



The Holy Family of Bordeaux

in Britain and Ireland

Glory to God alone in Jesus Christ through Mary and Saint Joseph

June 2015

Volume 1 Issue 6

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A pile of filth?

Editorial

Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, has woken up the world, to use his own phrase once again. That it will not just be the flavour of the month is clear from the reactions that have proliferated from around the globe.



Not everyone can be expected to agree with all the Pope says. However, those genuinely concerned about environmental issues - especially now with the Paris summit on climate change looming - will give serious consideration to this passionate plea to the world to "hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor".

We are, perhaps, becoming used to being confronted with appalling global problems like human trafficking, smuggling of refugees, poverty, hunger..., expressing our shock and horror and hoping some people out there, usually politicians, economists, members of NGOs, will do something about it.

That we are not all called to these roles does not exempt us from action. Pope Francis, throughout the encyclical, constantly implies and clearly states in places, especially in chapter 6 (#206, #208), the need for a change of attitudes on the part of each individual which will "attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us".

Can we, the large *Holy Family of Bordeaux*, help one another to do this and, as a body, "take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus"?

Message from Sr. Gemma (Unit Leader)

"WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER"

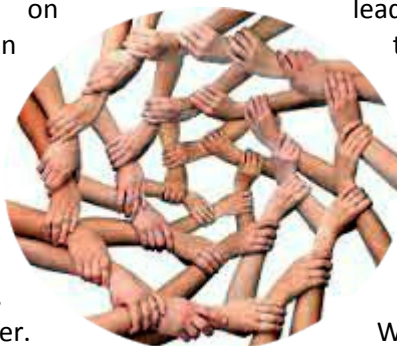
"We're all in this together", was a slogan regularly pronounced by David Cameron during the recent General Election in Britain. It was a rallying cry meant to unite the nation behind a government who claimed that it was committed to the national interest and had a vision of a fairer, better society, where if you work hard and do the right thing you get rewarded.

(Interview: The Telegraph 2012)



Unfortunately we have yet to see this vision being realised. On the contrary, there is a greater gulf than ever between rich and poor in our society. The new Conservative government in Britain is set to raise MPs basic salary by 10% while more and more people are being reduced to sleeping on the streets of our major cities in one of the wealthiest countries in Europe. 5,900 children, whose mothers are migrants with no recourse to public funds, are living on the brink of total destitution (Independent 3 June 2015). No, we have to say that in our society, some are more "in" while others are very much "out".

In our recent workshops on sense that in our Holy Family "we are all in convinced that all of us – sisters, responsible for the living and spreading building communion wherever we are.



leadership/membership, we had a very real together". We are more and more seculars, priests and lay associates - are the realisation of the Divine mission of

As we move into the future and towards Founder's dream a reality. Undaunted as an obstacle to action. On the contrary, the new society spoken of by our Founder. enough to bring about change. Almost every people or even one individual determined to make a difference.

our foundation, we long to make our we do not see age or lack of resources to think big, to use what we have to build What we have is enough, in fact, more than change in the world can be traced to a few

Let's have the courage to dream new dreams about how to live the Gospel in this time; let's have the courage to bring these dreams to life by moving out to meet the new needs being presented to us every day. Let us remember that we are not about our survival as a Family but about participating in God's transforming purposes. Now is the time to act.

International Teams of Participation meet in Rome

Rome, 22-28 June 2015

The joint meeting of the newly appointed International Teams of Participation in Rome was also a recognition "that we are all in this together".



In her opening address to the members, Ana Maria, Institute Leader, reminded them of the 2014 Genera Chapter's challenge "to go forward so that 'our way of living leadership for mission may be integrated and prophetic'".

The eight days of reflection, in which 6 members of the Britain and Ireland Unit participated either as members of teams or as interpreters, were intensive and, we may say, fruitful as well as tiring, given the heat and humidity of Rome in June.

A detailed account of what took place, as well as well as what is asked of members of the Institute, will be published in an edition of Echoes to appear as soon as possible.

REFUGEE WEEK 15 – 21 June

According to this year's [UNHCR Global Trends](#) report, 59.5 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes by wars, conflict and persecution. That's the highest number in recorded history, even higher than the number forced to flee by the Second World War. Every minute eight people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror.

One in every 122 people
worldwide is now
a refugee, asylum seeker
or displaced person.

Types of Forcibly Displaced Persons

Refugees

A refugee is someone who fled his or her home and country owing to “a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion”, according to the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention (numbers will have grown considerably since then). Many refugees are in exile to escape the effects of natural or human-made disasters. Developing countries host four-fifths of the world's refugees. The 48 Least Developed Countries provide asylum to 2.3 million refugees.

