

Seeds of Hospitality

Newsletter of the Institute of Hospitality West European Province of Saint John of God - *No. 75*



GO BEYOND THE CROSS

Every year, thousands of people climb a mountain in the Italian Alps, passing the "stations of the cross" to stand at an outdoor crucifix. One tourist noticed a little trail that led beyond the cross. He fought through the rough thicket and, to his surprise, came upon another shrine, a shrine that symbolized the empty tomb. It was neglected. The brush had grown up around it. Almost everyone had gone as far as the cross, but there they stopped.

Far too many have gotten to the cross and have known the despair and the heartbreak. Far too few have moved beyond the cross to find the real message of Easter. That is the message of the empty tomb.

For us it is very important to see the Resurrection in our own lives and in our work places. We see Resurrection every time a patient get well and is discharged from our hospitals. Some of these patients have been in the depths of despair and some will tell you they have been to hell!

In our work with people with an intellectual disability we see so much Resurrection when people live to their potential and concentrate on their abilities as opposed to their apparent dis-abilities. When people with addiction problems get sobriety they experience Resurrection and they know what hell has been.

So be positive this Easter and remember all the good things in life. Appreciate that life has its difficulties, for some people more than others. As Christians we know that Christ has died for us and Risen from the Dead and given us Redemption. All of us whether we are Christian or not can bring Redemption to the people we serve and work with by living true Lives of Hospitality. HAPPY EASTER!



The photograph of the Hospitality Team is taken at the new St. John of God Statue at Lucena, Rathgar, which was Blessed and officially opened on the Feast of St. John of God 8th March 2016. *From left: Geraldine Gavin, Fiona Murray, Olivia Larkin, Annabel Meehan (Chairperson), Brian Maguire, Eleanor O'Reilly, Angela Neville Egan, Bro. Gregory McCrory*

Community Mental Health Services Hospitality Team

On Wednesday 23rd March I met with the Hospitality Team representing the Mental Health Services. We had a great meeting and discussed many innovative ways to portray the Values and bring them to life in our everyday world. I came away from the meeting energised in the knowledge that the seed that has been sown has taken root. When I next meet with this group in June there will be 2 more Hospitality Teams in the Service. John of God lives on! Well done!

The statue was originally in the John of God Sisters Nursing Home in Waterford. Sr. Geraldine, Regional Superior, alerted me to the availability of the statue and it now has a new home in Rathgar. Thank you Sr. Geraldine!

FLAVIAN HOUSE

"Do Good To Yourself My Brothers and Sisters By Doing Good To Others!"

John Mitchell has retired after 18 years' service as the CEO of the Development Company. The Institute got a temporary office in Flavian House, Stillorgan and 6 years later we are still here! John always reminded us humorously that we were his tenants! We wish John well in his retirement and thank him for all the great work he has done in fundraising for the Order's Services particularly in Ireland and Africa and we thank him for all the support he gave to us in the Institute of Hospitality. One John steps out and another John steps in. This time it is John Fleming. We welcome John to his new position as CEO of the Development Company and most importantly we welcome John to Flavian House. John seems to have settled in very well and we wish him every success and happiness in his new journey and he can be assured of the support of the Institute of Hospitality.

The tradition of John of God begging for alms for the sick and needy continues!