Thank you for the wonderful feedback you sent following the Lantern Flame launch in December. When you get the chance to read the accompanying newsletter you will see that I have been appointed to the International Presentation Lay Movement for Mission. One of the consequences of the appointment is that I need to produce international news but didn’t want to give away what we had so recently started with Lantern Flame. The solution is to produce articles of local interest as a supplement to the international newsletter. This newsletter is designed to compliment the international one.

In this issue there are some stories from around the country. We welcome back Trixie Campbell, who is the South Island Co-ordinator, and has recently completed walking the Compostela in Spain.

Ngā mihi nui
Mary-Ann Greaney

Walking the Compostela

Trixie Campbell

On August 25, 2014 I set off on my Camino. I thought I would encounter solitude, and I did, but it was also hugely social and my lasting memory is of the common bond of peace and joy formed among the pilgrims I met as we walked, ate and drank our way across Spain. It is not often in this busy world that we are able to take time out, in this case 5 weeks, to reflect on our life and for me part of the focus was to live in the moment, be in the natural world and be more conscious of God in my life and those around me. I also walked and prayed for my children and that they would find love in their lives and cherish it.

I left my watch behind and restricted use of my cell phone to once a week just to check in that no family crisis had occurred and to write a small email to friends and family. Keeping my check in to once a week proved harder on this amazing journey I was blessed to be on.

My fellow pilgrims, who had their own reasons for doing the pilgrimage, were from all walks of life, ranged in age from 18 to 86 and came from different corners of the universe. Some did not complete the journey because of injury or time constraints. The walk is not arduous but it is physically challenging and I averaged about 22-24 km a day and took five rest days when we stayed in cities as I was also a tourist.

I set out on my own but soon had a group of friends to share the journey with.

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Sometimes I would walk alone, sometimes with friends I had met along the way and other times with someone I had never met before but we shared part of that day and made a connection as we walked and shared some stories. No matter age, race or position in life the camino seemed to strip all that away and it was the connection of being part of something ancient, holy and bigger than and yet part of us that meant at times the stories we shared were deeply personal. It was an outward and inward journey for me and on the whole I found it a liberating journey, the walking, being outside in nature, the energy of all the pilgrims who had walked the journey before me (walking on holy ground) and my fellow pilgrims meant there was much joy, singing, dancing and hugging.

Buen camino,
From our photo archives

Remember the 2011 pilgrimage? This photo was taken in Hawera, Taranaki. Some of the pilgrims getting ready for the big community celebration in the evening. **L to R:** Srs Regina Daly and Fran Nicholl, Noleen Dwyer, Srs Ruth Coleman and Mary Tait, Fr Manus Lyons (now in retirement in Paraparaumu), and Kevin Dwyer.

Where are they now?  

**Bernadette (Bernie) Joyce pbvm**

I left Ireland on 30 January 1964 with Mary Tait and Chanel Canny. We arrived in N.Z. on March 10th 1964 (by boat of course). I spent 18 great years in N.Z. The New Zealand people helped me in so many ways. I lived most of my years in Taita. I still have email friends in N.Z.

On 18 December 1981 I was missioned by the Congregation in NZ to Chile with Margaret King, Kathleen Meagher and Eileen Keating. I spent 21 years in Chile and loved the mission there and the people were so warm. I lived in three different areas- Lo Valdivia, Santiago, and Iquique. **N.Z fund raised for us and through their efforts we were able to build a house and keep the show on the road.**

I came back to Ireland in 2003 because of illness. Am Ok now thank God and living in Galway in a housing estate where neighbours are so friendly. My time is spent being a friend, visiting the sick and writing a bit about my last few years in Chile. I can only say I’m very grateful for all the opportunities I’ve had to be loved and to love two different cultures. Nano started something wonderful.

Useful Websites

**Place the curser over the site and click to take you to the website**

http://internationalpresentationassociation.org/
http://www.presentationsistersunion.org/spirituality/default.cfm?loadref=413
http://www.presentationsistersunion.org/resources/default.cfm?loadref=327

Feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested.

To go onto the distribution list or to make a contribution or suggestion please contact Mary-Ann Greaney m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz