SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

MOTHER OF CHRIST

ST THERESA’S REGION

TRIDUUM 2012
ST THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS
The Region comprising the English, German and Italian sub-regions in union with other Regions of the Congregation, had a general triduum in this year of faith.

Following the tradition of the Congregation, each sub-region convened at the most convenient community for them to have the end of the year recollection. The practice has been a fruitful one for years and worth upholding. It is the best way of ending the year and starting a new one sharing our faith with one another.

The English Sub-Region gathered at Liverpool, while the German’s were at Munich and the Italian’s at Arricia. The stories from the Sub-Regions reflect a satisfactory celebration by each group. We enrich one another as we share our experiences for the three days.
END OF THE YEAR RECOLLECTION AT IMMACULATE HEART RESIDENCE

TUEBROOK—LIVERPOOL

28 TH DEC—1 ST JANUARY

The first general triduum in the English Sub-Region held at Liverpool community was a refreshing and spirit-filled one. By the end of the three days, every sister’s face reflected the sum up of the experiences within the short period. They were happy.

From different parts of England and Ireland the sisters arrived at the evening of 28th December glad to meet each other. Everyone was expectant of what will be of this special meeting. Hopefully, the expectations were met or even, the experience exceeded expectations. You never know! At the start of the triduum, the spirit of our founder Archbishop Charles Heerey CSSp was invoked to be with us. In pursuit of the realisation of our Charism and Spirit—*compassion and humility*—in the life of every sister in the Su-Region, it was deemed fit that he comes to assist us. We were convinced he was by our side.

While the time approached for the gathering, hands were on deck at different levels for preparation. Different committees; accommodation, catering, liturgy and others got things organized. To ease work load and facilitate a fruitful reflection, every community combined with one other to prepare meals on different days. It was very effective. The Sisters were happy to serve one another.
28th December - Arrival

The two communities in Liverpool – Tuetbrook and Halewood - kicked off the service while we gathered for supper. They served the meal. It was thrilling to relive our Jubilee celebration this first night. A make-shift choir ensued and every sister chorused our much loved welcome song at the jubilee celebration - ‘Welcome everyone’. The jubilee song was more entertaining led by our famous choir master and composer Sr Mary Clarissa. ‘Vic-torian’ - the most hilarious part may ring a bell for those of you who know about it. It was sheer fun and simply exhilarating! - A good starter for the three days.

After supper, the Sub-Regional Superior – Sr Maureen Felicita Obiorah started by asking for the invocation of the founder’s spirit. Sr Valentina Maria did justice to that. Our Founder’s message for the day was read; 28th December – “And if there had been any retrogression, any slackening of the spirit of love and the generosity that Mary has always expected of you, let this Christmas ... be a renewal and a fulfilment of her desires in you all.”(15th December 1966). Hopefully, the reflection achieved this prayer in our lives.

Sr Felicita then welcomed every sister and communities and expressed her joy at seeing everyone. She encouraged everyone to avail themselves of the graces of the period. She also asked that sisters be open to the sacrifices that may call for this period, considering our number and accommodation.

For better coordination, two facilitators - Srs Mary Felita and Maria Ijeoma - were chosen to moderate the gathering. The timetable was run through afterwards and the Liturgy Committee presented a booklet for masses. Very prepared!

In adherence to the Founder’s injunction ‘to place our Hearts deep in the Immaculate Heart’, each Superior was called to present the members of their communities to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They lighted candles before Our Lady’s statue and so was born the ‘triduum-ritual’.

Each morning, before the prayer starts, every local superior lights a candle on behalf of their communities before our Lady’s and Founder’s statues. They present the sisters before the Mother of God for intercession. One other is lighted by the Sub-Regional Superior as a unifying symbol for the zone.

The triduum officially started after the Compline.

29th December: The First Day

Our tradition and life remain the same - the day started off with morning prayer after the ‘triduum ritual’ – lit candles for communities before Our Lady and Founder. As well as being a period of individual retrospection, a little spiritual guide
was necessary for a complete fruitful reflection. In view of this, Fr Moses Akume (MSP) residing at – South Wales was invited to accompany us this three days.

**Talk**

After breakfast, at 10am, Fr Moses expressed his feeling at home on observing things he would do the same at his own home. Setting a clock in the kitchen/Ref 5mins ahead of the time is one of them. “This is a real home”, he said. He likened his further observation of our natural disposition to one another to the reason of our gathering; “to share our hopes and dreams together in the light of the season-Christmas. ‘**Christ Jesus born is our joy.’**”

**In Remembering is Our Truth**

Fr Moses told us that we get strength to go on when we recall our initial commitment – ‘loving relationship with the Lord’. He invited us to remember the early days when our hearts were filled with burning zeal for the work of God. Nothing was stopping us from following our heart’s desire even after resistance from parents and relatives. Those of us who were lucky to have a seamless beginning must admit meeting different experiences contrary to expectations in the formation houses.

“In remembering is our truth.” He suggested that we revisit and reconnect with our prayer experiences at Postulate or Novitiate. Some minutes reflection and sharing took us to examining the most outstanding experiences of God’s love in those days. He asked us to bring before us the scene of Christ coming to share his life with us – the scene of the crib.

**The Spirituality of the Crib**

The reason of our existence is found in the crib, he said. The spirituality of the crib must have touched our Father Founder at a point in his life. No wonder our Charism and Spirit – **Compassion and Humility** reflect this spirituality. He called us to contemplate on the baby Jesus in the crib, poor and dependent. If we feel at home with the baby Jesus, we’ll be able to feel at home with ourselves and others.

All these veer to the humility of Jesus that emanates from the crib. The passage on the account of the birth of Jesus (Lk2:1-20) which we read painted the picture of his humility clearly. St Paul’s description of it in Phil.2:5-8 brought it a little more home. He pointed out that our misunderstandings and conflicts in our communities are signs we are missing the mark- the person we are following. Jesus was not afraid to be born in a manger, call Matthew the tax collector or befriend Mary Magdalene who people disregarded. Therefore, we should not be afraid to accept our sisters with their weaknesses.

**Reconnection and Recommitment**

We need to recommit ourselves to God by reconnecting with this life and spirit of humility. Fr Moses asked us to compare our call to minister outside our culture- here in the mission - looking at Jesus’ humility. What is the humble Jesus telling us? He highlighted that we are held in high esteem by the episcopate and priest in Nigeria with regards to morals. Many of our sisters who started this journey earlier have greater credit for it. We have to appreciate them and ask ourselves how we want to contribute to maintain the standard set.
He went further to point out that whenever love is mentioned our mind readily moves to love of God and neighbour. We usually forget ourselves. Unless we love ourselves we cannot love either God or others. This self love takes us to where we are coming from; how much love do we have for the Church and our Congregation? The reality is that we are religious and we need to appreciate that. Many doors open to us because we are religious. Have I grown in love for my Congregation?

**Relationship with Jesus**

Deep personal relationship with Jesus will help us sail through our lonely moments and in accepting others. We can easily observe attachment to Jesus in the life of women saints. As such, we can relate with him as our husband. Our life in the community is like that of a husband and wife. Cordial relationship should mark our dealings with one another in our communities as we will expect that of a husband and wife.

In addition, communication is very vital in our community living. Sharing our experiences with one another in the community will facilitate living our vowed lives. It is life giving. In humility and openness we die for one another in the community.

**Mass**

At mass, Fr Moses pointed out the movement of the spirit as his stress on humility was reflected in the readings. Jesus, the servant King, calls us to a compassionate love. We are called to serve. He stressed the need to listen to the Spirit speaking in gatherings like this. If we listen, we’ll hear him speak through one another and especially through an unexpected sister.

