



RSHM Highlights

Eastern American Area

Spring 2023

(Excerpted from Sister Margaret Fielding's address to the Extended Institute Leadership Council in November 2022, referencing RSHM change from separate area units to one single entity of governance.)

“Listen to the Holy Spirit’s promptings and press ahead towards what awaits you.”

(GS 7/X/1878)

We come together in this “period of experimentation”

as we journey “towards becoming one unit of governance....” It is also a very significant time in our Church as it moves forward on the Synodal journey towards becoming a more collaborative and inclusive Church.

Our background is a world still emerging from a global pandemic, a world caught in the turmoil of widespread political and civil unrest, war and violence, a world increasingly affected by natural disasters, a world in which hunger is reaching catastrophic levels and a world, too, that is increasingly multicultural, interconnected and interdependent.

Our logo for this meeting expresses the theme of journeying from the past, represented by the green shoots that were sown at our 2019 General Chapter, when we set out on the journey of restructuring. The journey ahead looks steep, but we are not alone. The cloud of bright light represents the Holy Spirit who is enlightening us, urging us forward, *prompting* us to choose God’s way. The Spirit, the Consoler, strengthens and unites our minds and hearts and brings them into harmony with the mind and heart of Christ (God’s way), makes them available to what God wants.

The journey of restructuring continues to involve all of us, the whole Institute, young and old. We must not forget that its purpose is mission: that we may carry out our mission effectively today and in the future – that, as numbers decrease and structures become simpler and lighter, we may be light and salt, small but making a difference wherever we are. At



this stage in our journey of restructuring, we trust that God’s Spirit is opening new horizons and inviting us - all of us – to new ways of living our life and mission in the 21st century.

As we discern God’s invitations to us today and how we can respond to them, we can be certain that we will be given the

resources that we need for mission. This was the belief of Father Gailhac when he wrote: *“I shall pray only that you may have what is necessary to accomplish the works to which God will call you.”* We may no longer have large numbers of sisters, but we have the strength of our unity, the richness of our diversity of gifts, languages and cultures, the wealth and inspiration of our charism which we want to live today “with resilience” and in new ways. We continue to welcome new entrants in some of our areas and we are blessed with a growing spirit of collaboration within the Institute and with lay people, a gift which enables and empowers us to respond to today’s urgent needs both locally and globally. And we have the advantage of today’s communication technology to deepen unity and lighten the burden of administration. Can we recognize that this time of restructuring, which is requiring us to reduce our works and our properties in the face of declining numbers, is also offering us the grace of opting for the essentials in our choices for mission. Can we see that we are indeed blessed?

We will open the Year of Jean Gailhac during this meeting. May it be a year of abundant blessings for us and for all who are associated with us in mission. So let us ask with great trust, through the intercession of Father Gailhac, to have hearts and minds that are attentive to “the Holy Spirit’s promptings” and let us ask with the same trust that in the year - and years - ahead we *“may have what is necessary to accomplish the works to which God “will call [us].” Let us now “press ahead towards what awaits [us].”*

The Faith-Vision of Père Jean Gailhac – Part I

This article is Part I of a compilation by Cleve Youngblood, RSHM, which she describes as “a synthesis of two writings by Sister Mary Milligan, RSHM, scholar and theologian, professor and dean, RSHM provincial and general superior. Mary did all the work of reading the writings of Père Gailhac and organizing them into an eloquent expression of his spirit-charism. My brief description of Père Gailhac’s faith-vision is the result of her reflections and analysis.” Part II will appear in the next issue of Highlights.

“God created me for Himself; He wants me to live only for His love and His glory. From my youth He has filled me with His holy fire. My heart has never wished to live without His love. That is not all. I have always felt in me the duty and the need to make Him loved. Quite young, He called me to the priesthood. I agreed to be a priest only on condition that I would live only to love Him and make Him loved. From my childhood, God has placed in me a great love for souls. That is the source of the works that He has urged me to undertake, ...”¹

Here in the writings of Père Jean Gailhac we find the foundation of his faith-vision. It is a two-fold vision reflecting Jesus’ teaching on the law: love God and love one’s neighbor. “Total commitment to God and total gift of oneself to others are one reality for our founder.”²

Gailhac’s commitment to God is not only loving God personally but devoting himself to glorifying God by making God loved through the work of saving of souls. Love of God can only be accomplished through God, who became human in order to lead all to God. Loving God requires knowing God and it is the Triune God that Gailhac knows.

