

Restoration Ministries



Autumn 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Restoration Ministries' new base! It is already a haven of peace. So much loving care and hard work has gone into the restoring of this house. Thanks are due to many people, perhaps especially Bow Estates our contractors, to Norma Best who so freely gave of her architectural expertise, to Frances Gibson for her gardening skills, and to Olive Wilson, Anne Gibson and Kelvin McCracken who, along with me, formed a sub-committee to monitor the work and to see to the many details that major reconstruction entails. Jay Russell, our chairman has been exceedingly generous with his time and talents guiding us through all the legal intricacies of this move. Thanks to all of you who lifted, carried, shifted until we were sorted. In mid-July I moved into 19 Harmony Drive and in mid-September we transferred our office, so Rose and I have now happily downsized and are beginning to feel very much at home. We have, of course, mixed feelings, in that we were sad to leave St Brigid's where we had been so welcomed and encouraged in the past year. Fr Eddie O'Donnell has been kindness itself and, in what was a very uncertain and at times difficult period, the shelter that he offered us proved to be ideal in every respect. We are not totally leaving, in that we will be holding our Advent and Lenten reflection days in St Brigid's, keeping this important link alive. As regards any other programmed events, we will keep you posted. The Wednesday prayer continues as does our daily prayer at noon when so many of you are specially remembered. The 'Belfast' Faith and Friendship group meets here once a month. Spiritual Direction and the ongoing hospitality keep our days full. A major part of my work now involves preparation and

travel to various venues around Ireland and much farther afield. For example, I have recently returned from Trosly where I was sharing with Jean Vanier in a retreat for long-term L'Arche assistants. It is always such a privilege to be with Jean and with people who embody the love and the welcome that are the heartbeat of the Good News.

However, my first love and deepest commitment is still to the island of Ireland that has such potential, even yet, to be an icon of hope for the world. Wherever I go there is such a generosity of welcome and an ever deepening desire for nurturing on the spiritual journey. It seems to me that we are on the cusp of another great awakening to the mystery of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and, as a consequence, to the fact of our own belovedness. When that recognition begins to dawn for people, anything can happen. Mercy, justice, truth and peace move from unattainable heights into the realms of possibility. As we let go of the need to prove ourselves, or to clutch to ourselves the power and control that prop up so many negative identities, we can authentically join the trickle of the peacemakers who are known as children of God. The invitation to 'Be still and know that I am God' becomes not only an increasingly attractive proposition but a vital connection without which we strive, flounder and stumble on our journey. And the rediscovery of unity as diversity embraced by love causes us to see each other in a new and liberating way, giving us hope for today and tomorrow. All of these, and many more as yet untapped riches, flow from choosing to pick up the challenge or the vocation to 'be-loved.' Isn't it strange that it takes us so long to recognise and accept what has always been the heartbeat of the Gospel? How liberating when the penny begins to drop!

And so, beloved friends, we are so grateful that your desire and vision are still to be part of this journey with us. Externals may change, but the goal of a reconciled and reconciling community remains the same and the conviction, born out of experience, that the best is yet to be. Your prayer support and your practi-

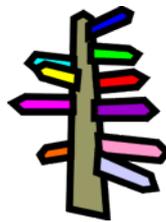
cal support where you are able are still so necessary in order for us to keep on with a work that began, continues and will end in God.

We love our new address! If you find your way to our door, you know you are so welcome.

Ruth

Ruth's Travel

- May 19th Drumantine, Public Day for the General Chapter of the Presentation Sisters
- May 21st Enniskillen, Interchurch Group
- May 26th City West Dublin, Annual Charismatic Conference
- June 11th Dublin, International Eucharistic Congress
- June 12th Dublin, Mt. Argos
- Sep 25th - Oct 5th Trosly, Retreat 'St John's Gospel'
Facilitators: Jean Vanier,
Jean Claude Mallet & Ruth



Ruth Patterson was installed as an Ecumenical Canon of St Anne's Cathedral on Sunday the 21st of October 2012 in recognition of the ecumenical witness of Restoration Ministries.

The formal ceremony of installation happened at the beginning of a beautiful Choral Evensong and in the midst of harvest displays of flowers and fruit. The sun, shining through the stained glass windows as Ruth was led to her seat in the stalls, highlighted the colour, the beauty and the awe of the occasion.

Scripture readings, prayers and musical praise followed until the Right Revd Alan Harper, retired Archbishop and Primate of All Ireland addressed the assembly. He told us that this was a highly significant event and those chosen as ecumenical canons were 'held in high esteem throughout the Church of Ireland but especially here in St Anne's.'

Then he identified the challenge of the role 'Ecumenical canons are not appointed to tell us what nice people we are....but to be fearless in telling us the things we....need to hear... To give us the word from the mouth of God that he has given to them. From time to time that may be a difficult word for you to proclaim and for us to hear but....nevertheless such is your role...

Concluding, Right Revd Harper reminded the congregation that fifty years ago on 16 October 1962 the Second Vatican Council was opened in Rome which proved to be an event of 'profound ecumenical significance, opening windows, changing conversations between churches, underlining the essential characteristic of unity in diversity'. This occasion of the installation of ecumenical canons in St Anne's he said 'seeks to preserve and build upon unity in essentials within the worldwide Church of God'

This event was a profoundly significant one for Ruth and for Restoration Ministries. The words, the prayers and the installation itself were acknowledgment and confirmation of the importance of Ruth's work in the past. The challenge implied that there is still a lot more to do.

Anne Gibson
Director RM.



An opportunity to come and see the New House and enjoy some Restoration Ministries' hospitality!

Open Day @ Harmony Drive

10.30am – 3.30pm

Wednesday

12th December 2012

All Welcome!

PLEASE NOTE

Advent Reflection Day

Date: Saturday 1st December 2012

Venue: St Brigid's Parish Hall,
Derryvolgie Ave,
Belfast

Time: 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Facilitator: Ruth Patterson

Faith & Friendship meet the second Wed. of every month
Next meeting Nov 14th at 7.30pm.

Are you interested?
Please contact the office



He Restores My Soul

Restoration Ministries

19 Harmony Drive

LISBURN

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