

Professions: *Society of St Francis:* Brother Martin John SSF made his Profession in Life Vows 20th October at Glasshampton Monastery. Martin's vows were received by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, SSF's Bishop Protector.

Diamond Jubilees: *Society of St Francis:* Br Vincent SSF at Hilfield Friary celebrated the diamond jubilee of his profession on 17th October.

Community of St Francis: Sr Elizabeth CSF will celebrate her diamond jubilee of profession on Saturday 9th December at 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Plaistow, London E13. Bishop Stephen Cottrell will preside at the Eucharist and lunch will follow the service. Visiting Religious and other friends are very welcome. If you plan to attend please inform Sr Sue CSF ministercsf@franciscans.org.uk. if possible by **Friday 1st December**.

Changes of Leadership:

Mucknell Abbey OSB: Following Abbot Stuart's retirement from Office, Brother Thomas Quinn OSB was elected and installed as Abbot on 11th September.

Community of the Sisters of the Church: Sr Susan CSC came to the end of her term of office and Sr Aileen CSC was elected as Provincial Leader with Sr Anita CSC as her Assistant. Their ministries were blessed on 29 September.

All Saints Sisters of the Poor: Sr Jean Raphael ASSP came to the end of her term of office and Sr Jane ASSP was elected as their Leader. Her blessing of Ministry was on 18th October.

An exciting on-going formation opportunity in 2018:

On Monday 17th – Friday 21st September Dr Peta Dunstan will be leading her Historical Tour of Religious Life sites in Oxford, and on this occasion it will be for Professed Religious. Peta has previously offered the Tour as a course for novices, who recommended it very highly. Any professed sister or brother who has not previously taken part in the Tour, and who is able to do the walking required, is most welcome to apply. Accommodation will be with the Sisters of the Love of God at Fairacres. If you are interested please contact Peta Dunstan pd10008@cam.ac.uk for further details. Numbers are limited so don't delay!

Welcome to the Newsletter:

- Secretary's Scribbles
- First Professed Religious Conference
- Acknowledged Communities and ARC
- Greenbelt and next JPIC Meeting
- Community Changes and visit to Oxford Religious Life sites

Secretary's Scribbles:

Elections: Sr Catherine CHN (101 votes) and Br Michael Jacob SSF (99) were elected to the ARC Committee until 2019: Sr Sally Paley OSB (74) was also elected and will complete Sr Jane's (ASSP) term of office following her resignation.

A report of the July General Synod by Sr Catherine SLG is electronically available from the Secretary. (sec @arcie.org.uk).

Br Michael Jacob SSF writes;

From September 18th-22nd nine Junior Professed Religious from six different communities gathered at Mirfield for a few days of prayer, catching up, study and enjoying each other's company. As many of us have known each other for at least five years and met fairly frequently in that time at novice meetings, it's a good strong peer group. This year the theme was 'Communication – listening to respond or listening to understand' Fr Richard Bastable came to give us a Quiet Day on our first full day based around the theme of listening for and to the Word. Then on Wednesday, Mikala Richards, a psychoanalyst in private practice came and gave us a workshop on Communication and the different layers and approaches with that. Both provided excellent and stimulating input. Thursday was a free day, with some of us trekking off to Leeds and some enjoying time at Mirfield, including a very interesting tour of the Church by Br Jacob CR. Social time with each other and with the CR Brethren was enjoyed most evenings. A good week was had by all!

Sister Sue CSF writes:

Back in 2012 there was an important facilitated meeting held at Mary Sumner House, Westminster and open to all members, to consider the future of ARC. It was attended by 31 members from 19 communities, including Advisory Council members and community leaders. At this meeting those present were invited to consider 3 options: a) closing ARC; b) making minor changes; c) making radical changes – including fostering relationships with newer and emerging communities, having conferences for all religious communities recognised and acknowledged and emerging, and acknowledged communities being part of ARC. A large majority (20 votes) chose this option. Accordingly since then ARC has held two residential conferences, each attended by around 100 people, at which members of Recognised, Acknowledged and emerging Communities have been able to meet together and build relationships. The first was at Whitby in 2015 and the second at Lee Abbey, Devon, in July this year. At Lee Abbey the programme included a presentation about ARC, and those present from Acknowledged Communities and communities seeking Acknowledgement were asked whether they wished to be formally part of ARC. A large majority supported this option. As had been explained at Lee Abbey enabling Acknowledged Communities to be part of ARC will require changes to the ARC Constitution, and necessarily this will be a complex and lengthy process. The ARC committee had appointed a small working group to progress this issue. At the Lee Abbey Conference it was decided in the meantime to invite a small number of Observers to the ARC committee meetings from the Acknowledged Communities and those seeking Acknowledgement, and two of those present volunteered. These are currently Mrs Penny Warren from the Community of Aiden and Hilda which is an Acknowledged Community, and Fr Gareth Powell from the Community of St Margaret the Queen, a Community in the process of seeking Acknowledgement. There are now 13 Acknowledged Communities, and several more in the process of seeking Acknowledgement by the Advisory Council.

The ARC Committee invites those Acknowledged Communities who are interested in becoming part of ARC to nominate a contact person from their Community with whom the ARC Constitution Working Group may correspond as it pursues its task. Anyone with expertise in writing Constitutions would be especially helpful.

Please send names and contact details to Jean Orpwood, the ARC Secretary, at sec@arcie.org.uk.

Sr Catherine CHN writes:

This August Bank Holiday ARC was again present at Greenbelt with a stall to promote the Religious Life. It was a good event and gave us the chance to talk with lots of different people about life in Community. We covered lots of topics; joining community, associates, living alongside, where to go on retreat and many questions about day to day life in Community. It was an invaluable experience being present among fellow Christians many of whom have no idea what the religious life is. There was also the opportunity to take advantage of the many different talks and events going on at the festival and to share worship with thousands of others. Becky Tyler's sermon is on You Tube; a truly uplifting homily that left the crowd with tears in their eyes and earned her a standing ovation. The link is <https://youtu.be/J7raDY8TVwQ>. Next year we might attend as volunteers, offering a session of worship in the festival's Worship Space.



Greenbelt offers its volunteers: weekend entry to the festival; food vouchers while on duty; free showers, car parking, (with a pitch if you're bringing a caravan, trailer tent or camper van) We usually camp with the Franciscans; they have a tent chapel on the campsite and hold regular offices and a daily Eucharist. If any brother or sister is interested in helping out or have any ideas please contact Sister Catherine at : sister.catherinechn@yahoo.co.uk

Br Hugh SSF writes: Next year's JPIC conference will be **15 - 17 April 2018** at High Leigh, (north of London). It is a great networking event for those involved in Justice and Peace issues. Nowadays anyone can come, so some communities bring 2, and we have had several SSF Third Order people. Catholics are greatly encouraged by our new communities but don't know much about them. There is a £20 pa sub per community, and the membership secretary is **Margaret Healy**. [<margarethealysl@gmail.com>](mailto:margarethealysl@gmail.com) or people can contact me for information at Hilfield.