

Update from Tshwaranang,
the HIV/TB/ Aids hospice
in South Africa led by the
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



Newsletter 13, October 2013

Reflections

Mary Gagiano, Bookkeeper RIP.

Fr. Tom Hewitt, MSC, writes:

On May 13th Fr. Jimmy and I were saddened to hear of Mary Gagiano's death. She had chosen to spend her last days in Tshwaranang Hospice where she died peacefully. During this time she would repeatedly say 'Alles is reg' ('All is well').

Mary was a very good friend to Jimmy and me, and indeed to all MSCs. I came to know Mary and her beloved husband Gerry when I worked in the Midrand Parish between 1989 and 1993. She supported all the good things that were happening in our rapidly growing community. I particularly appreciated her support as an unflappable secretary to the finance committee. We were engaged in some tricky negotiations involving the building of a new Parish house and the sale of the original one ten miles away. Mary was unfailingly calm and optimistic – unlike me!



Fr Jimmy Stubbs, MSC, writes:

I got to know Mary long before I came to Midrand, through her connections to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Later, when I served in the parish from 1998 to 2006, Mary was an invaluable member of the parish community, whether as sacristan, minister of the Eucharist, accountant or friend. Her hearty laugh was always a tonic. Mary was an initial member of the *Friends of the Sacred Heart* and her devotion to the Sacred Heart and support of the MSCs was an example to everyone.

Her home, with Gerry, was a most welcoming place at all times. I enjoyed many a cup of coffee with them. I have no doubt that Mary will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her. May she find rest and peace in the Sacred Heart.

Last message to our parish from: Mary Gagiano (MSC Promotion Office) **Sent:** 14 November 2011 09:11

Thank you for all your hard work and support for Tshwaranang. It is really appreciated, and brings dignity and peace to many who are actually dying. Thanks once again and God Bless you. Lots of Love, Mary.

Gentle woman ♦ Peaceful dove ♦ Full of wisdom, full of love

Writer's block is rarely due to a lack of ink. This long overdue issue includes some poems inspired by Mary Gagiano and all of you who are helping in one way or another. For an update on the situation on HIV/Aids in South Africa, and the current struggle that hospices are facing, please read the articles in the launch edition our parish's *Magazine*. Enjoy the puzzle below by finding the door number that matches each lettered poem/text.

A

THANK YOU

To these special benefactors

- A lawyer who donated her "swears" amounting to £162.85
- A generous birthday girl who gave £250
- An industrious and creative couple who have raised a total of £5,176 through their tea-towel cottage industry
- A diligent book-keeper who secured a £1,164 rebate from HMRC.

Many people leave a compliment or note of thanks in a guest book after a visit to a B & B. What would you write if you were leaving a place you had previously entered in a dying way? **Poem B** below gives thanks: to God and the hospice staff; with their great care, most patients are now recovering and going home (with anti-viral drug regimens).

The 1st verse of this poem is about this turnaround, and the last lines are something for 'the guest book' at Tshwaranang.

C

from Postscript (1996) by Seamus Heaney

You are neither here nor there,
A hurry through which known and strange things pass
As big soft buffetings come at the car sideways
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

Gratitude to Unknown Instructors by WB Yeats

D

What they undertook to do
They brought to pass;
All things hang like a drop of dew
Upon a blade of grass.

E

From a 1st c. storyteller

"The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the inn-keeper, and said, 'take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever you spend'. Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? He said, 'The one who showed him mercy'. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise'."

B

'The Guest Book'

There's no longer one-way traffic
through Hampton Road's fair door;
Caught in time, for some
Disease reversed,
Lives to live a more.

Before good-byes, regimes reviewed
Stark health warnings given.

Wonderlike Half-Way Huis
Thanks be to God for
new earth 'in heaven'.

Some notes on the poem

Patients now are going back out of the door they came in.

The hospice is located on Hampton Road.

If HIV is caught early, there is a second chance,

They can live a life, full of love.
A more = amore = love

Before they return home, the hospice is required to ensure patients know they must take their medicine, and avoid risky behaviour.

In Afrikaans, huis=house
Wonderlike = wonderful
from *The Lord's Prayer*

CAN YOU MATCH the door number with the letter of associated text? Answers below.



ANSWERS to door match :
Door #1 is at the Museum of the Good Samaritan on the Jericho-Jerusalem Road, the setting of the story of the Good Samaritan = Text E. Door #2 is at the Bellaghy Bawn, a cattle barn in Bellaghy, Tyrone, the hometown of poet Seamus Heaney = C. Door # 3 belongs to Tshwaranang Hospice = Text B.
Door #4 at Thoor Ballylee in Galway, was once the home of William Butler Yeats = D.
Door # 5 belongs to HSBC Bank on Chequers Street, St. Albans = A!