Jesus in the gospel (Matt 20:21) enjoined the apostles to serve one another; “whoever wishes to be great must be the servant of others.” He cited John’s account of the Last Supper to emphasize the relationship that should exist between us and the Lord. Although it was a thanksgiving celebration, the apostle John recounted it as a call to service (the washing of the apostles’ feet - Jn 13:1-17). His account is very different from other gospel accounts. This is because he was in a relationship. Therefore, service should accompany our relationship with one another in the community.

The rest of the day ran smoothly as planned. At Vespers with adoration, Sr Mary Nobert uplifted us with her well led meditative prayer. We believe it was taken and sanctified.

The story of this day would be incomplete without mentioning the service of the sisters from London communities. They served the meals for the day. It was delightful watching the sisters gradually demolish the dishes. I don’t remember seeing any side dish – they carefully chose okra soup that most sisters tolerate.

The highlight of all was the salad they prepared for the night. Their creative juices overflowed. It had a significant stamp clearly marked at the middle of the trays – MARY, AΩ. Interesting, no? They reminded us that even at our meals, Mary and her Son Jesus should be present. In fact, all that we do should start with and end for Jesus (who is the Alpha and Omega) through Mary our Mother - Our Motto?
30th December: The Second Day

Desert Day

As indicated, this was a day of personal prayer for each sister. Our priest made the sacrifice of the day. From wherever he stayed, he came to say mass with us at 6.30am. It sounded a bit early for us but silence follows when a second thought is given to his effort to be there for us at such a time. The early mass also gave us a chance of having a full day with ourselves and the Lord.

Mass—Feast of the Holy Family

Still following the spirit of Christmas we journeyed back again to Nazareth. It was the feast of the Holy Family. The family of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation, our individual families and the families of the world were prayed for.

Fr Moses threw a concrete and searching question at us; “Is it possible making our communities homes that each sister could call the other her Sister?” This is left for each sister to pray with and examine how much she contributes to making her community a home. He asked us to make effort to carry along other sisters as much as we can. Even those we may think are acting strangely are inclusive.

The priest went further to liken Joseph, Mary and Jesus’ family to our extended families in Africa. Different members contribute to the welfare of the families. Upbringing of the young ones is part of it. It was evident Mary and Joseph’s trust in their relatives such that they believed Jesus was with them at their journey back from Jerusalem. Such trust should exist among us making possible a family atmosphere.

The Experience

The desert experience set off after breakfast. Only each sister can tell what happened between her and the Lord. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed for the day in the chapel. Sisters went in at different times for adoration leaving the number that could fit in at a time. We reconvened at 6pm for vespers together.

Yardlywood and Bloxwich communities made sure that rice and stew were very plenty. They provided us with a balanced diet for the day. We are grateful Sisters! A second badge of salad trays surfaced again. It was beautiful.

31st December: The Third Day

While the year drew to a close, we tried to end it appropriately. In addition to thanksgiving for the year ending, the mass was offered for the dead Sisters of the Congregation. At mass, their names were called out by four sisters and prayed for.
It is important that we end it making up with the Lord. As a result, enough time was dedicated to the hearing of confessions after morning mass. To make it work and avail the Sisters the opportunity, the confessions continued even when it encroached into our time for dialogue.

**Dialogue**

During the dialogue, we reviewed our life, ways of serving each other and a way-forward for our apostolates and existence in the Sub-Region. Our dialogue took us into the day but everyone was happy at the end. After a sumptuous meal by Abbey Hulton and Southield communities, the sisters retired for the evening. We had no option but to end the year with our Mother Mary imploring her maternal care.

**Evening Prayers**

The evening of 31st saw the sisters giving way to the Praise and thanksgiving that have been welling up in their hearts. We couldn’t hold it any longer when we gathered for the first part of our rosary. After the 10 decades combined with hymns to our Lady, the Sisters were out on the floor, sang and danced their hearts out to the Queen of Heaven, Our Mother! It was lovely.

