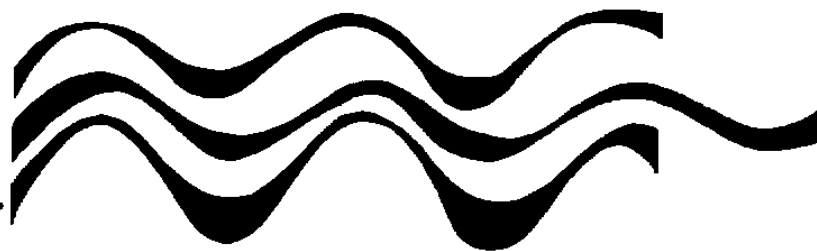


RSHM SOUNDINGS is a quarterly publication of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Eastern and Western American and Northern European Provinces, and Zambezi Region. Waves sent out, reflected back, reveal an inner reality not always evident on the surface. Thus SOUNDINGS probes RSHM life in expanding circles of ministry and community. You, our readers, are part of our life. We invite your comments and suggestions so that your thoughts may be reflected in these pages.

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Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
English Speaking Provinces

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ANTICIPATION

A REFLECTION

by Gretchen Hailer, RSHM

LOS ANGELES, CA As I begin to write this article on "Anticipation," I am wondering what kind of *anticipation* our Soundings editors had in mind. Perhaps, since this issue will be published in April, they meant to point to the coming of Spring, as we (in the northern hemisphere, at least) anticipate that lovely season when all kinds of new growth happens. Seeds, that were sown in darkness, wait expectantly for the invincible sun to return. So when those tiny seeds feel the cold dissipate and the warmth return, they burst forth from the earth surprising us with endless variety of colorful flowers and healthy food.

I continue to wonder - what do I/we anticipate? Does anticipation bring us joy or dread? Do we live our Christian life in joyful hope? And how do we try to bring that hope to others?

Dear reader, why not take some time now to put Soundings aside for a short time and wonder with me - bring to your mind and heart what it is that "Anticipation" actually means for you.....?♦



Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed.

Robert H. Schuller



MARYMOUNT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, KINGSTON

A Farewell Letter *December 2007*

Dear Marymount Community,

We look to the light in our lives to warm and brighten our December days.

As we begin this season of Advent, we prepare for a shift in our history and culture here at Marymount with the departure of the Sisters. We will bid Sr Kathleen Connell, Sr Breda Shelly, and Sr Michelle Phelan farewell as they move on to embrace the next chapter of their work in New York and Paris respectively. From the beginning of the Order's founding in Beziers, the RSHM have had selfless leaders who have sought to honour and respect women, who have given their lives to make sure that girls and young women have a chance to realize their gifts, potential, and purpose. We now have an increased duty as caretakers and more active partners in ensuring the RSHM goals and mission as a vital part of the Marymount London identity. I know we will carry the Sisters' example, energy, love of Christ, and service to others in our hearts and in our actions. We will be the "living congregation" that Father Gailhac dreamt of those many years ago.

At Assembly this Wednesday, I offered this prayer for the Sisters on behalf of the students and faculty, "We pray for happiness and joy to be ahead of them, For wisdom and guidance to be beside them, For grace and truth to be behind them, pushing them onward in Your goodness. Dear Lord, we know you will always protect them wherever they go and keep them as examples in our thoughts, prayers, and most especially in our hearts."

I know I speak for the whole of the Marymount community when I say that these early days of December, filled with anticipation of Christmas, remind us of the light that the Sisters have brought to our lives. It

is with the deepest gratitude that can only be felt and never fully expressed in words what they mean to us, how much we honour and love them, and how much we wish them well in their travels and work ahead.

Warmly,
Mrs. Margaret Frazier
Headmistress



A Brief History

by Breda Shelly, RSHM

TARRYTOWN, NY In 1955, the first sisters from the EAP came to the Coombe Estate in Kingston, Surrey and Marymount set deep roots in this beautiful setting. Sixty-two years later, assured that the RSHM ethos and the vision of Gailhac is firmly cherished, with the school flourishing, student enrollment growing and the Administration of the school in strong lay leadership, the three present RSHM in residence, Sisters Michelle Phelan, Breda Shelly and Kathleen Connell, bid a fond and grateful farewell.

In its infancy the Main House was home to students from Marymount College, Tarrytown's Junior Year Abroad Programme (JYAP) attending universities in London. The community also started a High School offering the American high school diploma. The Surrey location proved to be too distant from London for the JYAP but the high school prospered, additional facilities were added, and the boarding department grew.