Asylum seekers

Asylum seekers say they are refugees and have fled their homes as refugees do, but their claim to refugee status is not yet definitively evaluated in the country to which they fled.

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are people who have not crossed an international border but have moved to a different region from the one they call home within their own country.

Stateless Persons

Stateless persons do not have a recognised nationality and do not belong to any country. Statelessness situations are usually caused by discrimination against certain groups. Their lack of identification - a citizenship certificate - can exclude them from access to important government services, including health care, education or employment.

We can mention two fairly well-known examples. The Rohingya (in Myanmar), said to be one of the world's most persecuted ethnic minorities, are internationally recognized as *de jure* stateless. The Romani/Roma People may be a special case, being distributed among numerous countries with no clear homeland and without aspiration to sovereign territory.

Returnees

Returnees are former refugees who return to their own countries or regions of origin after time in exile. Returnees need continuous support and reintegration assistance to ensure that they can rebuild their lives at home.



Young Bradford Refugees

Bradford Refugee Week Festival

Refugee Week is celebrated throughout the UK and Bradford has been one of its host cities for a number of years. The programme of events states: "We focus on celebrating the contribution of Refugees to our city and promoting a better understanding of why people seek sanctuary."

The Bradford Festival was held over 3 days and the Holy Family Bradford community was very much a part of it. It was an extremely colourful occasion in every sense of the word, packed with a wonderful variety of events.

Nasreen and Teresa were present for the Launch of Refugee Week. As always, it was moving to listen to poems and songs and accounts of personal experiences of refugees. One speaker was asking the host nation to always remember that refugees are people who were already settled and qualified in their own countries until, due to war and other circumstances they were forced to flee and leave everything behind. They didn't become refugees by choice.



Nasreen at launch

Another speaker was praising the great contribution that refugees are making to this country and the artwork from local schools displayed around the room highlighted how difference can be a very attractive and positive thing.



Teresa with Biasan Choir

There were several choirs moving around the city centre and singing at different places. One of these is the Biasan Choir, a newly formed choir of refugees and volunteers. Teresa Edwards is part of the Women's Group. There was a very happy atmosphere and it was great when the audience joined in with the singers.

BIASAN (Bradford Immigration and Asylum Support and Advice Network) is an organisation formed by Trade Unionists, anti-racists, people from religious organisations and refugees themselves to support new arrivals coming to Bradford.

Walk for Justice Bradford Refugee Week 2015

Centenary Square, Bradford – Waterside Court, Leeds
Today we are walking to highlight the plight of those seeking asylum in Bradford and raising funds so we can continue our work in this area. Waterside Court is a familiar destination for many asylum seekers in Bradford who are required to report here on a regular basis; those who have their claims refused receive no state support, have no access to funds and must make the journey on foot. Thank you for walking with us today and for standing in solidarity with those seeking asylum.

Your support is greatly appreciated.



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A poster that speaks for itself

Teresa Edwards
Bradford Community

Training Session for Safeguarding of Children

Arran Road, 29 May 2015.

The Training Session was organised by the Safeguarding Team - Pauline Byrne, Maria Crowley, Colette Keegan, and Sheila Roberts. They invited communities in Ireland to send a representative. Margaret Bradley (Magherafelt), Esther Delaney (Newbridge), Lil Meagher (Moneenroe) and Síle McGowan (Clane) joined them

The 3-hour training session was delivered by Niall Moore, Training Officer at the National Board Safeguarding of Children (NBSC) and Sr. Colette Stephenson a Presentation Sister.

There is a “one policy one Church approach” to safeguarding in Ireland which aims at being a pastoral approach. Periodic training and updating is encouraged even for those who are actively involved in this area of pastoral work.



Front row: Margaret Bradley, Maria Crowley, Síle McGowan, Sheila Roberts
Back row: Lil Meagher, Pauline Byrne, Niall Moore, Esther Delaney, Colette Keegan

The aims of the session were to enable the participants to:

- understand the Safeguarding Standards and see how they apply to us.
- understand what is required in our role as safeguarding committee/community members.
- identify what support we need in order to fulfil our role.

In the course of their presentation, the facilitators made reference to the Holy Family Safeguarding Statement, saying it was one of the most original they had seen. Whereas others seem to take their ideas from one another, ours has a flavour of its own. If we read it carefully ourselves we can see it is clearly inspired by our own Holy Family documents.

More details will be posted on our website.



190 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE HOLY FAMILY

Sisters Helen, Kieran and Joan, celebrated their Jubilees on Thursday 28 May with friends and relatives from Ireland. The Sisters from Wrexham, Provincial House, Selby Road and Bradford joined us to make this a very happy and memorable day.