At vespers, a spontaneous and visible outburst of praise and thanksgiving ensued again during ‘Magnificat’. Sisters stood up to dance to the Lord before the statue of the Queen of Heaven whom we believe was with us.

With Mary, the sisters praised God for His mercies and blessings, for His protection and forgiveness, for His patience with us. For the privilege of being enlisted among His chosen, for the privilege of being in His house and for the privilege of knowing Him and His love for us, we blessed Him with the most Blessed. The Sisters sang the praises of God’s goodness with Mary, for assuming weakness for us to be strong in Him. We believe our prayer and praise were received and sanctified.

The Immaculate Mother of God confirmed our trust in her maternal presence and protection when in the next few hours she spoke very eloquently. She seemed to say, “I am with you after all, my Children! I am here! And together we can make humility and compassion a reality in our lives. Allow me, let’s start from among you. Through us, this reality will flow out to the world for the glory of God the Father, Jesus our Saviour and Spouse, and the Holy Ghost our Sanctifier. Amen!

After supper and praying the last ten decades of the rosary we settled for what was a clear manifestation of the Holy Spirit. It was a spiritual exercise where each sister had to pick a sister’s name to pray for and love to life. The sister will act as an angel to the person picked. The names were put in a bowl and placed before the statue of our Lady. Starting with the sub-regional Representative, followed by the most senior in profession, the Sisters danced round to pick the names. Different prayers were offered in form of different songs intoned by or for each sister while going.

It was more remarkable after the picking of names and everyone was to reveal who she picked. There were surprises at the work of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady. Naturally, there was a conscious feeling of which particular sister to pick. At the same time, we believe the sisters were open to the Holy Spirit who challenged us again with the reason while we left everything to follow Jesus: Love of God.
Inasmuch as it could be difficult to love as Christ did sometimes, He reminded us that it is possible only with His help and assistance from heaven. Knowing that the assignment was entrusted to us by no other but the Mother of God, we turned to her our first, ready and easiest help. We sang and prayed to Her for assistance - 'Maria k’ichebe anyi n’ikpele asimiri' - from the Grace book as we journey together to our Father.

Services of thanksgiving and reconciliation were done as usual from 11pm to 12midnight. Worthy thanks was given to God for the year ending and the new year, commended to Him. The exercise was accompanied with adoration after which preparations for the next day started.

1st January: The Final Day

The Motherhood of Mary

Thanking God for the New Year, the sub-Region mapped out this day to thank the ex-functionaries of the Sub-Region and welcome the new ones. After the breakfast, the Sisters gathered to thank the ex-officio; Srs Mary Rosette Ejezube, Regional Representative, Srs Maria Valentina Amobi, Mary Eugenia Offor and Maria Chidiamara Njoku, who were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd councillors respectively and Sr Maureen Felicitas - the Bursar. New functionaries were welcomed and congratulated Srs Maureen Felicitas, Mary Delphine and Mary Eugenia.

The Sub-Regional Superior, Sr Maureen Felicitas read a welcome address expressing the delight for Sisters being together for this number of days. She thanked the sisters for their services to the Sub-Region and urged us to keep on cherishing one another.

The sisters showcased their cultural abilities. Folk song, different dances and thank you song were performed. A special no by Sr Maria Ijeoma was the highlight of the gathering. She really entertained everyone. The ex-ufficio thanked the sisters. The joy was radiating in everyone’s face.

It was also an occasion for a lot of thanksgiving. All the communities were thanked for providing meals at different days during the tridium. We are grateful to the local superiors who cooked the meals on this day. In addition, those who organized the triduum were appreciated.

Although we are struggling to meet up with the demands in the Sub-Region, it still afforded to squeeze out some pennies to make each Sister happy. There were gifts for everyone. Community by community, we danced round to collect them. The sisters were simply happy. It was fitting to crown our gathering, with a mass of thanksgiving.

