



**ISMAPNG  
CHAPTER 2017**

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

# CHAPTER NEWS

18 AUGUST 2017 - ISSUE THREE - ISMAPNG CHAPTER

## ANCIENT WISDOM WILL GUIDE US HOME

As the Chapter entered into two days of focusing on the future of the Institute, Cathy Solano and Anila Isaac prepared a beautiful morning ritual that invited people to reflect on what we have already become as we seek to answer the question 'Who are we becoming by the Grace of God?'. They asked us to enter into the richness of the traditions and cultures that have shaped and informed us.



During the singing of 'Ancient Words', Sisters carried forward symbols of sacred and ancient wisdom, including our oral tradition of Papua New Guinea and Australia, as well as the symbols of thousands of mercy women past and present, whose words and actions have incarnated God's mercy in our world. The scrolls containing the names of the Institute's Sisters were also brought forward (see picture above).

Cathy pondered as to whether Catherine would have ever imagined that her prayer could or would be spoken in so many languages, in so many lands and by so many women and men of mercy. The parts of the Suscipe were prayed in different languages symbolising our unity, as well as our diversity. Following the dreadful actions of Pauline Hanson in the Australian Parliament this was a poignant way to commence today's proceedings.

**There are some highlights from this morning's prayer in today's Chapter video which is available on the Communications Centre, the App or at: <https://vimeo.com/230108954>**

## SOLIDARITY WITH MUSLIM WOMEN

Following Pauline Hanson's shocking action in the Senate, this morning we emailed a statement to Senators - Hanson, Brandis, Wong and Parry. It was also sent to the Australian Muslim Women's Association, Capital City papers and some Catholic press. The statement reads: *The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, through their delegates meeting in Chapter this week, stand in solidarity with our Muslim sisters, following Pauline Hanson's disrespectful action towards them in wearing the burqa into the Senate Chamber. In addition we commend Senator George Brandis for his just and immediate condemnation of the actions of Ms Hanson.*

The Australian Muslim Women's Association has responded: *Thank you so much for your very kind statement of support. Pauline's actions are indeed most unfortunate and do not do her cause or her reputation any benefit. We also agree with you that the response from the Attorney General, the Hon. George Brandis was unexpected and excellent. We cannot help but agree that this was a case of 'come the hour, come the man. Please keep us in mind for any projects that we may be able to assist you with.*



# TAKING IT ALL DOWN... AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARIAT STAFF

The Chapter would not be able to function without the great work of our wonderful Secretariat staff (Liz Callen, Colleen Rhodes, Anne Hetherington and Helen Mary Peters).

In an interview for today's Chapter video, these four Sisters said their role is to pay close and careful attention to each session in their task of compiling the minutes. The draft minutes are sent to the Chapter Secretary (Frances Fitzpatrick) and her committee for checking. They are then sent to the delegates electronically, before being accepted by the Chapter at the start of the session the next day.

The four Sisters divide up the workload by working in groups of two, with one typing and the other keeping written notes for checking. The hardest part of their role is to decipher some of the handwriting, however they are suitably professional and not forthcoming in revealing who might be the worst culprits!



The Sisters say they are enjoying the privilege of being at Chapter and fulfilling this important role. They are, however, looking forward to Sunday's day off and by all accounts this will be a well deserved break for these Sisters.

**There is a full interview in today's Chapter video which is available in the Communications Centre, the App or at: <https://vimeo.com/230108954>**



Far Left: Sharon Price and Helen Owens.



Left: Berneice Loch and Bernadette Ahearn in matching jackets!



Far Left: Cecilia Rowe and Colleen Rhodes.



Left: Elaine Wainwright and Anne McGuire.



Far Left: Delegates enjoying the Sydney sun.



Left: Helen White and Theresia Boyek.