



ISMAPNG
CHAPTER 2017

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

CHAPTER NEWS

17 AUGUST 2017 - ISSUE TWO - ISMAPNG CHAPTER

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE IN THE EVOLVING INSTITUTE

Mary Wright IBVM spent the day with us as part of our exploration of Leadership and Governance in the Evolving Institute.

Using the Gospel story of the calming of the sea (Mt.4 35-41), Mary observed that in these turbulent social, political and economic times our only response is to be Authentic, Transparent and Accountable.

With valuable input from Eileen Ann Daffy, Sharon Price, Kath Tierney and Berice Livermore, the issue of Governance was also considered, particularly in the context of our Institutional Ministries. This was looked at from the perspectives of the present reality and possibilities for the future.

We considered three key questions:

- What is governance?
- What does good governance look like/not look like?
- What might we need to consider changing?

In her interview for today's video, Mary Wright said that all religious orders, experiencing diminishment of members are trying to work out ways in which the role of governance can be shared with lay people. The requirement that each congregation needs to have its own leadership is still there. She said we can't invite lay people into formal leadership of the actual congregation but we can explore models of lay leadership of ministry.

To do nothing and hope that the problem will go away is one of the biggest potential pitfalls in planning for future governance. When we have to make changes it is better to make them while we have the leadership potential we need to guide us into the future.

If you are interested in exploring the topic of Governance further, you may like to read the article 'What is Good Governance?' that has been sent as an attachment to this email.

An interview with Mary Wright can be seen in today's video at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/229948075>.



Above: Mary Wright IBVM



Above: Eileen Ann Daffy

LIGHT FIRE ON THE EARTH

This morning's prayer was prepared by Madeline Duckett and Marg Moore (pictured below). It asked us to focus on rekindling the Pentecostal fire within us all. Madeline lead us into the reflection powerfully by observing: *We entered the new day, carrying with us the hopes and aspirations of our Sisters.*

We paused to remember our ritual of gathering those present and those at home into the sacred space of chapter.

We remembered the two days of contemplation - times to breath and touch the deepest source.

We rememered the Opening Eucharist where were reminded that we are religious who dance to a different beat, reframing harsh reality into a new vision of hope and to keep the gospel fire burning in a post-gospel world.

We remembered the ILT report calling forth a 'what if?' in each of us and sharing that spark of hope with others.

We remembered the Finance Report, a reality check on the practicality of living our imagined possibilities.

As we begin a new agenda, building on the old, we were encouraged to hold the fire we have found within. The fire of Jesus has come; it has been kindled. That Pentecostal fire has settled on us, funneling its way into our hearts, sparked anew by Catherine's caught flame and transmitted by our founding Mercy women who heard a call and saw a need. Instead of asking 'why?' they imagined things that seemed impossible and said 'why not?'. We today are heirs to their courage and dreaming.

Highlights from this morning's prayer can be seen in today's Chapter Video which can be viewed in the Chapter Communications Centre, the App or at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/229948075>



Ready for another day: Nerida Tinkler, Bernadette Ahearn, Karon Donnellon, Angela Reed and Faith Jones.



About to begin: Cathy Solano, Schola Fakiwi, Marg Broadbent and Helen Owens.



Lighting fire on the Earth: Duyen Nguyen, Joan Wilson, Eveline Crotty, Maureen Sexton and Theresia Boyek.

Thank you John!

The Chapter formally thanked John Hume (IT Support Analyst, Team Leader) for his assistance with technology support and resolving our individual IT issues. John returned to Stanmore after being based at Chapter for the past three days.