Mass

In thanks giving we celebrated mass of Mary, the Mother of God. The priest expressed his wish that we walk out from the three days renewal witnessing to the reality of who we are - the chil-
dren of God. He said we should not be afraid to release the strength of God in us—“Not to be afraid to put our legs in turbulent water. We can never go wrong if we leave our lives in the hands of Mary.” Knowledge of Jesus will be helpful too.

We re-consecrated ourselves and the Sub-Region to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the same mass, all the committees in the Sub-Region were called up one by one and prayed for (inaugurated). The Sub-Regional Representative handed a lit candle to the leaders after which the priest prayed over them. It was with the intention that each committee bears in mind they are working for God and the Sisters.

Simply put, the sisters were amazing! Every community made effort to make the sisters happy. This is our call - to support one another. If only we keep on striving to make this a reality in our individual lives. We shall amidst all odds transform ourselves and be better instruments of humility and compassion. The back-drop of our New Year resolution could be - making others happy – you know the happiness I mean – transforming happiness that makes the Sister a whole human person. It's possible we can get there with trust in the assistance of God/Mary. How lovely for sisters to be together!
THE TRIDUUM IN PICTURES FROM ENGLISH SUB-REGION

ALTER READY FOR ROSARY ON 31ST

SISTERS PRAYING THE ROSARY

SISTERS AT PRAYER

SISTERS AT PRAYER

SISTERS AS ONE ANOTHER’S ANGEL

SISTERS AS ONE ANOTHER’S ANGEL

SISTERS AT MEAL

THANKING FORMER LEADERS
THE TRIDUUM IN PICTURES FROM ENGLISH SUB-REGION

THANKING FORMER LEADERS

THANKING FORMER LEADERS

SISTERS PERFORMING EKEMMA

SISTERS PERFORMING EKEMMA

SISTERS PERFORMING EKEMMA

SISTERS SINGING FOLK SONG

CULTURAL DANCE

CULTURAL DANCE
COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMITTEES

SUB REGIONAL FUNCTIONARIES

PRAYER OVER THE FUNCTIONARIES

PROJECT COMMITTEE

LITURGY COMMITTEE

CHARITY COMMISSION COMMITTEE

ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE

PROJECT COMMITTEE

ON-GOING FORMATION COMMITTEE
COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMITTEES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CATERING COMMITTEE

LEADERS OF CHARITY COMMISSION

SISTERS OF THE SUB-REGION

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

GRATITUDE TO THE PRIEST

THE FUNCTIONARIES WITH THE PRIEST
"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news," echoed the voice of His Eminence Max Cardinal Rheinhard (the Archbishop of München and Freising). It was in his sermon during the Eucharistic celebration held to send out the "Star singers" in St Anton’s Catholic Church Hausham, Bayern.

We the sisters of the IHM were invited to this celebration by the parishioners to perform an offertory dance. This in effect coincided very well for we were to start our Triduum on the evening of that same day. Surprisingly, the readings and the sermon ushered us into this all holy event. To crown it all the cardinal imparted his fatherly blessings and so all had the courage to be "on the move" for he said; "In whichever house you go you leave the peace of Christ.” After the Mass we all moved to Munich community.

Long before the Triduum, we did our planning and wrote the schedule for the 3 days. Most necessary dishes were prepared and stored in the deep freezer. Other cookings and all liturgical functions were left voluntary and the sisters left no stone unturned in fulfilling them.

"Prophetic commitment to religious life and its challenges today." It was explained who a prophet is - one who is chosen and prepared by God with a definite mission; he bears the word of God and communicates its intent to his people by his words and life. Therefore to be prophets, we, the sisters of IHM must be committed to making Christ part of everything we do.

