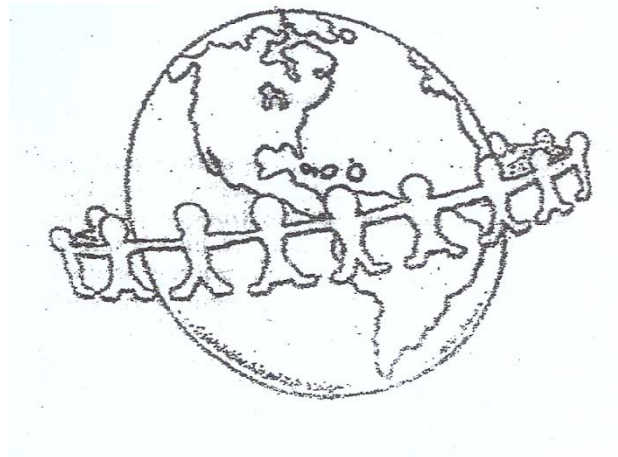


VINCULUM



Newsletter of



**The Secular Institute
Servitium Christi**

EASTER 2017

Dublin
Easter 2017

Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing (Luke 23 : 34)

Dear Members and Friends

Easter approaches and our Lenten preparation is nearing its completion. Our time of self-denial is nearly over, as we prepare to remember the extreme self-denial that Jesus endured for us - yielding up his human life with unspeakable suffering at the hands of His tormentors.

Our lives are not short of tormentors either. We have all had experiences where others have abused or exploited us, where they have hurt or harmed us, where they have broken our trust. And if we look deep into our hearts, we will find that we are not without our own misdemeanours, without many situations where we have caused pain and hurt. Even within Servitium Christi distressing situations can arise. It's part of the frailty of our human nature. Jesus had embraced our human nature and felt all its pains, but yet, He was able to forgive His tormentors.

Forgiveness is not just about doing as Jesus did - though that is of course important. Forgiveness frees us and restores us to the joy of being children of God. It is of more benefit to us, than to the person who is forgiven. Someone once said that holding on to resentment is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die! Reflecting on the example of Jesus is the anti-dote to that poison.

This Easter, let us ask the Lord for the grace to forgive those who have hurt us, and that those whom we have hurt may have the grace to forgive us. In that way, we will all be able to experience in all its fullness the joy of Easter, and to greet Him with a heartfelt "Rabbuni!", feeling all the joy felt by Mary Magdalen on the first Easter Day.

Though we are so far apart from each other, Vinculum, keeps us in touch, linking us as, the name suggests, across the miles. However as a Eucharistic Community we are always present to each other. Let us be very aware of this togetherness at Easter time when we celebrate not just the death and Resurrection of our Saviour, but the Institution of the Eucharist, the centre of our lives. As the newer groups continue to grow and flourish, some of the longer-established groups are challenged by age-related matters. We all have our part to play in our Community, whatever our age, or social circumstances. Together let us continue to live our lives in such a way that we can bring Christ's forgiving, reconciling Presence into the lives of others.

Many thanks to Maria Angelica for all her work in bringing us this edition of Vinculum. I wish you all a happy and holy Easter Season. Please keep me and the General Council in your prayers, and be assured that you are never far from my thoughts.

Love and Prayers always,

Mary Keane
General Directress

NEWS

Netherland

“Please keep our dear friend Lies van Lexmond in your prayers. On 18 March she suffered a severe stroke. It has left her with paralysis and also some problems with her digestive tract. Now she is in a nursing home”

Mary Keane

We send her our fraternal love and prayers.

“Christ is Risen”

Alleluia!

Next issue : August 2017

Items for inclusion to be received by 15 July. Please send to María Angélica as attachment to e-mail : servitiumchristi@hotmail.com, or at FAX No. 56 2 29825878, or to Juan Francisco González 653- Villa El Andén- San Bernardo.-Chile.