For Gailhac, God as Father is one “eternally covenanted” with humans as creator and guide, the source of holiness. All good flows from the Father, whether it is an individual talent, a person who accompanies us, or success in an



apostolate. “Let us give glory to God and let us think that if God does some good with such poor instruments, what good would He not do if we were saints!”³ All that God does is done with love because God is love. Love is God’s life. Every act of God demonstrates love for humans, whether it is blessing, encouragement, compassion, forgiveness, or consolation. God’s love is always faithful, never indifferent. It is a Father’s infinite love, embracing each person. It is manifested in the Son, because it is Jesus who fully lives the life of the Father, a life of love.⁴

God the Son, Jesus Christ, is central to Gailhac’s faith-vision. The Son was sent to reveal the Father and bring about the salvation of souls. Two titles Gailhac gives Jesus are Model and Savior. In His humanity, Jesus is the model for us. His words and actions reveal the Father. He attracts and enables us by his example. “I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you” (Jn 13:15). Gailhac’s challenge for us is to be true reflections of Jesus’ life, to become other Christs.⁵

Jesus is a model for humans in his relationship to the Father. It is a relationship that is one with the Father in thoughts, words, and deeds. At all times, Jesus does the Father’s will because He is one with the Father. “He was constantly concerned to do what the Father does (Jn 5:19), to give life as the Father does (Jn 5:21), to say what He had heard from the Father (Jn 8:26).”⁶ For Gailhac, Jesus is a model of obedience, who empties and humbles himself (Phil 2:7-8) in an expression of great love. His greatest act of humility was the Incarnation, being born in the image of humans, because Jesus shares the Father’s own love for humankind. Jesus was also a model in His relationships with others. He embodies God’s love for humans which motivates His self-emptying for the glory of God and salvation of souls.



Here, Jesus is the model of zeal – a zeal to make God known and loved. Gailhac uses the image of the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep, works zealously and compassionately to bring them back to the fold, and rejoices in their salvation. With Jesus as model, Gailhac encourages these traits of obedience, humility, compassion, and zeal as ways to come to know God.⁷

Gailhac's focus on Jesus as Savior is another significant aspect of his faith-vision. Jesus undertakes the work of salvation of humankind through His life, but it is His passion, death, and resurrection that accomplish it. Through the cross Jesus empties himself, sacrifices himself, expresses the greatest form of love by giving his life for us. By the cross, Jesus restores life, reconciling us to God. By the resurrection, Jesus invites us into this new life. Gailhac uses this imagery of death and life to show how we enter into new life: by stripping ourselves of faults, by dying to ourselves, so as to embrace and live God's own life. Renunciation becomes the key to spiritual resurrection. Salvation is achieved by living a life in imitation of Christ.⁸

Within Gailhac's Christocentric faith-vision, the Holy Spirit plays a significant role. The founder sees the Spirit as the two-fold love of the Father and the Son, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. It is this Love-Spirit who enables the continuation of Jesus' life and mission by transforming humans into other Christs. Transformation occurs only when we are open to being led by the Spirit as Jesus was. Such

docility to the Spirit requires openness to the workings of the Spirit in our hearts and souls. It requires sacrifice because we become rooted in love by "dying to oneself." It is through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us that we are introduced into the love between the Father and the Son and are enabled to live in that love.⁹

To fully participate in the life of God we must be turned toward God ("Soyez a Dieu"). For Gailhac this means allowing oneself to belong to God, to be possessed by God ("etre a Dieu"). God is to be the motivation of all one's actions and the criterion of all one's choices. Being turned toward God requires a personal conversion, changing one's orientation from oneself to God. It is a dynamic process demanding continual renunciation, a deep desiring for God.¹⁰ It cannot be just a desire. It must be enacted through one's life. In a letter to the sisters, Gailhac writes: "My dear daughters, be turned toward God, love Him with all your heart, may He be all for you; be all for Him. With love, nothing is painful, nothing is costly.... The heart which loves uses everything in order to love more."¹¹ The one who models this for us is Jesus, whose life and being were fully turned toward God.