Reflection and sharing on Religious life

After a short break the sisters started their discussions in groups. The discussion came to an end at 1.00 pm followed by lunch and siesta. Our reflection continued with contemplation on the “meaning of Religious life”. This was explained and the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience were brought to light once again. As religious, we must be living witnesses to the teachings of Christ. The discussions continued immediately afterwards as well as other spiritual activi-
ties after which we ate our supper and went on with the presentation of the results of the discussions. The sisters took active participation and their interest was very much stirred. In their enthusiasm, one of them said, "We want to be real prophets of our time" and another asserted; "It is now that our eyes are opened to many things."

**THE 30TH**

**Prophetic Witnessing**

The sisters expectantly gathered again on the 30th after the Holy Mass, prayers and breakfast. The seminar continued with the next fascinating theme; "Prophetic witnessing: a challenge to our Spirit and Charism." Here the meaning of our Spirit - Humility and Charism - Compassion was explained. In their discussions, the sisters brought out more practical ways of living them out as authentic Prophets of our time. The specific apostolates of the IHM sisters in the context of our Charism and Spirit were not left out. It was noted that in these areas we spell out vividly why we were founded and also live out our prophetic witnessing.

Another aspect: "Prophetic witnessing of the IHM sisters through the administration of the temporal goods and finance" was also laid bare. It was emphasised that every amount that passes through our hands belongs to the Church and must be handled with care. That is to say that it must be correctly used and transparently accounted for.

There were series of discussions and every Sister participated actively which gave taste to the whole event. In short, the spiritual and material food were very much "palatable"

**THE 31ST**

**Thanksgiving and reconciliation**

Last day of the Triduum was allocated to personal reflections. We had time to digest all that was done during the seminar and get ourselves prepared for the coming year. As God would have it, a Holy Mass was celebrated on this day to mark the end of the year and then to usher in the New Year. During this period the two communities had time to do their community dialogue.

We ended the year saying "Thanks be to God" for all his blessings throughout the year and asking him and our fellow sisters pardon for all our misdeeds. Our "Services of thanksgiving and reconciliation" was at 10.30pm. It was during this period that we reminded ourselves once again what an end means by reading from the book of Purgatory—"Make satisfaction in this life rather than in the next" which invited us to continue to struggle in spite of all difficulties since a life of sacrifice without sacrifice is a contradiction. The reconciliation with one another was very touchy. Every sister present went to each sister, calling her by name and looking into her eyes told her—"sister you know I love you" or "sister I love you please forgive me" with a sisterly embrace.

After these services we commissioned all the sisters in their various committees and responsibilities. Even those who were not there were invoked in spirit.

Our reflections ended at 12midnight and we echoed "Happy new year" to one another and our happy voices rhymed with the shots of the "knock outs" on the streets. Looking outside, the whole universe blended with rays of different colours which more or less depicted the happiness of this particular joyous event!
Feastday Celebration

To mark the end of this get together, a Holy Mass was celebrated on the 1st of January in honour of our dear Sr Maria Madonna whose feastday it was.

Her joy knew no bounds as she thanked every one of us for giving her such a great honour! Rice and stew was very plenty. "Ngwongwo" and "Abacha" as well as "Onugbo soup" did not fail in our African dishes! We danced, we sang and we married after which we called it a day.

It was a memorable event which hovers till today in the hearts of all the sisters present. And so with one voice we echo "Happy new year" to all and sundry! May the peace and joy which this holy event brought into our lives remain with us and with everyone! Amen, so be it!
Arrival and Opening Speech

Our first gathering was at about 8:20pm on Friday 28th December 2012. And 20 Sisters were in attendance.

The opening prayer was said by Sr. Mary Clotilda Anoghalu while Sr. Mary Priscilla Ohawuchi—the Sub-Regional Superior gave the opening speech. In her speech, she welcomed all the Sisters and thanked God for journey mercies granted to all of us present. She also thanked God for leading us all through the year that is rolling out, and asked Him to lead us safely into the New Year. Sr Priscilla also prayed that the year be more fruitful for us as a Congregation and in particular, our Sub-Region. She thanked the committees that have started their work in earnest and encouraged others to do the same. She equally encouraged active participation of each sister for the building up of our home—the Sub-Region and invited all to come with suggestions that will help us achieve our goal in this regard.

