



FYI: It's rose...not pink!

Because Christmas is almost here
Because dancing fits so well with music
Because inside baby clothes are miracles.

Gaudete

Because some people love you
Because pain does not last forever

Gaudete

Because there really are angels
Because forgiveness is yours for the asking
Because of children and parents

Gaudete

Because the blind see and the lame walk.

Gaudete

Because lepers are clean and the deaf hear.

Gaudete



Because the dead will live again
And there is good news for the poor.

Gaudete

Because of Christmas,

Because of Jesus

You rejoice!

Shirley Horn is affiliated



*Michael Sullivan, provincial minister,
with Shirley Horn*

Shirley Horn served the St. Lawrence Seminary community for *over 50 years* in one capacity or another. Shirley first worked for several years in the seminary's vocation office before moving on in 1974 to the position in which she served until her recent retirement. As an administrative assistant and associate business manager, Shirley had a very long list of responsibilities and tasks, which she went about cheerfully and quietly, and interacted with staff, friars, and anyone else who happened to stop by her office. As anyone on the SLS staff knows, Shirley could easily problem-solve, offer suggestions and often simultaneously, take phone calls, schedule service calls, un-jam the copy machine and wade through a complex tangle of insurance issues, department budgets, and tax questions. After the 2014 St. Joseph Hall fire, she was instrumental in keeping the business office operating, as

well as re-assembling thousands and thousands of pages of records either lost or damaged in the fire. When people make a job look easy, it's because they have worked for it for years and know how to do it like no one else.

For these, and for many other reasons, Shirley Horn was affiliated to the province recently.

Welcome to our extended family, Shirley!



Fraternal collaborators meet the OPCC



Milwaukee



Detroit

Recently, Amy Peterson (director, of the Office of Pastoral Care and Conciliation) met with our fraternal collaborating brothers in Milwaukee and Detroit for a one-day workshop on “safety and misconduct issues.” She was joined by former friar Jim Reynolds, a member of the Provincial Review Board. Bill Hugo, who coordinates fraternal collaboration, also attended the workshops.

Catching people before they fall



Pope Francis’ visit to the Capuchin Day Center on Dublin’s Church Street this summer was a special moment for Threshold, the homelessness prevention charity.

“The papal visit – the fact that the pope went to Brother Kevin’s place, a Capuchin just round the corner from here is absolutely key because that’s how we’re founded,” said John-Mark McCafferty, Threshold’s CEO. “We’ve very solid foundations through the Capuchins, and we’ve maintained that kind of ethos, that kind of charism, through our work which is very

much values-based, social justice in action, and our advocacy work and the provision of our services.”

That Threshold is a Capuchin-founded organization might come as a surprise to some, but looked at another way, the 40-year-old charity could be seen as a sister body to the Capuchin Day Center, intended to catch people before they fall into homelessness and desperation.

“We were established in 1978 by Capuchin +Donal O’Mahony, who was a Capuchin lay friar,” Threshold’s Fund-raising Manager Cora Ó Liatháin says, with John-Mark explaining that Threshold initially operated out of the Capuchin friary on Church Street, with Donal maintaining links with the charity up to his death in 2010, though his emphasis in his latter years had mainly been in peace-building.

The scale of the homelessness issue in modern Ireland probably really can’t be downplayed, and John-Mark has warm words of welcome for ‘A Room at the Inn?’, the bishops’ new pastoral letter in response to the housing crisis. This was a constant theme for him when he was on the bishops’ Justice and Peace Commission in connection his previous role as advocacy manager for the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

“If you want peace, work for justice.” ~ Paul VI

We saw you at the Advent Retreat...

The annual weekend Advent retreat was held recently at Marytown, featuring MJ Groark as the presenter. MJ shared his meditative reflections on St. Bonaventure's essay "The Five Feasts of the Child Jesus." What struck your editor were the two keywords in MJ's reflections: *control* and *gratitude*. It was an appropriate prelude to the feast of the Nativity. Friars from Chicago and Milwaukee participated in the retreat.



