

We pray with the Church and the world

General Intention of the Holy Father: Work Security. That everyone may have work in safe and secure conditions.

Missionary Intention: Christian Volunteers. That Christian volunteers in mission territories may witness to the love of Christ.

July 18th each year is Nelson Mandela International Day and it not only celebrates his life, but it is also a global call to action for people to recognise their ability to have a positive effect on others around them. Values highlighted on this day include democracy, freedom, equality, diversity, reconciliation and respect.

July 30th is the United Nations International Day of Friendship. It was proclaimed in 2011 with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

On July 28th Hoa Thi Tran will make her Perpetual Profession in South East Asia as a member of the Australian province. We pray with Hoa for God's blessing on this commitment to the Institute.

We pray with the Institute

(Continuing with extracts from the *Capacity for Life & Ministry Assessment*)

“A fundamental aspect of the Assessment relates to the individual sisters within the Institute and, accordingly, we spent a considerable amount of time in our discussions with each Province or Region considering the question of current membership and ministry, future vocations, formation programmes and care needs of the sisters. The history of the Institute throughout the world is told as a story about individual sisters and their communities, their generosity of spirit and their focus on their particular mission. **It is evident from our work that individual members of the Institute are its most valuable resource.**

The total membership at the end of 2011 was 875 sisters. The average age of members in the Institute is 69 years. According to projections made, it is suggested that by 2026 there will be 622 members with an average age of 61 years”.
Report p.19

One Small Voice

“It is evident that factors of societal and social change are now impacting on the life of religious in a manner that did not occur in the past. Alterations in legislation and employment, health and safety, care of the aged and litigation have produced many changes in the Institute in which religious minister and live and, whilst once relative privacy of religious life would have provided an insulation against such social change, we now find that these factors impinge on religious life in the same way as other groups.

It is however, our view that the significance of such changes may not always be apparent to those who are not in leadership and believe that there is a need to ensure that every member, within the Institute, is fully informed of the significance of such changes, whether it be on employees, members themselves or those to whom you minister. Through such communication will grow an increasing awareness of the responsibilities of stewardship, in all its aspects, for every member of the Institute”.
Report p. 69

Let us pray

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life with fear. Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God to whom you belong will in his love enable you to profit by them.

God has guided you thus far in life.

Hold fast to God's hand, and God will lead you safely through all trials. Whenever you cannot stand, you will be carried lovingly in God's arms.

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same Eternal One who takes care of you today will take care of you tomorrow, and every day of your life. Either God will shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then, and put aside all useless thoughts, all vain dreads and all anxious imaginations.

Adapted from Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)



July 2012