The time table plan followed after this brief welcome speech and introduction.

Friday, 28th December

Saturday, 29th December

After Sr. Maria Stephania Nworah led the opening prayer, a Christmas message from his Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze was read.

In her introduction the Sub-regional Superior admonished all to be Christ-like in promoting peace, unity and harmony in our communities.

Religious life in Our Congregation

There were suggestions for discussion pertaining life in the community and the Congregation at large. There was an awakening to the importance and consciousness of having real interest in the Congregational matters. Each sister was encouraged to contribute her quota towards the growth of our Sub-Region by cultivating positive attitude and team spirit in the things that concerns us.

Knowledge of self was suggested as an access to dying to self which paves way to dying for others. This knowledge initiates and perfects through prayer. In relation to the life of prayer, the practice of reading spiritual books was emphasized and encouraged. Superiors were advised to subscribe for Observatore Romano and buy newspapers for sisters to read. This will enable all to have knowledge of the events around us and in our world. Participation in the life of the local Church was touched too. We are invited to make efforts to participate and get involved in
what is going on around us both in the universal Church and the local Churches.

**Language and Mission**

The need for adequate language course for sisters was brought up and its relevance to effective missionary activity was highlighted. Sisters were advised too to speak Italian language in our communities to help new comers learn the language. It was pointed out the need for more collective Congregational celebrations to bring sisters together in the year.

**Sunday, 30th December 2012**

**The Committees**

The morning period of this day was used for meeting and discussion in different committees which include; Sanitary Committee, Immigration Committee, Education Committee, Project Committee, Social Committee, Catering Committee, Liturgy Committee and On-going formation Committee. In the evening, there was sharing of deliberations from each committee.

It was during this sharing that Sr. M. Christine explained the demands for inauguration of Charles Heery’s postulation; printing, awareness, symposiums. She stressed that his postulation needs to start immediately to avoid risking it being a history.

The Liturgy Committee also shared a plan for CD production of hymns to our Lady and appealed to those who have composed songs to make them available to the group.

Sr. Mary Priscilla Ohawuchi, thanked all for their active participation and contribution towards the success of the triduum. She reiterated the day’s homily where the celebrating priest stated that our Religious Family is our home and we are obliged to build it up.

**Monday, 31st December 2012**

**Desert Experience**

This last day was dedicated to the desert day prayer experience. Each Sister went on her way for the day. We gathered at 6:10pm to share our encounter with the Lord. Sharing took off immediately after the opening prayer by Sr. Mary Ita. Sisters shared openly, positively and trustfully. Everyone was highly enriched by the sharing.

**Appreciation and Closing Speech**

At the end of the sharing, the Sub-Regional Superior thanked all the sisters for sharing openly and trustfully. She read out the words of our Founder from our Congregational diary for December 28, 30 and 31, 2012. She also encouraged us and prayed God to help us live out the words of our founder this New Year and beyond.

For this year of faith, Sr. M. Priscilla advised all to consult the circulars sent by the liturgy committee from home and join in the studies recommended. She also encouraged all to practice the virtue of unconditional forgiveness for peace and unity in community life. “Let us renew our love for our Lord and for one another.” She suggested we revive our traditional way of praying aspirations at intervals during work; make our private timetables and give more room to prayer.

Finally, she thanked all the Sisters for their cooperation and support at the beginning of her office as the Sub-Regional Superior. She asked us to carry Christ’s love to the Sisters who were unable to be present at the triduum.

May the year be better and fruitful for us all!
AD JESUM PER MARIAM

HUMILITAS ET CARITAS
OUR FOUNDER

ARCHBISHOP CHARLES HEEREY CSSp

To God Be The Glory!