

MONTHLY MEMO
August 2022

PRESENTATION SISTERS, TASMANIA



Back row: Anna Fewer pbvm, Nola Vanderfeen pbvm,
Maria Lazzaro pbvm, Majella Kelly pbvm.
Front row: Gabrielle Morgan pbvm, Marilyn Fryett pbvm

From Gabrielle Morgan pbvm:

On Saturday 6 August '22, the Tasmanian Presentation Congregation welcomed and celebrated the appointment by the 'Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life' of our Pontifical Commissary Sr Maria Lazzaro pbvm Melbourne Congregation, and her two Consultors: Sr Nola Vanderfeen pbvm (Melbourne Congregation) and Anna Fewer pbvm (Western Australian Congregation).

On 31 October 1866, our founding Sisters: 4 professed and 5 postulants, arrived in Hobart. As their Convent was not yet ready for them, they established their ministry for the following 14 months, in the township of Richmond on the East Coast of Tasmania.

It seems fitting that this significant moment, change in canonical governance in the Story of the Tasmanian Congregation, was ritualized in St John's Church Richmond – where our Story in Australia, began.

Our first meeting with what is now known as EFCL was held on 25 March 2020. It's been an amazing journey: in some respects, not unlike a very long Retreat of nearly 2½ years during which time we reflected on all aspects of our lived Religious & Community Life up to that point in time – and more importantly, how we wished to continue to live this Life until our Congregation has reached Completion.

As a result, we have been able to shape our major documentation around the essential and rich aspects of our community life: our Spiritual Patrimony, Congregational Will & Distribution Plan, Governance & Service Model – and all achieved by electronic means during a pandemic.

Words can never express our gratitude and awe with regard to the EFCL Team and what they have enabled us to do. The name 'Emerging Futures' is totally apt when we look back and consider where we began and where we are now. Our Sisters have been totally supportive and involved in embracing this new model, so different from what they have known from their early days and yet not so different in the 'day to day'.

It is a great relief to me that we now have a 'succession plan' in place. We no longer need to look behind us and be reminded (as if we could forget) that there is no one there to step forward and lead us into the future.

We are deeply grateful to the Victorian and Western Australian Presentation Congregations who are blessing us in the persons of Maria, Nola and Anna.

Our Congregation faces the future with peace and hope, recognizing that we are now being called to live into that future as it is not 'cut and dried' but unfolding as we take the next steps.

There's something deeply meaningful I believe, in that our foundation in Tasmania was begun by nine Sisters, and at this time of transition, there are now just nine Sisters still carrying the Lantern.

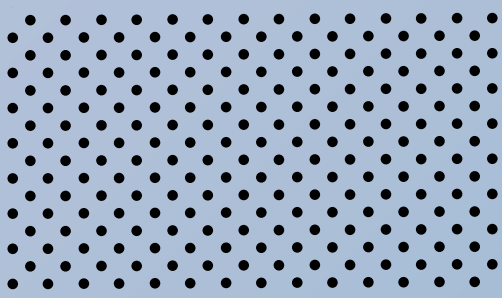
August has been another busy month, with some intra-state and inter-state travel to meet in person with service partners. Linda Ferrington was in America representing EFCL at the LCWR Assembly and holding meetings with personnel from our international network: Linda will give an account of those meetings in the September *Monthly Memo*. We have been introducing CEO Brad Hannagan to our service partners on Zoom and in person throughout the month.

This month we received the report from the audit conducted by VJ Ryan on July 12. The audit report has been reviewed by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Board, in preparation for EFCL's first AGM at MMP, North Sydney on September 21. As you know, EFCL is a user-pays entity, and our financial position has been assured due to the generous contributions made by many congregations in 2019 and large donation made by one congregation last year. We are pleased to report that we were issued with an Unqualified Audit Opinion with no major concerns raised by the Auditors.

A resource that I'd like to draw to your attention is that of the Religious Formation Conference (RFC), a national Roman Catholic organization serving women's and men's religious institutes, primarily in the United States and in other countries. Their website at <https://www.relforcon.org/> has many webinars which can be viewed in real time or later. I noticed *The Resilient Woman Religious Leader: Strengthening Your Inner Life in Challenging Times* coming up in September and others already held: *Embracing Age: Lessons in Aging Well from Women Religious*; *Relational Care: Living Healthily and Authentically with One Another*; *Facilitating the Newly Emerging Religious Life: Our Role at the Graced Crossroads* -among many others. A fee applies to watch the webinars.

EFCL congratulates our Board member, Clare Nolan rsc, who received the *Sr Maria Cunningham Lifetime Contribution Award* at the recent CHA National Conference in Brisbane. Clare's contribution to healthcare has been outstanding for more than 50 years and her support of and contribution to EFCL has likewise been so appreciated.

Sharon Price rsm
Transition Manager
31 August, 2022



EFCL ZOOM EVENT

JOIN US FOR AN EFCL UPDATE
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9

EVERYONE
WELCOME

11.00AM-12.30PM TAS/VIC/NSW

10.00AM-11.30AM QLD

10.30AM-12.00PM SA

8.00AM-9.30AM WA

MORE DETAILS IN SEPTEMBER

