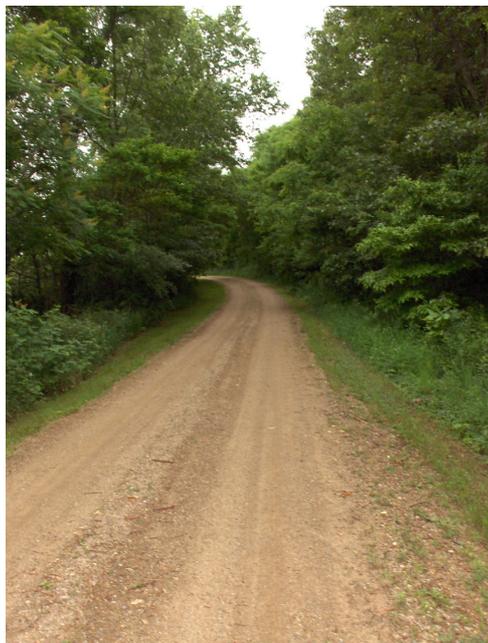




NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.
(Margaret Mead)



REFLECTION FOR LENT

Moses' power is the presence of the Lord.
That's all!
In every religious experience in the Bible, a person comes to an experience of God and God says simply, "I will be with you."

Get your own agenda, hurts, neediness and fears out of the way, so that you've offered God a blank sheet to write on when it's time to write some words on your soul.

(Richard Rohr)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 'LET JUSTICE PREVAIL'



Several members of the Community were engaged in different activities to mark Women's World Day of Prayer on the 3rd March. S. Pauline was the speaker at Danbury and S. Angela at Stock. There was a Quiet Day at Howe Close on this theme, and an Ecumenical gathering in Melbourne. (Picture below).



ASSOCIATION NEWS



We have been very pleased to welcome S. Agnès, S. Véronique and S. Thérèse from Rwanda and DR Congo. They are busy learning English and experiencing Canonical Life on a different Continent. They have joined us in some of our Apostolic Work and S. Agnès who arrived first has already paid two visits to New Hall School.



S. Agnès at the Prep (above) and with the Sixth Form in the Senior School (left).

We were also pleased to welcome S. Liesbet from Turnhout, Belgium, for a two week stay to attune her ear to English immediately prior to the General Council Meeting in Colchester in January. She was pleased to stay in our house in East London and to catch some glimpses of the nearby Olympic site.



TURNHOUT CELEBRATIONS

S. Margaret Mary, S. Moira and S. Teresa were privileged to be part of the Celebrations at the Priory of the Holy Sepulchre Turnhout to mark 350 Years of Foundation. There was an Exhibition (which gave us plenty of ideas for our own Exhibition next year), followed by a very moving liturgy which prayed in thanksgiving for the role of the Sisters in the Heilig Graf Schools in the town of Turnhout for over 350 years. The Liturgy also prayed for the Community's move from Turnhout to Tongerlo later this year.



PRIORESSES' CONFERENCE 2012

This year's Conference was held in Turnhout, Belgium, in March. S. Véronique arrived in England just in time to get her Visa to come to this her first major Conference as a member of the General Council. During the Conference we had some input from Bernadette Zubatse who works in Brussels, DR Congo and Burkina Faso on the Empowerment of Women in Africa, and her input stimulated some very good discussions about the future of the Association. As well as the usual Conference business, we also considered our responsibilities for the care of the planet, and in this context watched the very powerful film 'Sounds of Sand' which looks at the effect of drought on a family in Africa.

During the Conference there was a free afternoon when we visited together the nearby Norbertine Abbey in Postel.



FOLLOW UP TO GENERAL CHAPTER X



We welcomed Lieve Troch one of the main Speakers from GCX to spend a weekend with us as a follow up to her very significant contribution to the Chapter. She worked with the Community alone on Saturday, largely on questions related to our role as Women Religious in the Church, and then on Sunday she led a day at New Hall for the Community and Guests, entitled 'Humanity as Co-Creators with God in the Discipleship of Equals'. The day was challenging and inspiring and involved lively discussion and debate. It ended with a prayerful liturgy based on the theme of the day.

St AUGUSTINE



"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

Note: As Canonical Communities, all the Priors of the Association follow the Rule of St Augustine as do all the Norbertine Canons (and many other Communities).

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE 370 YEARS



You will shortly be receiving our full programme with details of dates and how to book for each event. A preliminary Calendar is on our Website.

370th

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 2013

There are still places available on this Anniversary Pilgrimage February 2013. For full details please contact us for a brochure either via the Website or by telephone 01206 867296.



SNIPPETS

S. Ann is involved in the Chelmsford Cathedral 'Welcome on Wednesday' Café where the team welcomes a number of passers-by and regulars to join them for tea and a chat between 1:00 and 3:00pm.



Pray your way to better baking results in the kitchen!



S. Christina and S. Patricia are preparing for their volunteer roles in the support team for the Olympic Games this Summer. S. Christina will be part of the hospitality team and S. Patricia is a driver.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Quiet Days: 4th May and 13th July 2012 10:00am to 3:00pm at 74 Howe Close, CO4 3XD.

Holy Saturday Reflection: 74 Howe Close 10:15am and Blessed Sacrament Melbourne 11:00am.

Of Gods and Men: Three opportunities to watch this remarkable film 25th March 7:00pm Blessed Sacrament Melbourne, Chelmsford, and 27th and 28th March 7:15pm 74 Howe Close, Colchester.

Evening Prayer at Bradwell: 8th July details to follow.

All welcome to any of the above.

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