



## CAUSE OF VENERABLE MARY AIKENHEAD NEWSLETTER NO. 22 NOVEMBER 2022



On 27th August 2022, David and Robert Akenhead visited the Heritage Centre, Harold's Cross Dublin. Both are distant cousins of Venerable Mary Aikenhead and very keen to maintain their interest in her life and work. This was Robert's first visit, David had been in Ireland for the 200th anniversary in 2015 with his daughter Charlotte. Sr. Mary Roche invited them to lunch, and Srs Helen Butler and Phyllis Behan joined them also. Mary then

gave them the tour of the Heritage Centre. The usual 'cup of tea' followed with much chat and ended in the Chapel where David sang a song by Nana Mouskouri: 'A Balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole....' it was a lovely visit.

The **INTERNATIONAL NOVENA** leading up to the 22nd seems to be spreading thanks to the enthusiasm of Sisters and Friends. May we continue to use these occasions to spread knowledge of and devotion to Mary Aikenhead.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

6th November 2022.

### COP27 CLIMATE SUMMIT 2022

Show the film: **THE LETTER: A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH** .

'We are the weather makers'. Let us be part of the solution and not just watchers on the sidelines. What 'climate-friendly' changes' can we bring about in our own area? (See The Tablet 29th October 2022)

**13/11/2022**

see MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE **SIXTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 13th November 2022**.

"For your sakes Christ became poor (2 Cor.8:9)

What small thing can we do?

**19/01/2023** Birthday remembrance of Venerable Mary Aikenhead. Enjoy the celebrations.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

There were great celebrations, reflections and services around the globe on the **22nd July** to celebrate Mary Aikenhead's anniversary. Sr Patricia Lenihan of the Religious Sisters of Charity wrote saying: 'it is a unique experience when the daughters of Mary Aikenhead's two Congregations can come together (via zoom) to celebrate her legacy with our Companions, Associates, New Life Groups and Friends of Mary Aikenhead'.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE CONTINUED

**NIGERIA** The 22nd was celebrated in true African style with singing and dancing to the song, The Charity of Christ urges Us On. Following Mary Aikenhead's example of looking out for the ones less well off, the staff of Kirikiri hospital raised enough money to help fifty patients pay their hospital bills.

**ENGLAND/SCOTLAND.** Sr Maria Coates told us that on June 6th each convent in the Province celebrated the anniversary of Mary Aikenhead's entrance into the noviciate. A date that Mary loved to celebrate. A display to commemorate the event was put up in St Joseph's Hospice and Convent Chapels and a thanksgiving mass was offered by the Hospice Chaplain.

**AUSTRALIA:** Sr Anne Taylor continues to send prayer cards to every Australian Sister of Charity and to the Year 12 students and their families for final Secondary School exams in October. Each card has a saying of Venerable Mary Aikenhead on it and thus knowledge and devotion to her continues to be spread. Well done Sr Anne.

### AFRICAN RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF CHARITY VISIT THE HERITAGE CENTRE DUBLIN

Sisters Elizabeth Udofia, Cleopatra Nakwenda, Sarah Youmene, Cynthia Nwaichi, Francisca Obosherino, Rosemary Agada, Blessing Ekanem, & Agatha Maurice all attended a 6 week Final Vows Preparation Program in August-September 2022.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE CONTINUED



The Sisters lived with different RSC communities while in Dublin and did both the Dublin and Cork Trails, re-tracing the steps of Mary Aikenhead and her 'Walking Nuns'. They also visited Foxford woollen mills founded by Sr Mary Arsenius RSC. The mill is still going strong. They had a very full programme, and their youthfulness and vitality was a

pleasure to experience and share in.

## A STORY FROM A FRIEND OF MARY AIKENHEAD - PHILLIPINES

I met Venerable Mary Aikenhead because I searched on the Internet and I noticed the website of the Religious Sisters of Charity, founded by a Venerable named Mary Aikenhead. She is described as one of nursing's greatest leaders! Mary opened St Vincent's Hospital Dublin, dedicated to care for all the sick poor, regardless of background or creed. How great is this! She loves the Poor and the sick! When I read this, I immediately searched her name and read her Short Biography. Her Story is so inspiring!

"Mary developed a deep life of prayer, marked by the habit of praying always, of living in the presence of God, and striving to find God in all things."

I found out that there is also a "Friends of Mary Aikenhead" group. I joined this. I feel that Venerable Mary Aikenhead has called me



to spread her Holy Life and Story here in Bicol! I created a Friends of Mary Aikenhead Facebook Page here in Bicol.

I wanted more young people to learn something of her life and mission and in our own small way do what we can to make life better for those who are poor or needy in some way.

I thought it was easy, but there are so many people on Social Media who are competing with me and mocking me as if saying that I can't do it and I'm too young for it and I don't know anything about promotion and no one will join Friends, they also screen me, it hurts, but with the Grace and Mercy of God, there are already 7 in the group and want to Promote the Holy Life and Story of Venerable Mary Aikenhead.

I received much support from my Family and Friends and from Religious Sisters in promoting Venerable Mary Aikenhead! I am praying that many more young people will meet the Venerable Foundress Mary Aikenhead, and spread her Holy Life and Story to others.

May Venerable Mary Aikenhead, Pray for us and May she lead us to a path of Holiness. May God Bless us all!  
In Jesus and his Holy Mother.

Bro Richmel

## A FRIEND OF MARY AIKENHEAD IN IRELAND TELLS HER STORY

My name is **Breda Galvin** and I am a member of the Cork Friends of Mary Aikenhead. There are seven of us in the group and I am happy to have assumed the role of leader. Our becoming Friends grew out of our association with the Sisters in the convent, in the schools and in the neighbourhood. Over the years we had all become very aware of the legacy of Venerable Mary Aikenhead and the manifestation of her motto "Caritas Christi Urget Nos" in the lives of

the Sisters.

The role of the Cork FMA is very much centred around the Cork Trail and bringing visitors on the trail. We had been doing this on an annual basis with the African Sisters and with members of Mary Aikenhead ministries from the Sisters of Charity of Australia until the Covid pandemic struck. I am the link person in organising the Trail from the Cork end and responsible for communicating with the Dublin Team and our group.

We enjoy bringing visitors to Mary Aikenhead's place of birth and these days are always a joyous and rewarding experience for us as Friends. Each of the Friends is encouraged to lead the story at various locations associated with her young life in Cork and to carry out their own research on that location. We end the trail with a Prayer Service in the South Chapel, the Church where, on hearing a sermon on Lazarus and Dives, the seeds of Venerable Mary Aikenhead's vocation were sown.

Sr. Helen, our leader is very encouraging and this year with her blessing I as leader, invited a new member, who teaches in the secondary school to join the Friends. Our hope is that this link with the younger generation will inspire young people to embrace the Charism of Venerable Mary Aikenhead which was "to give to the poor what the rich can buy for money". This option is still very relevant for today's world.

The formation of this group has enabled the Friends to be involved in other related activities in cooperation with the Sisters, e.g. two of the Friends volunteered to prepare the Sunday Mass for the residents of St. Vincent's Centre.

The group also offers a solidarity and a support for each member in that we are able to join in prayer with the Sisters in times of joy and sorrow and in celebrating the events marking the life of Venerable Mary Aikenhead.

**May our Holy Father bless and protect you and each around you. (Ven Mary Aikenhead)**