

Beverley Associate's Meeting 12th May 2012.

In attendance, Sisters Jo, Cathy, Chris and Martina Associate's Lawrence Trender, Patricia Trender, Jenny Jellyman, Margaret Freer, Ann davis, Pat Walker, Sabine Didelot (France), Cecile Jacquerye (Belguim), Cathy Jordan, John McGuigan (Scotland).

Sr Jo started the meeting by asking Ann Shean and Jenny to give the opening prayer which was based on St John's Gospel "Do whatever he tells you." from the Marriage feast at Cana,

Interspersed through the reading of the Gospel were four steps to ponder
1: Honesty, To admit to ourselves how powerless we were over what had become unmanageable in our own lives.

2: Hope, To come to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

3: Faith, To decide to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.

4: Courage, To make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

This was very special as it allowed us to gather our thoughts towards what the meeting was about.

Sr Jo thanked Ann and Jenny for prayer and astonished the meeting by announcing that as the meeting was about how associate's would move forward the Sisters would withdraw and allow the associate's to decide our future and would return for lunch with discussion after.

Patricia handed out a draft proposal for a Rule of Life for All Associate's Which will be sent to all UK associate's for comment and it is hoped that everyone will study it and let it sink into our hearts.

The Beverley associate's have been for some time looking forward to taking control of our charism as associate's using the Franciscans as a model with their three tier structure Brothers, Sisters and Lay members Who all have full membership. We could have Sisters, Associates and Friends (people who don't want to deep an involvement).

We also want to involve other nations and will contact them with regards joining with us in common unity and chastity (moral purity).

The subject of meetings frequency was discussed and it was found that France meets three times yearly, Beverley monthly and Scotland twice yearly and after discussion it was felt that the meetings should be frequent

To allow its members to grow and mature as a group, it was also felt that we should have more meetings national and international to help us to grow, we also discussed finance regarding the organising and of and travel to venues.

We discussed whether associates should renew our promise Yearly, we could use the Beverley proposal? Gaining equality and more incorporation and giving of life to God, the Sisters have a specialised calling, Associate's are called to be Associate's we don't want our Rule to be too long or God fearing, we want it to be unifying, knowing that our brothers and sisters are sharing their prayers with us Worldwide. Cecile passed out a copy of a document she herself compiled called Sharing the path from Szombathely 2008 towards Locquirec 2014 Which we hope will also be passed to all associates as it paints a promising picture of the advancement of associate's world wide.

A NEW SPRING IS BLOOMING

- international communication
- new groups of associate's
- deepening the charism of Peter Fourier and Alix Le Clerc

In spite of our limits

- do we associate's have a common awareness ?
- how do we face the ageing problem ?
- have we got a spiritual life on which our actions are built

and we get the impulse to move forward

- a special focus ; educators and schools
- autonomy and commitment
- a common concern : caring for creation

This is the theme of her paper and I hope everyone can receive a copy, This falls in perfectly with our discussions.

We agreed that spirituality and rule of life is very important for us as lay people and will give us a togetherness and unity.

These documents are a result of an ongoing process and are hopefully passed throughout the world for discussion and amending in time to be presented to the CHAPTER in LOCQUIREC (2014)