Even with its ongoing development the campus always maintained its beautiful spacious garden. In the early days the boarding facility accommodated children from diplomatic families, international businesses, etc., and were mainly American. With the introduction of the Interna-

tional Baccalaureate (IB) the student population changed and students hail now from China, Japan, Russia, Germany, England and about 40 other countries as the IB is recognized as a University Entrance qualification worldwide.

It will be sad to leave the many wonderful people we met here - especially our colleagues in education and the countless friendships we have developed over the years and this beautiful, peaceful campus but God is calling us to other mountains where we will encounter Him anew.

Our being here in England has offered us many international experiences which have enriched our lives. We have had the opportunity to meet sisters from other Provinces and Regions and to be open to other cultures. However, many new, rich and communal experiences will open up before us. This is not goodbye to Europe and friends but only farewell as world news, emails, twitter, facebook and skype will allow us to stay in touch.

We give thanks that there are others to carry on our work based on the examples and teaching we have shown while with them. Our prayer for each of us as we say au revoir echoes the words of Gailhac: May what God has begun in us live, grow and become ever more perfect. ♦

LIVING AND LEARNING IN AN EVOLVING UNIVERSE

by Brigid Driscoll, RSHM

TARRYTOWN, NY Our universe is unfinished! That means it is in the process of becoming something it is not. It means that we do not know—but can only anticipate—what the universe and specifically our earth might look like one hundred, or one thousand, or even *one billion* years from now. Why consider such a long time? Because science has shown us recently that it has taken about *14 billion* years for our universe to reach its present state of being! This truth about cosmic history challenges most traditional perspectives about the future.

Perhaps we can start the process of looking ahead by asking, “Do we anticipate that this movement is in the direction of fuller being?” Or “Do we rather anticipate a return to the idyllic Garden of Eden, the perfect world that was lost through the sin of Adam and Eve?”

Recall how Isaiah frames a similar dilemma for the Israelites;

Do not remember the
former things,

Or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;

Now it springs forth, do you

not perceive it? (Isa 43: 18 19)

These and similar questions are



addressed by Dr. John Haught in his book, *Resting on the Future: Catholic Theology in an Unfinished Universe*. Its goal is not to develop a new systematic theology but rather to situate Catholic theological and spiritual concern in the new environment of a dramatic cosmos. To do this he offers a series of transitions from a prescientific to a more futurist—or anticipatory—understanding of Catholic thought than was possible throughout most of our theological history.

We learn that Haught developed his interest in contributing to the conversation between theology and science as a result of reading Teilhard de Chardin some 50 years ago. Then during the 1990s he began to pursue issues related to evolution in response to creationists and prominent scientists who were declaring falsely that evolutionary biology is irreconcilable with Christian faith and theology. “Resting on

the Future” is based on Haught’s continued assumption that theology and science are distinct but related ways of experiencing, understanding and knowing.

“Both theology and science are rooted, each in its own way on the human desire to understand and know, but they seek understanding and truth within formally distinct *horizons* of inquiry.” So, because the *horizon* of science is distinct from that of theology there is no necessary conflict between them. But in order for any anticipation of the future to be credible it must be based on both valid science and orthodox theology.

Haught concludes: “... by working from within its own horizon, theology may be able to discover a vision of reality that justifies—rather than conflicts with—the whole scientific enterprise.” And he believes that Catholic theology must undertake this challenge NOW.♦

FESTIVAL OF LEARNING 2017

by Margaret McKenna, RSHM

LOS ANGELES, CA From July 2 to 8, the once sleepy village of Sag Harbor, now a bustling vacation spot, hosted a gathering of RSHM from the Eastern, Western, and Northern European Provinces at Cormaria Retreat House. The Festival of Learning offered insights from John Haught, PHD on the topic, *Resting on the Future: Catholic Theology For An Unfinished Universe*. Over the course of the week, we examined various scientific thought from Plato to Chardin regarding the human search for understanding/meaning. Was creation of our planet just a fluke, will creation just come to a screeching halt at some point . . . or does creation have meaning and purpose as Chardin believed?

Combined with his skill as a teacher, John Haught’s profound scholarship in both science and religion brought us in touch with ad-

vances in both areas and the rich dialogue between them.

