



Women of Mana, French Guinana at Chamblanc

One hundred eighty-five descendants of slaves freed by Anne Marie Javouhey traveled to France to celebrate in her honor.

On the weekend of May 14th - 15th Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey was inducted into the society of abolitionists in Chamblanc, Côte d'Or, France, where she grew up. Representatives of the UN, UNESCO and the government of France gathered to honor our founder on this momentous occasion. Among the many events, the delegation of 185 from Mana, the town which Anne Marie founded for freed slaves in French Guiana, planted three forests: one at Jallanges, where she was born, one at Seurre, where she was baptized, and one at Chamblanc. Sister Agnès Thévenin, the chief organizer, and the sisters of the area worked for two years to prepare the successful event.

The Guineans were deeply touched by the experience of planting the trees. One woman said, "I don't know exactly where my ancestors were buried. They don't have a sepulcher. In planting this tree in their memory, I have now given them a place of rest. I will return, often, to celebrate their memory here."

The "Circuit of Abolition" in France consists of five sites, one of which is Anne Marie's home place at Chamblanc that is owned by the Congregation and houses a community and a thriving secondary school. At each site a large bronze plaque has been installed depicting the circuit. Brochures and a web site are dedicated to disseminating information about efforts in France to abolish slavery. A traveling exhibit depicting Anne Marie's work in Mana is now available for schools and other venues across France.

Abolition of Slavery: International Recognition for Blessed Anne Marie

Sister Marie Cooper

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On the Move

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Beginning with this issue, I will be editing *Cluny Connections*. The Province is very grateful to Sr. Mary Patrice Watson for her many years of dedicated service to our Newsletter, yet we realize that it's only fair that the burden be shared. We wish her well in her new ministry as librarian at Mary, Star of the Sea School in San Pedro. Her wonderful gifts for interacting with children will certainly be put to great use there. Thanks, Sr. Mary Patrice! You deserve the best!

This issue has a definite international flavor! In her own inimitable style, Sr. Anne Marie Liston reports on our

recent Province Chapter meetings in Orange, California. Our jubilarians share their joy in having reached golden and diamond milestones and Sr. Marie Cooper writes about our delight in the UN recognition of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey's work for the liberation of French slaves. Finally, Rita Bailey, chair of St. Joseph Parish Committee for Development and Peace, gives you a glimpse of the Canadian counterpart to the American bishops' Campaign for Human Development. Enjoy the smorgasbord!

Sister Regina Brunelle



Gathered at the Well

L-R Row 1: Sisters Loretto Moynihan, Ena Maguire, and Mary Josephine Glynn.
Row 2: Sisters Marie Cooper, Rachel Philippe Racine, Marie Yannick Saïeh, Josephine St. Leger, Eugenia Brady, Andrew Crean, Mary Patrice Watson, Joan Van der Zyden, Regina Brunelle, Genevieve Marie Vigil, Maria Rocha, Luke Parker, Anne Marie Liston, and Ceu Mendes.

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Women Gathered at the Well

Sister Anne Marie Liston

A year of reflection on the Gospel theme, the woman at the well, laid the foundation for our 2011 Province Chapter. We met from May 16th to the 21st at the St. Joseph Sisters' Center for Spirituality in Orange, CA. By the evening of the 16th, sisters from California, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Hamilton, Ontario, and Haiti had gathered together. Our Provincial, Sister Joan Van der Zyden, welcomed us. To help us in the process and keep us on track we were fortunate to have Sr. Joan Henehan, CSJ acting as our facilitator.



Sisters Mary Josephine and Maria at work.

We began the work of the Chapter by hearing and responding to reports, which became the foundation of our work. These reports summarized the life of the province from the spiritual, ministerial, community and financial perspectives. Our response led us to reflect on the overall mission of the congregation as well as on the social justice issues of the world we live in. Recalling the work of liberation of our founder, Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, we were impelled to respond to issues of modern slavery, especially human trafficking, challenging ourselves to address this issue in our own circles of ministry.

Part of the work of the Province Chapter is to select a delegate from

among our members who will accompany the Provincial to the General Chapter, which is always held at our Mother House in Paris. Sr. Marie Cooper will be accompanying Sr. Joan next year as our elected delegate and we know that we will be well represented by both. The process of a Chapter is a little like our political process of choosing a representative or senator to speak for our interests in the political arena. The difference, of course, is that our representatives speak in the light of our charism and mission and from the perspective of the common good of all. (Of course, Cluny delegates don't get the same perks as political representatives! No limousines at the airport; the Mother House doesn't do room service; and the work is pretty intense.)

Each day we had the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist in the beautiful chapel of the CSJ Motherhouse and to enjoy meals together, as well as the lovely feast for the eyes that the beautiful gardens of the Center provided.

Prayer services that focused us on the matters at hand gave us inspiration and courage to face



At the closing prayer service, Sister Joan presents Sister Josephine with the chapter memento.

the decisions and challenges that our smaller numbers present at this time in history. Nevertheless, we find in each others' commitment and encouragement the hope and enthusiasm we need to continue "going to the well of God's grace". Though we may not be leaping and bounding over the pathway, (more like 'Slow and easy! Watch the walker! Where's my cane? Aren't we there yet?') we are moving, and that's what counts!



