eucharistic chapels of our diocese and thus help in creating an ecclesial constellation which will illumine the pilgrimage way of our people."*

With the concerted effort and support of the local community in Cobh, of our friends from farther afield and even abroad over the past 25 years, and above all thanks to the help and strength of God, this star has persevered, undimmed but not untouched by the various trials, crosses and hours of darkness that the Irish church and people have encountered. As this letter is written we entrust to the Sacred Heart the heart and soul of Ireland. May the flame of Faith never die, and persevering may it be fanned into a new flame of prayer, sanctity and missionary endeavour as in days gone by.



Nuns' arrival on 31st May 1993, welcomed by Bishop Magee in the VIP lounge at Cork Airport!

We are writing this letter early this year in order to bring forward the date of our 25th anniversary celebrations! We had planned to hold a special event in August this year close to the date of our opening, but this will now be on **31st May, the date of the arrival of our first community in Cobh in 1993.** The reason for this change is actually another blessing which we will tell you about in a moment. First of all though, **please see enclosed our invitation to our Silver Jubilee Mass and celebrations on Thursday 31st May 2018, beginning at 4.30pm.**



Now what is happening in August? You will remember several newsletters ago we told you of the well-nigh miraculous events which led to the purchase of the **birthplace of our Foundress**, the Servant of God, Marie Adele Garnier. Now the shrine is scheduled to reach completion this summer, with the **opening Mass** to be held, most appropriately, on the 180th Anniversary of Mother Foundress' birth: 15th



August 2018. This will be a very momentous occasion for our Congregation, with the Prioress of each house attending. However from Cobh, we are sending our Golden Jubilarean, Mother M Matthias, to celebrate the final day of her Jubilee year in the best way she could have dreamed!

10th March 2018, Monastic Profession of Mother M Helen



The last few months here at St. Benedict's have been very eventful, with one of the outstanding occasions being the Monastic Profession of Mother M Helen. Our chapel was packed as Mother pronounced her vows during a beautiful ceremony presided over by Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Papal Nuncio. Imagine the surprise of both Mother M Helen and the Archbishop when they discovered that they originate from towns in Nigeria only a few kilometres apart! Mother M Helen was also privileged to have our own

Bishop present for the occasion, and receive a double episcopal blessing.

Also in March, our Mother M Xavier gave a conference open to the public on our Mother Foundress. A big surprise was in store as she produced a document that she herself had not seen until recently, written by Mother Marie Adele Garnier in 1903, that had popped out of the shelf in our archives as she was looking for something else. The title? "The Monk of the Sacred Heart". The little group that came to hear the talk were held spellbound as excerpts from this beautiful and prophetic document were read, and then Mother M Xavier and Mother General began to tell the story of how this document had appeared just at a time when some Priests in Colombia had

expressed an interest in forming a male branch of our Order! We pray for God's Will to be done. Here is a quotation from the document: *"Let them come into the house of the powerful Jesus, all who would be His arrows soaked with love, wounding the hearts of the enemies of God, conquering them through the charity of the Divine Redeemer. Come, all who wish to learn at the great open book of the Sacred Heart concerning that great love which fills the holy Scriptures and, indeed, the entire universe, a love which begs to go and preach to all nations, in all languages, attracting the human race around the royal Throne of the Lord Jesus."*

Our days of recollection have continued in which we have been studying Mother Marie Adele's spirituality, and three testimonies from Ireland have been submitted to the Vatican Commission as part of the cause for Beatification. The commissioners will be visiting Ireland this summer, so if any of our readers have testimonies of the power of Mother Garnier's intercession in their lives we would very much like to hear from you. We are also delighted that a Eucharistic Heart prayer group is being established this May in Dublin with monthly meetings at the Poor Clare Convent. For more information please contact Liam on: 0872526829

On 14th March our coffee morning took place despite gale force winds which did reduce numbers. Those who came, however, participated generously and the morning was a success, supported once again by Cobh flower club, the Cobh animation team and several local businesses.

This year we have once again had visits to the monastery from local Confirmation classes. These young people preparing to receive the Sacrament which will fortify them to live their Christian lives in the midst of many challenges, were open and interested in the concept of contemplative life. They were interested in the lives of the Sisters and had many questions, from deeper theological ones to the more practical: Do you watch TV? Do you wear pyjamas at night? It is a joy for us to explain to young people about our role "in the heart of the Church" and help them to see that God can be at the very centre of life, giving meaning to everything. We like to tell them that it is possible to find real happiness in this life, by staying close to the Lord and trying to become what he wants us to be – a message they don't often hear.



Name:

Please pray for my intentions:

(May be continued overleaf)

Please light a candle for: _____

(Donations to cover the costs of candles are appreciated)