The week passed quickly as we listened, questioned, and discussed the mystery before us. We prayed together at inspired Liturgies, and we shared “time” with our wonderful community of RSHM, Clare Horne, and of course, John and Evelyn Haught. In the end, with science to uphold it, we were swept up in the mindful/soulful mystery of an ever-expanding universe whose goal we believe is OMEGA – God. As written in 1 Corinthians 2:9 “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of (hu)man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.” Many thanks to the Cormaria staff, to all the RSHM who helped in the organization, transportation and planning of so memorable an event.♦

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND . . . FOREVER

by Angelica Hinojosa Valentine

SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY With the median marrying age around 27 years old for women, I was nine years older than the average woman when I married my husband in October 2017. This has been our only marriage.

As a younger woman, I don't recall envisioning when and how I would get married. Sure, I had dated before and had contemplated the idea of marrying those individuals. During those times and in between, I remember great angst of not knowing if I would ever get married. With so many of my friends and colleagues settled with marriage and families, would I ever have a family of my own? When and where would I find my lifelong partner? Do I need to be married? These feelings of uncertainty would wax and wane over the years.

When my husband and I made a commitment to marry each other, I understood why marrying when I was younger did not happen: I needed to wait for Andre, and he needed to wait for me. While we wished we had known each other



Angelica and Andre Valentine

while we were younger, we came into each other's life at the intended time. However, who or what determines the right time? How do we let that control go?

Many great things have happened to me when I have not eager-

ly but rather patiently waited for a door to open. When is anticipation good for us? When does it become unhealthy? How does one's faith or prayer provide guidance when struggling with anticipation?

Expectations are essential and inevitable in helping us navigate through life. They can either lessen or deepen our anxiety, making us grounded or making us unsettled. How do we balance that? How do we not let anticipation consume us—define us? Good things come to those who wait, but how do we ensure that we don't live our life in pause mode?

There may not be answers to these questions, but there is certainly not one answer. For my husband and for me, we found each other later in life after we attended college and began our careers, which is now quite common. While this was different from our parents' generations, it was our own path—a path on which we were comfortable. Now that the anticipation of getting married is over, the next anticipation arises: building our family. ♦

WHEREVER YOU GO I WILL GO

by Aelita da Silva, RSHM



Aelita da Silva was professed as an RSHM in January 2017. Her missioning to Africa was interrupted by immigration difficulties, but all is now happily resolved.

CHOMA, ZAMBIA ``My daughter, God who is testing you will console you.``

When I read this phrase of our beloved Father Gailhac, it helped me to grow in faith. How can I disagree after seeing all GOD's goodness to me?

How painful it was for me to leave the Zambezi Region after such a short time! I had been missioned to Chinhoyi and I lived there for a few months only to find out that Zimbabwe Immigration did not accept me in the country—no explanation given.

Now, with some fire and different feelings, I am sharing with joy how

great it is to be back home in the Zambezi Region living in Zambia, my "papers" having been accepted before I returned.

While back in Brazil I really felt depressed to be in that situation but I still anticipated with great hope my return to Zambia. Now that I am here I am beginning to understand how God's hand was with me all the time, during my short time in Brazil and even now.

I learned that this experience is not just about me but that many different lives are involved. Now I rejoice in the Lord for the opportunity of meeting again my most beloved

(continued on page 5)

RSHM IN FORMATION

On the 24th of February 2018 Sr. Terezinha Cecchin, Provincial of the Brazilian Province, received six young women into our SHM novitiate. We had a lovely, but simple, prayer service where each novice shared a symbol and a scripture passage to represent her desire for life during these two years in the novitiate. Sr Terezinha encouraged them and called each one by name to receive the Constitutions and a crucifix.

Aida Ganizane Fombe, 25, is from Mozambique. Aida takes life seriously....with a big smile. Her desire is to be a dedicated religious.

Aida chose, as her symbol, two plants. One with green and white leaves, the other with only green leaves. The first represents her life before the novitiate...mixing sacred and secular! The solid green representing one vision in life....Religious life.



Back row: Previladge Gunyere, Cecilia Kasirori, Daniela de Jesus Santos, Rudo Chisvo; Front: Aida Ganizane, Rhànella Altina de Oliveira

Cecilia Kasirori, 26, is from Marymount, Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe. Cecilia is serious and has a strong desire to be a good RSHM.

Cecilia chose, as her symbol, three sticks which represent the three things that she feels are essential to living as a true religious. "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus"

Previladge Gunyere, 25, is from Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe. She is well acquainted with the RSHMs as her mother was the cook in Chinhoyi community until she passed away in 2014. Previladge is confident and energetic in all that she does.

Previladge chose, as her symbol, a new note book. This represents a new beginning in the novitiate and an openness to learning and growing. She also chose a little "safe" in which she hopes to store up all that is good so that she can fall back on those treasures when the need arises.