¹ *Ecrits du Père Jean Gailhac*, Vol. 10, p. 3425, as cited in Milligan, *That They May Have Life*, p. 179

² Milligan, *Spirituality*, p. 1

³ *Ecrits*, Vol. 10, p. 3371, *That They May Have Life*, p. 67

⁴ Milligan, *That They May Have Life*, pp. 66-73

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 85

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 88-89

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 90-91, 93-94

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 96-98

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 105, 110-111

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 115, 117-118

¹¹ *Ecrits*, Vol. 10, p. 3301, *That They May Have Life*, p. 120

YEAR OF GAILHAC SOLIDARITY GESTURES

The Global Network of RSHM Schools Celebrates The Year of Gailhac Through Community Service and Learning

Marymount Schools in London, Paris, and Rome developed a content-driven and interactive online seminar class for grade 6 and 7 students. The students explore new content critically and creatively in collaboration with their peers in London, Paris, and Rome. Students delve into topics/themes that engage them in solving a world problem relating to the core values and aligned to the vision of our Founders, “that all may have life.” Currently, the students study U.N. Climate Goal #14 - Water - as a social justice issue in solidarity with the most vulnerable. Students learn about access to clean water, water as a cause of war and peace, and ways to make access to water a reality for vulnerable communities. The culminating service event, a Walk for Water, will demonstrate the commitment of our global community. Donations gathered in support of this initiative will be offered to our sister community in Zimbabwe.

At Istituto Marymount Rome, a student-faculty FUN RUN for Mozambique is held in March and April. Open to all students, those signing up either run or walk 50km or 100km over a 30-day period. They are sponsored by friends and family to complete the run. The school organizes weekly running/walking groups to help students achieve their goals together and enjoy the community spirit. The FUN RUN money raised will go to the hostel run by the RSHM sisters in Mozambique where girls stay during the school year in order to pursue their education.

Walk For Water

Coming soon!

Walk for water to feel how much others have to walk to get water.

Photo credit: Water.org

Friday, March 31st
Grades 4 to 8

Wednesday, April 5th
Grades 1 to 3

Picture of RSHM Life Care Centre in Zimbabwe

Visit events.marymount.fr

This poster was designed by Yehseul.

Marymount
Sacred Heart School

Photo credit: Pixabay

In this anniversary year, the school is planning to set up a Padre Gailhac Student Grant fund. This fund would award a grant to a student in need to further his or her education. One example might be a grant to a student in another RSHM school (e.g., Brazil) which would allow him or her to travel on a cultural exchange to our school.

Colegios Marymount, Cuernavaca, Barranquilla, Medellin, and Bogata have created an area project: *Recognizing Women's Dignity through Father Gailhac's Eyes in Today's Society*. The project's objective is to “promote Gailhac's vision and respect for women through a social media campaign developed by our own students.” Activities include reflecting and brainstorming on translating Gailhac's message into concrete examples, developing content and messages to be shared on the schools' social media networks, and visiting a vulnerable community to share Father Gailhac's message and conduct an activity with young people.



The community at Marymount High School, Los Angeles will work with a local nonprofit organization, A Place Called Home (APCH), which was born out of the desire to provide a safe place for children and families afflicted by gang violence. The organization’s goal of supporting its members through programs in arts, education, and wellness for the young people in South Central Los Angeles is a natural fit with the RSHM mission. All students, faculty, and staff will participate at some point during the project. Alumnae and parents will also have the opportunity to join service activities. The 11th grade will participate through weekly activities including tutoring and sports practices.

Colegio de Nossa Senhora do Rosario, Porto expresses its solidarity gesture through its campaign, *Caring with the Heart Involves Action*. They will collect food for the families the school helps within the scope of the “Roots Project” (daily support for underprivileged children from the surrounding neighborhoods) and PAS (Project of Social Monitoring of the Homeless of the City).

*Information gathered by:
Susan Kumnick, Coordinator,
Global Network of RSHM Schools*



MARYMOUNT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN PARIS TO CELEBRATE CENTENARY YEAR

In September 2023, Marymount International School in Paris will embark on a second century of expanding hearts and minds as leaders of international Catholic education in France.

The centenary of our school is an auspicious occasion, and it gives us a perfect opportunity to reaffirm and harness our unique identity. To do this, Marymount Paris will take the best of what we are into the next century: Catholic, international, innovative, inclusive, and grounded in personal relationships and wellbeing.

