



infiogen newsletter

DECEMBER 2010

MARGARET'S MISHAP: On Wednesday 13 October, a week before she was ready to leave Rome for Australia, Margaret tripped while out walking and returned home holding her broken left wrist which was leaving trails of blood behind. She was admitted to San Carlos Hospital that afternoon and the plan was that she would have the wrist set the following day. It was only after a day's fasting and the completion of the last meal distribution for the day that she was informed that the wrist would be set the following day. Her extended sojourn at the hospital which lasted until the following Monday was punctuated by change and uncertainty. Eventually she arrived home with her arm in a heavy plaster cast which encompassed fingers to above bent elbow and weighed what seemed a ton. Not deterred, she made the homebound trip two days later despite suggestions that perhaps it would be better to wait.

Despite the misfortune of breaking her dominant wrist, Margaret was able to recognize the providence of God in subsequent events. She was advised by Australian doctors to have surgery on her arm almost immediately to avoid permanent damage to her wrist. What a relief to trade the heavy cast for some pins and a supportive light fibre-glass semi-cast! While she was disappointed not to be able to attend the Australian Chapter or visit Papua New Guinea as planned, she was able to meet with Greg Brown regarding the financial situation of Papua New Guinea and entrust him with the task of meeting with the sisters in Aitape and enabling them to establish new structures for their finance management.

Margaret's wrist is getting stronger daily and she is planning to return to Rome on December 20. She may be a less determined walker on her return!

NEW AFFILIATE: On 27 October, the sisters of the Australian Circle gathered in Kedron for the dual purpose of celebrating Margaret's 70th birthday and honouring a new affiliate member of the Institute. As Margaret was in hospital and unable to attend, Joan Mooney remained the sole star of the evening. During evening prayer, Elaine presented Joan with a *Certificate of Affiliation* which acknowledged on behalf of the Institute the bond of affection and relationship of sisterhood that has united her to the sisters over many years. In introducing the ritual, Elaine explained the difference between Associate and Affiliate membership. She pointed out that Affiliate membership is not the outcome of entering into any particular program and does not call for an expression of commitment on the part of the person. Rather, it is a recognition and acknowledgment at the Institute level of a bond which already exists.



Congratulations Joan! The other affiliate members are Josephine Murray, Margot Grobsmith, Jean and Lee Lechtenberg, and Margaret Gallagher.

LEONORA DE STEFANO: Many of you have been asking the whereabouts of Leonora. In an extended "Advent Season" of waiting, Leonora has been here at the Generalate hoping for some movement forward so that she can carry out her responsibilities as executor of Bishop Luigi Padovese's

will. This has necessitated a number of meetings and some visits to Milan and it is hoped that a significant milestone in the process will be reached on December 14 with the arrival of a necessary document from Turkey with Bishop Franceschini ofm.Cap., current administrator of the Vicariate of Anatolia. After another short visit to Milan, Leonora will fly to England on December 19 where she will be a member of the Braintree community until it is possible for her to return to Turkey to complete the process and collect her belongings. We expect that she will winging her way back to the United States, her governance circle of origin, sometime during the month of March 2011.

For someone who has always led a very active life, these months of waiting In Rome have been difficult for Leonora, though the monotony has been broken occasionally by one function or another connected to Turkey. On these occasions, one might be tempted to line up for her autograph! The esteem with which she has been regarded in Turkey is very evident. Congratulations, Leonora, and every blessing as you seek to bring this phase of your life to closure and open new doors to the future.

AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER: Congratulations and blessings to Australia's new leadership team who begin their term of service on 8 December. They are Pauline Robinson (Leader), Catherine White (Assistant Leader), Karen Bourke and Cecilia Prestashewsky.



The wonderful spirit experienced during the five days of Chapter are a tribute to the efforts of the outgoing Leader, Maureen Andrews, and her team members (Pauline Robinson, Patricia Treacy and Francine Shaw) to open the doors to new and fresh ways. The creative retreat led by singer Monica Brown and the clowning Hilary Musgrave was a wonderful foundation upon which to build the Chapter's discernment work.

NEW LOOK IN NEWTON: For several months most of the sisters living at Centre Street have relocated - some to Tenaflly, some to St. Patrick's, and some to Chestnut Hill. This was to escape the banging, drilling and dust while the two bedroom floors are remodelled. The top floor now has the beginning shape of several ensuite rooms which hopefully will be finished around March. These rooms, originally designed for the 1960's more ascetical formation needs with hardly room to turn around, will be more user friendly, spacious and comfortable. In the meantime there is a full house at Manet Road, including 5 students, and a large community of 18 at St. Patrick's Manor which merited its own regional meeting in October. These renovations are part of an overall look at community owned buildings which the property committee has conducted with efforts to make more creative and economical use of our space.

OPENING TO IRAQI SISTERS: Josephine Rush and Christina Zammit have recently moved into the Madonna Wing at Kedron, an older section of the house which has been little used the last few years. They are preparing to take on a new outreach on behalf of the Australian circle, that of providing accommodation to student sisters from Iraq who will be studying at the Australian Catholic University Brisbane campus. In Newton and Manet Road, our sisters in the United States have been providing accommodation to sisters and students of other cultures for some years. This has proved a wonderful way of creating ever widening circles of communion. The Australian venture is already opening doors in relationships as the sisters meet with representatives from the local Iraqi community to discuss how they can work together to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for these women who have suffered so much in their country torn apart by war and terrorism.

OUTBACK MISSION OF CUNNAMULLA: In responding to the request of Bishop William Morris for sisters to minister in his diocese of Toowoomba, Maureen Andrews asked him to name his greatest need. He replied that it would be the isolated and barren town of Cunnamulla in Western Queensland,



about seven hours from Toowoomba and nine hours drive from Brisbane. Like a true missionary, Maureen is now preparing to leave the social network she has formed during her time of leadership to respond to the challenges of this demanding mission outpost. As well as being a religious pastoral presence in the parish in which there will be no resident priest, Maureen will be involved in a Survivors Support Network for women who suffer domestic violence, attending court with them and being their advocate. Cunnamulla has a high aboriginal population and Maureen hopes to extend her cross-cultural and ecumenical links by studying to obtain a marriage celebrant licence. Maureen, we are proud of you

and wish you every blessing.

GENERAL CHAPTER LOGO: We are currently in communication with Jenny Close, one of our former novices and the graphic artist who designed our General Chapter 2006 logo, to produce a new logo which will embrace the concepts contained in your original suggestions for a Chapter theme. Hopefully, this will be done by January and the logo can be inserted in the materials you will receive during the coming second phase of General Chapter preparation.

Our General Chapter facilitator, Catherine Ryan, will be with us in Rome during the week 21-25 January to formulate discernment questions as the basis of the Chapter agenda from the materials received from your reflections during the first phase of preparation. By that time, the Institute will have discerned their delegates and a more focussed reflection can begin. Let us open ourselves to the fire of God's transforming Spirit as we allow ourselves to be led into the future.