Rhànella Altina, 27 is from Lima do Arte, Brazil. She comes with experience in teaching and in working with our sisters during the past years.

Rhànella chose, as her symbol, a pair of sandals that represent the "holy ground" which she feels she has stepped onto in the Novitiate where she hopes to follow God's call.

Daniela de Jesus Santos 23, grew up in Bahia, Brazil. She is the youngest in the group. She plays the flute which is a lovely addition to our novitiate.

Daniela chose as her symbol a seed which represents the potential for growth that she sees in her life. She is filled with zeal for what is good.

Rudo Chisvo, 31, is from Harare, Zimbabwe. She is an artistic and talented woman.

Rudo chose, for her symbol, an open door which represents her heart ready to receive what God offers to her in the Novitiate. ♦

WHEREVER YOU GO cont. from pg. 4

children at the Mother Teresa Orphanage and also our children at Umoyo. It is beautiful to see how all these children are growing very nicely in good health, with lots of love and in a religious environment.

I thank God for my sisters who did whatever was possible to bring me back.

I thank God for each experience I had. I am very happy and full of hope for this new experience, as I meet the people again and learn more about God's ways, confirming my life and helping me to be of more service than before.

Just one month back and I feel like I had never left our region. My heart is filled with sincere gratitude for all the prayers, love and communication.

In conclusion I can say for SURE...`for one who has GOD, even if with some doubt, one is never alone...." ♦

CONTRIBUTORS

- Aelita da Silva, RSHM is a newly professed RSHM missioned to Choma, Zambia.
 Brigid Driscoll, RSHM is retired at Marymount Convent, Tarrytown, NY.
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 Margaret Frazier is Headmistress of Marymount International School London.
 Gretchen Hailer, RSHM is involved in diaconal formation, adult retreats, and the board of directors of Lay Mission Helpers for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
 Margaret McKenna, RSHM, teaches desktop publishing and coordinates the production of the yearbook at Marymount High School, Los Angeles, CA.
 Breda Shelly, RSHM recently moved to Marymount Convent, Tarrytown, NY where she continues her work for Misesan Cara, an Irish organization for missionary funding.
 Angelica Hinojosa Valentine, a member of the SHM Extended Family, worked at the RSHM LIFE Center while a student at Marymount College.

DYING INTO LIFE

by Barbara Edwards, LPN

TARRYTOWN, NY When I began my nursing career, I thought I would make a huge difference in this world by saving lives. Little did I know, NOT saving lives would make a huge difference in MY world. I became a nurse, at 38 years of age, to honor my dad, who had died after a long cardiac illness when I was 18. Twenty years after his death, I recalled the nameless and faceless nurses that had cared for him over the years. I had long since forgotten what they had done, but I remembered how well they had treated my dad; how nicely they had treated me. I wanted to make other people feel the same.

I came to Marymount Convent right out of nursing school, still anticipating saving lives. I soon realized that enhancing life, in anticipation of death, was so much more rewarding. I still recall the first Sister who told me that she wanted to die; that she was ready to die. I told her to pray for peace, so that when God finally came to take her home, she'd be ready. Another Sister heard our conversation and later commented on how impressed she was with my faith. WOW! MY faith? I seriously doubted, but never forgot, that.

As my career continues, I have

the honor of caring for many more amazing women during the last days of their lives. I continue to be impressed by their faith. What a gift to have such a profound faith in what happens after life; to be able to anticipate something even better after death. I have had the good fortune to have incredible conversations about death with unbelievable women.

I posted this on Facebook a few months ago.. "I am so Blessed.. I have a job that allows me to help some amazing women during their most difficult times.. these women have helped so many other women, as teachers, as nurses, missionaries, the list goes on and on. These women have made an impact on so many people, who have, in turn, impacted others. Now, as these women enter their final phase of life, I am given the honor of caring for them. Even as they are leaving this earthly world, they continue to teach. There aren't words beautiful enough in my vocabulary to express the lessons that I learn from them.. about life (and TRULY living), about death, and about how to die filled with grace, dignity, peace, and faith... While you aren't even aware that you are teaching me, I will truly never forget each lesson. I am humbled

r **h** **m** soundings



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by your grace, your peace, and your love of God". I am no longer afraid of death. How can you fear what your faith assures you is Paradise. And someday, hopefully many years from now, when I am old, when my sons have grown up and raised kids of their own, I too will anticipate an incredible death.♦

**NEXT ISSUE:
LESSONS OF A LIFETIME**

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