

Associates Meeting at Beverley.

Our weekend started on Friday evening at Jo's house where her brother John, his wife Maureen, Martina and Cathy J were staying. Cecile and Sabine were staying with Cathy B and Chris and Ann were staying with me. It was lovely to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Saturday morning we gathered at the meeting room in Hanover Court where we were joined by Lawrence, Patricia, Anne Davis, Margaret Freer and Pat Walker.



Ann Shean led Morning Prayer which was based on "Just do whatever he tells you."(John 2-5)

We took four of the twelve steps - honesty, hope, faith and courage using quotes from Alix's Relation.

The Beverley group have been exploring ways by which the Associates would feel more



connected to the Sisters of the Congregation. We agreed that it would be a good idea to have a Rule of Life for Associates. We worked out a Rule for our group and found it a useful discipline.

The Rule was sourced from the Constitutions of the Congregation but was not too rigid and allowed for differences between individuals and the circumstances and demands of their lives.

Jo welcomed everyone and then the four Sisters left the Associates to discuss the "Possible Draft Rule of life for all Associates".

After a lively discussion the idea of a Rule was agreed in principle with perhaps changes to some of the wording.

It was also agreed that communications between Associates in the U.K. and worldwide should be improved, Cecile and Ann agreed to facilitate this using the Internet.

The Sisters rejoined us for a delicious lunch to which everyone had contributed.

At the summing up session it was agreed that every Associate be sent a copy of the possible draft Rule with an invitation to submit comments and suggestions within a month. It was hoped that a definitive Rule of Life for all Associates would be ready to present to the next Chapter in 2014.



Cecile presented a paper with her thoughts about the future development of the Associates of the Congregation of our Lady.

Sabine shared her experience when she attended a forum to present the different aspects of the Congregation in France including the Associates.

The last speaker was Margaret who told us about the JPIC conference held in West Wycombe which was led by Fr. Peter McVerity from Dublin who has worked with the homeless for thirty years.

Sunday dawned with beautiful sunshine. After Mass at the church of St. John of Beverley eight of the group gathered for lunch in the Hayride. It was a lovely social occasion enjoyed by all.

We said our good byes and went our separate ways. Chris and Ann came back to my house for the afternoon before catching the train back to London.

They were the most delightful house guests, we had so much fun and forged real and I hope lasting friendships. The whole weekend was absolutely marvellous.

Jenny Jellman