



**ISMAPNG
CHAPTER 2017**

*Through the tender
mercy of our God...*

CHAPTER NEWS

16 AUGUST 2017 - ISSUE ONE - ISMAPNG CHAPTER

ENGAGING WITH THE CHAPTER REPORTS

Following two rich days of personal and communal reflection, lead by Helen Baguley and Carmel Dwan, today we engaged with the Reports to Chapter.

ILT - VERONICA LAWSON AND GAYE LENNON

In their response to the ILT Report, Veronica Lawson and Gaye Lennon observed: This Institute Leadership Report is a rich resource. The data, learnings and challenges expressed throughout offer us a place to come back to again and again... We need to be proud of our Institute leaders and indeed we are... In this context, we thank you for your dedication, for your total commitment to the ways of the God of Mercy, and specifically for this report, this story, which is so comprehensive in terms of the data made available to the Institute at this crucial time. We take it as gift and we hope to honour your work by continuing to engage over this time of Chapter and beyond with the wisdom it enshrines.



‘RELIGIOUS HOLD THE REST TO THE DREAM..’

Last night at the Opening Eucharist, Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta, in a stirring homily said, “Religious have something like a creative, imaginative, and innovative function for the Church. They seek to renew her vigour by the radical commitment to the Gospel”.

“I am convinced that, if the Church has a bright future, it is due to the example of many female religious who are like those early female disciples... I ask you to continue to be for the Church the icon of the inclusive, compassionate and all embracing Christ”, he said.

The liturgy, organised by Carmel Dwan and Helen Baguley, was watched by hundreds of our Sisters and friends. Joan Doyle and Anne Foale provided musical accompaniment.

Bishop Long’s homily has been emailed to all Sisters and is available in the News section of the Chapter Communications Centre and on the App. *A recording can be viewed on the Institute Website.*



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WITH THE CHAPTER REPORTS

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (A) KATHLEEN WILLIAMS

In responding to the Financial Stewardship Report, Kathleen Williams referred to the introductory letter *in which the ILT states that 'the intention was to provide comprehensive yet understandable document which would equip the Chapter Delegates to consider questions and issues which arise.* Kathleen praised the document as being one that will equip us to consider relevant questions and issues that will impact our future.

(B) ANGELA REED

In reading the report I found myself reflecting on my role as a member of the institute and how I am obligated to embrace it and its recommendations. If I am to be fully active in the life of the Institute, I need to have a sense of how our resources are being utilised, what values drive our operations, potential risks to our Mercy

Mission and our long term institutional capacity.

I am confident that with the expertise amongst us and much goodwill we can confidently move into the future knowing that we have truly given our all to ensure the best stewardship of our resources.



ON UNION AND CHARITY - OUR LEGACY FROM CATHERINE

In his morning's prayer we looked at the legacy the Institute has inherited from Catherine. Deidre lead us through our Constitutions as we rediscovered the special challenges Catherine left us.

Deirdre asked us to reflect on Catherine's wisdom expressed in the following:

The tender mercy of our God has given us one another. Just as the first followers of Jesus were known by their love and service to one another, so too is mutual love. At the heart of our call to be Sisters of Mercy. Among our sisters we open ourselves to receive mercy; God can be mercy for them through us (2.01).

We considered our Original Rule summarised in Ephesians 4:1-7: *I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the*

unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Appropriately, at the conclusion of the reflection, we sang the *Suscipe*, more wisdom given to us by Catherine as we continue our Chapter journey.

A video of parts of this morning's reflection can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/229793809> or on the Chapter Communications Centre and the App.



Berneice Loch, Mary Geason and Ann-Maree O'Beirne



Anne Ryan, Helen Owens and Pat Fox enjoying morning tea.



Berneice Loch introducing John Ries (Chair of the Finance Advisory Council).



Watching ourselves on TV following the Eucharist!



Theresia Tina, Barbara Broad and Veronica Lawson taking in some Vitamin D!



Bev Strong, Elaine Wainwright and Ailsa Mackinnon following the Eucharist.



Day Three: hard at work.



Bernadette Ahern, Helen White and Cathy Solano deep in conversation.



David Penny (Executive Leader Operations) with Angela Jordan, Liz Moloney, Lizzie Finnerty and Anila Isaac prior to Financial Stewardship session.