



Restoration
MINISTRIES



October 2008

Dear Friends,

The big day is over – and maybe now is the time when everything begins! Thank you all so very much for your prayers for September 24th. Below is the press statement that was released after the event. The fruit will come in ways unknown to us, but largely as a result of your faithfulness in prayer. You were truly as much part of the day as those of us who were physically present.

Press Statement

Church leaders from across Ireland met together in Dromantine Conference and Retreat Centre to consider their responsibilities as part of a community ‘Moving Forward Together in Diversity’. They were led in their reflections by Jean Vanier, the founder of the L’Arche community, who reminded them of the prophetic role of the weak and despised in any real change.

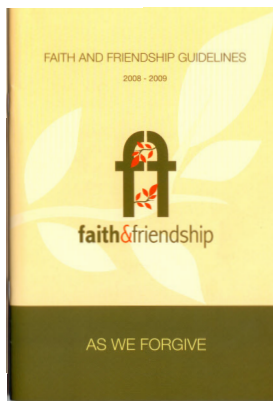
‘The change that really matters is a change of heart’ he said. ‘Such change is made possible through meeting in true communion, and is the gift of the weak and the vulnerable to humanity.’

The church leaders were challenged to ‘move beyond their clan’ and to risk humiliation in the search for love in a broken society and world. Church leaders acknowledged the importance of this task and agreed that the search for unity was a question of vulnerability and service rather than structures and bureaucracy.



Church leaders with Jean Vanier at
Dromantine September 24th

Now is a vital time for all of us to keep on announcing the good news of peace, not only by our words but by our actions. One of the ways in which we can do this is to become people who are willing to travel the road of forgiveness. Our Faith and Friendship Guidelines for this year focus in on this whole process. It’s a huge topic and one with which we all have issues of one sort or another. Some of us have difficulty in forgiving others. Some find it almost impossible to forgive themselves. Others have a pretty hard job in accepting the fact that God has forgiven them. Still others have become so ‘at home’ in their hurt and refusal to forgive that they wouldn’t know who they were without the negative programming that such unforgiveness generates. There are those who need to forgive their church community, their work mates, their parents or siblings. There are whole communities and even nations who need to forgive each other. There are even some who need to forgive God or, perhaps, the image they have of God, and those things for which they hold him responsible! Because we know as Christian people that forgiveness is one of the heartbeats of the gospel, when we find it difficult to offer it or receive it we add a further load of guilt to our already overburdened beings. Perhaps we need the generosity of spirit to courageously begin the process which then will become the bridge to that loving communion which is the heartbeat of the Good News.



**This year’s ‘Reflection’
booklet is now on sale
from the office price
£3.00.**

Our monthly gatherings in Restoration House will be following through on this theme. It's vital for all of us. If you haven't been with us for some time on the last Monday of each month, perhaps you would like to re-visit us? If you have never been, why not try us out? Needless to say, you will be very welcome!

Monthly Meetings

Restoration House

Monday Oct. 27th at 8.00 pm
All Heaven is Disturbed

Monday Nov. 24th at 8.00 pm
A Broken & Repentant Heart

Advent Reflection Day

Saturday 29 November

2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

In the busy run-up to Christmas we are offering a quiet space in the form of a half-day retreat. The theme will be 'Heralds of the Good News.' We'll be looking at three people who had the faith and the courage to hold on to a vision and to speak out 'the word of the Lord' even although the fulfilment of that word took place long after they had died. Advent is all about waiting, hoping, preparing - and announcing, so please come and join us.

Another moment to seize in the midst of busyness will be our Christmas gathering, right at the beginning of Christmas week. It is a very special time for the 'Restoration family' to be together.

Christmas Gathering

Monday 22nd December
at 7.00 pm



Directors, Management Team, staff and volunteers had a memorable twenty four hours away together at Dromantine on 22nd/23rd September facilitated by our new friend Fodhla McGrane. Jean Vanier. Our friend of long-standing, arrived in on time to share with us as our day drew to a close.

As you have prayed for us, we daily remember you and always thank God for you and for all you support.

Ruth



Eilish & Eithne would like to thank all those who supported them in their recent bereavement. All the cards, e-mails, phone calls etc were greatly appreciated.

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