Through highly personalized learning that places the child at the core, we will maintain our tradition of innovation in teaching children from around the world. Equipped with a robust and rich education, our students are developed to become people of conscience with informed and principled perspectives, enabling them to see themselves as agents of peace and justice capable of engaging meaningfully with others to shape the 21st century.

Throughout the centenary year, and the preparation of the events, Marymount Paris invites our community to:

Know: Honor our past to articulate how the RSHM mission inspires and shapes our future.

Feel: Reignite relationships with our Global Network of RSHM Schools with a deep sense of pride and belonging.

Do: With the Trustees, plan the future strategically with opportunities for participation from the global community.

Framed within the four pillars of the school's strategic plan, our centenary will:

- Extend the RSHM vision of education that celebrates diversity, equality and student voices as principled young leaders.
- Enable students to see themselves in a long line of international students and active, connected, members of our Global Network of RSHM Schools.

- Raise awareness, via the philanthropic campaign, of Marymount Paris as a leading international school in the educational community through key external partnerships.
- Recommit our whole community to a second century of the RSHM educational vision with pride and zeal to deepen the students' and staff's understanding of how they share in the charism of Père Gailhac and the timelessness of our Founders' innovative vision for international learning grounded in Gospel values.

The highlight of Marymount Paris Day on October

12, 2023 will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for our fully renovated and refurbished Library & FabLab, our ambitious and engaging capital project, as well as the launch of our browsable historical archives on the Marymount Paris website. The Centenary Gala Weekend, June 22, 2024, will include a pilgrimage and Mass at Chartres Cathedral, displays of student learning, screening of our Marymount Paris documentary, and a Gala Dinner. Each month throughout 2023-2024 will feature a Speakers Series with a guest speaker focusing on a unique attribute of Marymount Paris, our roots and our future. One grade level will develop a unit of learning based on this theme to connect our storied history with their daily learning.

Marymount Paris looks forward with joy and optimism to our centenary year. It will be a time of celebration and also of deep

reflection in gratitude to our Founders. Our school community is deeply cognizant of the responsibility we proudly have to the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. This is the root of our abiding commitment to the Marymount International School in Paris as we look ahead to the flourishing of a second century of Marymount Paris students.

Sarah Thomas, Head of School



WE NEED YOU

In 2004, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary created the “Sacred Heart of Mary Extended Family (SHM EF)” to embrace all who identify with the spirit of the RSHM and who want “to share in the life-giving mission of Jesus Christ.” SHM EF members participate in RSHM community days, retreats, workshops, Zoom meetings, and days dedicated specifically to the SHM EF. Participants have found these activities to be very graced and valued times.



Since the pandemic, there has been an understandable drop-off in participation. So, in this post-COVID era we want to rejuvenate our SHM EF programs and express our continued support of the SHM EF and its Core Group members who have done so much good work. We would like to ask you to renew your commitment to being a member of the SHM EF or consider becoming a member if you are not already. Membership is open to women and men of all ages who share our commitment to know and love God and to make God known and loved so that all may have life to the full.



L to R: Clare Horn and Pat Healy, Co-Chairs of the SHM Extended Family.

Moving into the future, we foresee your participation would include at least one of the following: a yearly retreat (at Sag Harbor or on Zoom), one yearly meeting/program designed especially for the SHM EF, one RSHM Area Day or other events/activities as planned by the Core Group.



We need your help and we want to hear from you! What types of activities/events would you like offered? What issues would you like addressed? What skills or talents might you contribute to the SHM EF? Fill out our survey on our Extended Family webpage at [rshm-east.org/join-us/extended-family/](https://www.rshm-east.org/join-us/extended-family/) by May 31.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pat Healy or Clare Horn at shmef@rshmeap.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Catherine Vincie, RSHM



HIGHLIGHTS PUZZLE: Holy Orders

The themed clues in this puzzle refer to religious orders.