Sister Anne Marie leads a Province trivia game during an evening of fun.

The week went by much too fast, as it always seems to do, and there is always more one wants to say to old friends one hasn't seen for awhile. For those brief days the world of Cluny was encapsulated within the walls of our conference room as we shared the sorrows of Haiti while listening to Sr. Marie Yannick recount the earthquake and remembered the courage of Blessed Anne-Marie during her mighty work for the liberation of slaves as Sr. Marie shared a video of the commemorative celebration in Chamblanc. In all of this, we felt the unity and *cor unum* that is intrinsic to our being as Clunys. Grateful to all those who made our days so memorable, we said our fond goodbyes and headed home. Once more we take up our mission in whatever corner of the world we find ourselves.

Our 2011 Jubilarians

*God leads you
by the hand...*

*How fortunate we are,
my very dear daughter!*

Fear not!

God will always be with us.

*We do not deserve the graces
heaven lavishes upon us*

(Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey,
Letter 253 to Mother Mary Joseph, written
from Mana, May 28, 1832)



Sister Ena Maguire

When I think back over these 60 years I feel happy, grateful and privileged. To live and work with a group of women who want to love and serve others and help to make our world a happier, peaceful place is truly awesome. There are humps and bumps but what's a trip without them! Praised be God!



Sister Laetitia O'Donoghue

Because of illness, Sister Laetitia cannot speak for herself but we know that her heart is filled with gratitude for these 60 years. With her we say: Gaudeamus in Laetitia!



Sister Loretto Moynihan

Celebrating 60 years of religious profession is joyous for oneself and for the community. It marks a milestone in God's grace for the enterprise undertaken so many years ago, old in one way, but still so new. The fruits of love and wisdom experienced along the way are precious. From the vantage point of the years I am filled with awe at the change that has taken place in and around me: my growing awareness of creation and the care it needs, human solidarity, and global vision. And so my thanks to all who have helped me reach this point: to God, to my congregation, to my sisters in community and to my family. May God be praised!



Sister Mary Josephine Glynn

JOY for the privilege of living 50 years as a daughter of Anne Marie Javouhey.

Gratitude to God who continues to enfold me in love.

Deep appreciation to my family and to all who have journeyed with me. Your faith and trust in me have empowered me.



Sister Angela O'Callaghan

I always wanted to give my life to God, even as a young girl. It was never a big discernment. As soon as I walked through the doors I knew this is where I belonged. Joy has been the keynote of my life. I have been privileged to minister to and with so many wonderful people and they have profoundly touched my life. I am filled with loving gratitude for all the graces and blessings of the past 60 years.



Water for All: Let Justice Flow

Rita Baily

Chairperson of the Committee for Development and Peace

St. Joseph Parish, Hamilton, Ontario

The Bishops of Canada founded the organization for Development and Peace (the counterpart of the American Campaign for Human Development) in 1967. For more than forty years, the organization has been living out the Canadian Catholic Church's commitment to justice and peace, walking in solidarity with partners first in the global South, and more recently in Africa, to find solutions to problems that affect the poorest of the poor. D & P's work is carried out by a network of volunteers at the parish level, a National Council of elected representatives, and a small number of paid staff.

St. Joseph Parish in Hamilton, long the parish of Cluny Sisters in this city, has a Social Justice Committee that carries out the organization's two-pronged mission of education for action.

Most recently, the Development & Peace focus has been water expressed in the slogan *Water for All: Let Justice Flow!* Our partners in Africa and the global South tell us that the privatization of traditional communal wells is deeply affecting the livelihood of small-scale farmers.

Bottled water companies are a growing threat to the water resources of rural communities. But the selling of bottled water in our country is a justice issue for us, too. It replaces the culture of the common good with the

culture of profit – the idea that everything can be bought and sold. So for the past two years, Development and Peace has launched a campaign of education around this issue.

At St. Joseph's, we have used various strategies to implement this campaign and get the message across: *Water is a precious resource that must remain in public hands, freely available to all.* Weekly bulletin inserts prepared the way for D & P Campaign Sunday talks at each Mass about the effects of water privatization, both at home and in the developing world. We invited people to make a personal commitment to kick the bottled water habit and create bottled water free zones in their homes, schools, churches and workplaces.

Sometimes, world problems seem overwhelming. We feel helpless against the tide of greed and its resulting suffering in poverty, war and the degradation of our environment. But just as each drop of water gathers strength in union with other drops, so we can do great things in collaboration with others. Through my connection with the work of Development and Peace in community with our parish committee, I have learned that, just as drops of water over time can erode mountains, every action I take in solidarity with others can help create a world of justice for all.





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Bringing Hope & Compassion

Celebrations Honoring Blessed Anne Marie



Georges Patient, mayor of Mana, who came with his extended family, addressing the assembly. The mayor of Chamblanc, Michel Burdot, is at the far left, and behind him, Sister Agnès Thévenin. Some of the panels of the traveling exhibit can be seen in the background.



Planting of trees in Chamblanc on Saturday, May 14 th, as a gentle rain falls. Flag of French Guiana to the right.

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