



# CONVERSAR NEWS



January 2015

COMPANIONS – A COMMUNITY OF CONSOLATION

## Companions Conference 2015 - Wellington New Zealand Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 3pm to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2pm 'Composition of Place'

### **Pre-Conference Pilgrimage to Huriharama**

Bus leaves Home of Compassion at 10am Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August returning 2pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August. The pilgrimage includes an easy 1½ hours walk beside the Wanganui River from Ranana (Rome) to Huriharama (Jerusalem). Shared dormitory style accommodation is provided on the night of 12<sup>th</sup> at Huriharama, a significant site for the Sisters of Compassion.

### **Conference**

**Begins 3pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August and Concludes 2pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

<b>Guest Presenters</b>	Elizabeth Julian	<i>'Aspects of a Spirituality of Place'</i>
	Mark Chamberlain	<i>'The Spiritual Exercises and Composition of Place''</i>

**Elizabeth Julian** is a Sister of Mercy working within The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand Te Pūtahi Katorika ki Aotearoa (TCI). Elizabeth holds an MEd (Religious Education) from Boston College and a Doctorate in Ministry from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Elizabeth lives in community in Newtown Wellington.

**Mark Chamberlain** is a parish priest in the Diocese of Dunedin where he also works as a Chaplain, to the Hospital and the University, a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition, and a psychotherapist. Mark is also a lecturer with the University of Divinity teaching on the Arrupe program in New Zealand.

**Conference Location—** The Sisters of Compassion, Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay, Wellington New Zealand

**As this conference is expected to be very well attended please register your Expression of interest (EOI) for the Pilgrimage, and/or Conference as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.**

To register go to [www.arrupe.org.nz](http://www.arrupe.org.nz) and select the **Companions Conference** tab

### NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Lynette Toohey** is a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus whose charism is to discover and reveal the love of the heart of God in the heart of the world. She has studied in social work, pastoral care, theology and spiritual direction. Lynette finds particular joy in accompanying people on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> annotation retreat as they discover for the first time or rediscover how very personally they are loved by God and how active God is in their lives.

**Cecilia Formby** was born in England and came to Australia with her husband David and two small children in 1973. They have six children and two long term foster children, and many other short term foster children. She did the retreat in daily life more than 25 years ago, guided by a Good Samaritan Sister. Cecilia completed the full 30 day retreat in 2014. graduated from the Arrupe Program in Queensland in early 2008 and now gives the Spiritual Exercises. Cecilia graduated from the MEC's Spiritual Direction course in Oct 2013 and is also interested in general spiritual direction.

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## YOUR NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THEIR ROLES

**Chair:** Anne Wakatama email: anne.wakatama1@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Ludmilla Milo email: ludmil@virginbroadband.com.au  
**Secretary:** Cecilia Formby email: ceciliaformby@hotmail.com

### Committee Members:

Dale Keenan email: dukeenan@bigpond.net.au Kevin Gallagher email: kevingallagher@xtra.co.nz  
Mary McInerney email: Mary.Mcinerney@sosj.org.au Lynette Toohey email: lynettetoohy@hotmail.com

### Observer

Iain Radvan S.J. email: INAVDAR@yahoo.com

### Provincial's Representatives:

John Reilly S.J. email: reillygj@bigpond.com Michael Ryan S.J. email: micksj@gmail.com

**Website:** Dale Keenan

**Conference Convenor 2015:** Kevin Gallagher

### NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

**Mary McInerney** is married with four adult children and 7 grandchildren. She has a background in nursing and nurse management and worked in the public health system for over 30 years. She trained in contemplative Spiritual Direction at the Sydney Centre for Religious Development and completed training in Ignatian models of spiritual direction. She currently works in Pastoral Care at an aged care hostel in Sydney and has completed a Master of Arts (Chaplaincy). Mary's interest and involvement in Ignatian Spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises has extended over twenty years as a member of the Christian Life Community and in recent times being trained in and giving the First Spiritual Exercises as adapted by Michael Hansen SJ.

### Inspiring Ignatian Conference in Hong Kong – November – December 2014

Hong Kong - crowded, noisy, smoggy and friendly. This city is one of the most densely populated places on earth and the landscape is dominated by skyscrapers. Yet there was room for more at Wah Yan College when over 600 spiritual directors and others with an interest in Ignatian spirituality gathered for four days of presentations and workshops. Hosted by Xavier retreat house on Cheung Chau island in the bay, this conference is held every four years. Speakers included Monty Williams, Jose Garcia de Castro, Javier Melloni Ribas and Cecil Azzopardi (from Europe) and our own Marlene Marburg and Bernie Miles with assistance from Francis Tilly, Michael Hansen and Rachael McLoughlin.

As is usual at Ignatian gatherings, meeting with other participants, both lay and religious, Catholic and Protestant was an integral part of the conference and a great encouragement. People came from retreat houses and individually from all over the world. Interestingly, there is huge interest in China and Taiwan for the **First Spiritual Exercises** and copies of Michael Hansen's books were in great demand. As a fitting conclusion to the conference a small group of overseas visitors and locals made a seven hour bus and ferry pilgrimage to Shangchuan Island inside mainland China, the first burial site of St Francis Xavier. Thanks to the team at Xavier house, especially to Mickie Yau who conceived and brought the conference to fruition.

Iain Radvan for **Conversar News**

**Editor's Note:** - Iain is also a new participant on the National Committee of Companions as an observer but hopefully to become a full member once he has completed his Arrupe commitments. Our next edition will give a more complete biography of Iain and his work in Ignatian Spirituality.

### DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR COMPANIONS

As you will know, Companions was established with funding from the Jesuit Province to help develop the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises initially in Australia and more recently in South East Asia and New Zealand. In the last twelve months the Centres for Ignatian Spirituality have been working on strategic plans for the work of the centres. Michael Hansen and his team have also spent a lot of time developing their own plan to fit in with and better articulate the place of the **First Spiritual Exercises** in the overall ministry of Ignatian spirituality.

Companions made a step towards developing a better sense of our role in the scheme of things several years ago when a small group met to discern and articulate a **Statement of Purpose** for Companions. At our Face to Face Meeting in Melbourne in December we resolved to use this statement as the basis for developing the **Companions Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2017**. To this end a small committee comprising John Reilly, Michael Ryan and Lynette Toohey have undertaken to meet and further develop the ideas we discussed at our Committee Meeting. The document will elaborate our **Core Apostolic Priorities** and then a set of **Enabling Priorities** needed for these to be realised. I have included a copy of the Companions Statement of Purpose with **Conversar News**. If you feel you have something to offer to this process please contact any one of the sub-committee members.

Anne Wakatama Chair **Companions**