Answers are posted at

www.rshm-east.org/rshm-highlights

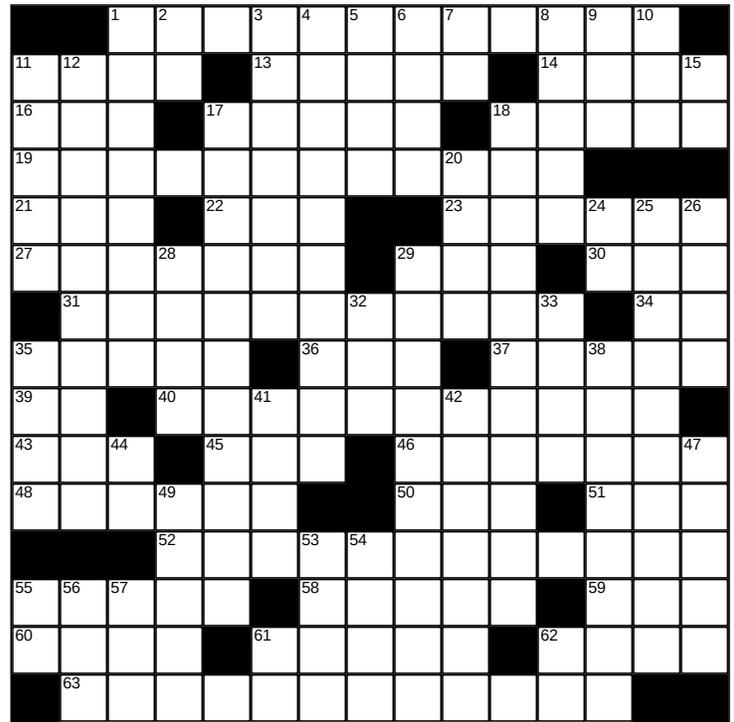
Across

- 1 *Order founded by St. Benedict
- 11 "You understand" in text
- 13 _____ Hilfiger
- 14 Unwritten
- 16 Co. with dog and gramophone logo
- 17 Branches in Barcelona
- 18 McGregor, Irish martial artist
- 19 Sibling who OKs by her instincts
- 21 Ellenville Regional Hospital, abbr.
- 22 Pol in the Capitol
- 23 What many refugees seek
- 27 Give Artificial Intelligence a low grade, briefly
- 29 Key next to CTRL
- 30 St. Francis University, abbr.
- 31 What the pupil said to the eye of someone cross-eyed?
- 34 Old Testament, abbr.
- 35 _____per_____, US Marine motto
- 36 In addition
- 37 Stir up
- 39 Postscript, abbr.
- 40 *Order founded in Assisi
- 43 And so forth, briefly
- 45 A certain type of curve
- 46 Something inserted at the Capitol, briefly
- 48 Woulda, _____, shoulda
- 50 pro nobis
- 51 Law Enforcement Admin.
- 52 *Order named after the son of St. Monica
- 55 High def application

- 58 Postscript by a tattle tale, briefly
- 59 New Testaments, abbr.
- 60 _____Morrison, novelist
- 61 Rental by Alcoholics Anonymous, briefly
- 62 Native American people of midwestern USA
- 63 Promises erased

Down

- 1 Edge Mia out
- 2 Wide shoe width
- 3 Greek tea leaf?
- 4 *Order of Preachers
- 5 Response to "Who's on first?"
- 6 Cor Maria School Grants, abbr.
- 7 Brief expression of gratitude
- 8 New kid on the block (var.)
- 9 _____est Hemingway
- 10 _____ Paulo
- 11 Strongly encouraged
- 12 Runs toward
- 15 Los Ranchos, abbr.
- 17 Scam ready to go
- 18 *Strictly contemplative branch of the Benedictines founded by St. Bernard of Clairvaux
- 20 _____of the earth
- 24 They come between Ks and Ms
- 25 Unidentified flying objects handled, briefly



- 26 Turn sound off
- 28 Rich guy
- 29 Perfectly completed: "Every t crossed . . ."
- 32 What an RSVP form may be
- 33 Horse of reddish hue
- 35 Part of an architect's plan
- 38 Makes vertical
- 41 What too much weight on a couch may cause
- 42 Follow up to Script IV
- 44 Copper on the periodic table
- 47 Demi_____, a dainty quaff
- 49 Rabbit in Paris
- 53 Mountains in western Russia
- 54 Shopper's delight
- 55 High tension, abbr.
- 56 Dept. of Agriculture
- 57 Taylor, clothing for women
- 61 Mr. Gore, familiarly
- 62 That hurts!

Bea McMahon, RSHM

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