Our Parish Priest, Father Bernard, presided at Mass and gave thanks for the lives of commitment and service of our three Sisters. The privilege of sharing the Jubilee with Helen and Kieran, Sr. Joan felt, was a great gift and grace and w, as a community, were also blessed.

After Mass a wonderful meal ,prepared by our cooks and served by the staff, was enjoyed by all in an atmosphere of friendship, happiness and gratitude. We were also blessed as, after many days of wind and rain, we had a beautiful sunny day. The occasion was truly memorable.

Our thanks, in particular, go to Sr. Kathleen, Mary Catherine and all the staff for their support and involvement in making this a very special day for all.



Surprise!

On behalf of Srs Helen and Kieran we thank all who joined us, those who sent greetings, Mass cards and gifts or remembered them in their prayers.



Srs. Joan Farrell, Maria Crowley, Pauline Byrne, Kathleen Flanagan

CHALLENGING SNIPPETS FROM LAUDATO SI

The Pope's encyclical is challenging and very readable, reminding us once again of our responsibilities as citizens of this very fragile planet that we inhabit.

2. Mother Earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (*Rom 8:22*). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. *Gen 2:7*); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

21. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.

50. We know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and “whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor”

61. If we scan the regions of our planet, we immediately see that humanity has disappointed God's expectations”

33. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

12. Saint Francis of Assisi, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness.

84. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God

69. Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: “by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory.

89. This is the basis of our conviction that, as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. Here I would reiterate that “God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement”.

91. A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted.

92. Moreover, when our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one. It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment we mete out to other human beings. We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty towards any creature is “contrary to human dignity”.

Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.

159 Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others.

160 Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us.

161 We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth.

204 The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume

205. Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom.... I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us.

From Gemma

We pray.

Every part of this earth is sacred.

Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the children of the Earth.

The air is precious; for all of us share the same breath

This we know, the Earth does not belong to us.

We belong to the Earth.

This we know, all things are connected; like the blood which unites one family.

Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

For we did not weave the web of life.

We are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves

In gratitude for Mother Earth, we commit ourselves to do all we can
to uphold and preserve life in all its diversity.

RENATE WORKSHOP

Madrid, 1 – 4 June 2015



Participants grouped in front of the *Black Tears* tapestry See below for explanation

Almost fifty delegates gathered at the Congregation of the Adorer's in Madrid, Spain, to begin this year's RENATE workshop on *Interventions and Integration of Victims of Trafficking in Human beings for Sexual Exploitation*.

OVERVIEW of RENATE

Since its official launching in Trzebinia, Poland, September 2011 (of which I wrote a full account for *Voices*), there has been a consistent building up of RENATE activities in establishing a pro-active network of members through

- Common Campaigns;
- Board meetings in Croatia, Versailles and Albania;
- Training events in critical areas such as the Social Teaching of the Church,
- Working with Social Media;
- Training in Labour Trafficking in Romania, November 2014.

Building a network across Europe is becoming easier as a result of strategic alliances with UISG (*Union of International Superiors General*) under the umbrella of *Talitha Kum*.



A highlight of the past year was the attendance of five young representatives at the Vatican Youth Conference against Trafficking. Ireland was represented by a couple of young people from a school in Mallow, whose imagination had been fired by a presentation by an APT Ireland member, and a young teacher who guided them and whose trip to Rome was sponsored by APT. The girls produced a booklet on the topic which they presented to the Pope

The latest and most significant undertaking was an exercise in *Mapping of Trafficking across Europe*, with particular reference to RENATE, in which Marie Power HFB was involved. It is due to be launched in the autumn. A film is being created on RENATE titled '**Yes we can**' and may also be released in the autumn.

Organisation

Being a Network, RENATE has no fixed headquarters. The Working Board of about 30 members meets periodically in different locations and usually after a workshop or training session. A Core Group is elected from the Board to organise the various events. The next Board Meeting will be in Ireland in November.

The Workshop Experience

The event was hosted in Ramirez de Arellano, Madrid, by the Religiosas Adoratrices whose Spanish warmth and hospitality made it a most comfortable to be. The programme for the week was prepared by the *Amaranta Fundación de Solidaridad* (www.fundacionamaranta.org). This is a private non-profit-making organisation founded by the same sisters to give cohesion to their social action. It develops programmes and projects directed to women in situations and contexts of prostitution or social exclusion.

The programme was very full and followed the usual method of input, discussion in buzz groups or larger formal groups, with feedback. The dedication and expertise of the guest speakers was striking. They enriched our knowledge as they freely and movingly shared their own life experiences, strengthening our resolve to share God's healing presence with those who are most in need of it.

