

Observer's Report IPC Adelaide, 17-18 October

All leaders were invited to move quietly into a heart shape

The key image that has emerged is that of HEART. That centre of ourselves where both passion and pain reside and I have felt and heard both expressed in these days.

At the beginning there was a call for eco-justice in a prayerful reflection against a backdrop of vivid images from the deep heart of Australia.

Together the leaders explored the cultural and historical heart of Adelaide. For the last Eucharist as IPC, they gathered in the Cunningham Memorial Chapel in the former Convent of Mercy in Angas Street in the city.



Taken at Angas Street Chapel, Adelaide, after the Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Monsignor David Cappo V.G on the occasion of the final meeting of the Institute Plenary Council 18 October 2011.

Front (L to R): Beverley Stott (West Perth), Helen Owens (Adelaide), Theresia Tina (Papua New Guinea), Marie Melville (Townsville), Karon Donnellon (Institute Councillor), Nerida Tinkler (Institute President), Caroline Ryan (Institute Vice-President), Kathleen Tierney (Melbourne), Faye Kelly (Cairns)

Back (L to R): Veronica Lawson (Ballarat East), Berneice Loch (Rockhampton), Gabriella Gresz (Bathurst), Barbara Bolster (Grafton), Marie Ralph (Wilcannia-Forbes), Faith Jones (Singleton), Marie Duffy (Goulburn), Marie Fitzgerald (Perth), Jennifer Ryan (North Sydney), Helen Baguley (Gunnedah), Catherine Ryan (Parramatta), Sandra Lupi (Brisbane).

Occasionally, there has been a heartfelt struggle, often with humour and a strong sense of responsibility for a positive working together to find appropriate language to express some of the uncertainties, complexities and planning in future relationships.

In this final gathering of this leadership community, there have been many decisions of bringing to closure, deciding on continuance and the appropriating of responsibilities for congregational issues. There is such a strong sense of collective wisdom among the leaders for a stepping out towards a future with hearts in the right place still afire with Catherine McAuley's thirst for compassion, justice and truth.

- Cynthia Griffin RSM



Images clockwise from Left:

Marie Melville RSM and Catherine Ryan RSM
Theresia Tina RSM, Marie Ralph RMS and Helen Owens RSM
Cynthia Griffin RSM
IPC hard at work
Barbara Bolster RSM and Faith Jones RSM