Field trip to Ávila

An outing to Ávila on 3 June provided the opportunity to explore this ancient city and World Heritage site where Teresa lived.



Following our English speaking guide we visited the Monastery of the Incarnation, the city of Ávila and the Convent of St. Joseph, the first foundation of Teresa in her process of reforming the Order. A visit to another sacred space in Ávila was Teresa's birthplace. We walked through these holy places noiselessly, knelt or prostrated ourselves to pray or sing Teresa's prayer,

'Let nothing disturb you, let nothing make you afraid, God alone is enough ... who has God she/he misses nothing.'

It was a privilege to be in touch with this great woman on her 5th centenary year, which is also the year for consecrated life.

A visit to Proyecto Esperanza Shelter

Proyecto Esperanza is the response of the Congregation of the Religiosas Adoratrices to the problem of trafficking in women in Spain. Since 1999 they have been offering a comprehensive support program for women who are victims of human trafficking, primarily for sexual exploitation, but also in domestic service, servile marriages, forced labour or other forms of slavery.

It was heartening to witness the commitment of all those who work in the shelter, providing comprehensive, direct assistance to trafficked women. Residential services include safe housing, provision for basic needs, in addition to a 24 hour support system of educators.

Specialised support services include

- Legal counselling,
- Social Integration Programmes,
- Psychological support including access to medical care and supports for voluntary return.

Another dimension of the work includes:

- social awareness and advocacy training,
- lobbying,
- creating materials
- campaigns for public awareness and work with the media.

That integration is possible was evident when we met a survivor of trafficking who is now employed in the local community and a member of her church choir. There are a number of such shelters scattered around Spain, but not identifiable for what they are to safeguard the women. Many are subsidised from government funding.

The Black Tears project

(cf photo on first page of this article)



The backdrop to the conference room was the world's largest community arts installation hanging on the walls for all to enjoy. It was created by women from 46 countries worldwide, from a basic tapestry 'kit' comprising needles, threads in shades of blue and a small canvas square on which to weave the threads into a pattern of their choice. The completed canvas square was returned to the artist Alejandro who, together with women volunteers, stitched together the thousands of completed squares.

Alejandro, who conceived the idea to create a tapestry, met with us and shared the thinking behind it.

The tapestry was a means by which women could express their experiences about gender violence, human trafficking, exploitation, transgender issues and more. It has engaged members of the public not normally drawn to these issues. Viewers of the tapestry appreciate it aesthetically. It is accepted widely as an instrument of social change and influence.

It will feature in a Pro-human-rights Art Exhibition will take place in London (UK) and in eight other countries as an awareness-raising project and ultimately be auctioned. All proceeds will be shared with NGOs, including *Amaranta Fundación de Solidaridad*.

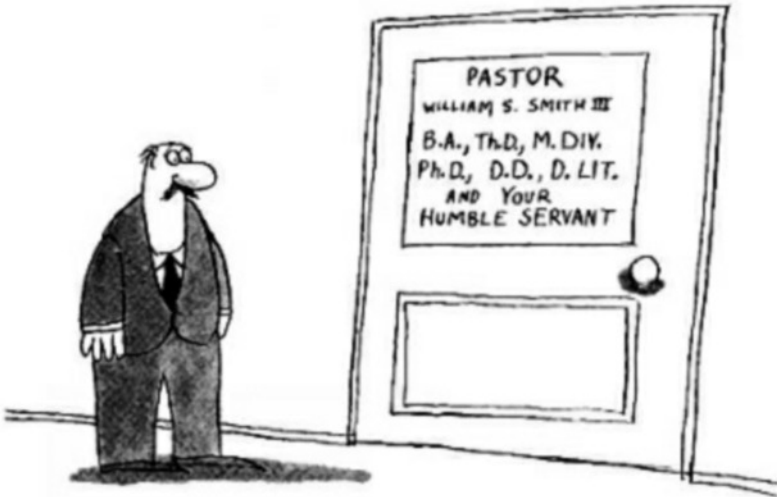
Further information at www.renate-europe.net and also at www.fundacionamaranta.org

All this and the opportunity to share our own experiences, to get to know each other better, to learn and to laugh throughout the day, and especially during the 'open space' after the evening meal, strengthened the bonds of friendship and solidarity among individuals and within the network.

UPCOMING EVENTS

22 July - Death of Little Father, Amand Noailles, 1862

August 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
International Day of the World's Indigenous People	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13	14	15 Feast of the Assumption
16	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20	21	22
23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition	24	25	26	27	28	29 International Day against Nuclear Tests HF Jubilee celebrations Newbridge
30	31					



No comment