



G.I.F.T. NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2005



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Most of the Care Givers have again attended Training Courses run by IHC and the Northern Small Providers and these have proved to be most helpful to them in the course of their daily activities.

There have been a couple of changes in residents in Sinclair House during April-May. Gavin Murray who had been with us since 1998 went to live at an IHC House in Pukekohe where they were better able to look after his needs. He has returned for a visit on Queen's Birthday Weekend. His place has been taken by Patricia Ireland who attends the IHC Workshop in Rosebank Road, Avondale. Trish has attended the R.E Sessions on Saturdays for many years and has also been in for Respite Care on a few occasions.

John Overwater has finished work at Avondale College and is at present working at Creative Abilities while waiting for an outdoor job at Parks or Garden Centres.

We had a visit from Leanne Tiscornia and Judy Olsen of the Catholic Caring Foundation as they are the funding agency for the Religious Education Programme, and they were very favourably impressed with our facilities and where their funding was being spent.

We are at the present time looking at further upgrading of facilities here with the painting of the Sinclair lounge and dining room and a new entrance to the Centre and Administration.

We have had a financial audit by Campbell Forbes and passed this quite satisfactorily and we will also have a Surveillance Audit from the Ministry of Health Auditors on July 12th.

Brother Gabriel

FROM THE R.E. CO-ORDINATOR



Welcome to Trisha Ireland!

The front cover shows some GIFT farewells - Gavin Murray, who left Sinclair House, pictured with Rebecca Evans.

Farewell to our 2 SMSM novices, Sonia and Simona, holding candles, pictured with the Study Group in June.

Study Group & Companions

It has been a quiet 3 months compared to the beginning of the year. Lessons have gone on as usual (there were smaller groups for the Study Group on 2 occasions due to Anzac Day and Queen's birthday).

Leading up to Easter the Companions had a very busy day decorating hats for a Palm Sunday procession we had at the end of the lesson. (See the photos).

In April both groups were told the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus with a puppet show. In May we celebrated Pentecost. The Study Group focused on the 'fire' of the Holy Spirit—we even had a fire burning! Everyone decorated a Pentecost candle. The Companions focused on the Holy Spirit alive in their hearts and made a heart necklace.

In June the Study Group session focused on "Come to me all you who are weary and I will give you rest". Everyone wrote something that worries them on a wrapped book (something weighty to represent being weighed down by problems). We then used these as part of a 'tableau' everyone took part in. I broke down each part of the reading and members of the Study Group formed a tableau or a still sculpture of that line. I was really impressed how everyone took part and understood what Jesus was saying.

The Companions heard about a farmer who went out to sow some seed. Victor was the farmer and scattered seeds over gravel, rocks, thorns and weeds, and on good soil. Everyone then sowed their own seeds in a cup to take home and grow. Even though a 'quiet' three months, we have not been idle!

Caroline

Some of the Companions



making hats for Palm Sunday.



The Companions waiting to greet Jesus!▶



PENTECOST MASS

On the 12th May GIFT celebrated Pentecost with a Mass in the GIFT Centre. About 25 people came along. Members of the Study Group read and some of the Companions bought up the gifts of bread and wine and candles to decorate the altar. Everyone took part in an echo pantomime of the Pentecost story - good fun! We welcomed Fr James Mulligan who celebrated Mass for us for the first time. Thank you James, we hope to have you back again! Thanks too to everyone who came out in the middle of the week and took part.

FAREWELL

In the last newsletter we welcomed Sonia and Simona, volunteers from the SMSM novitiate. In this one we farewell them! At the end of each of the June sessions both groups blessed

the novices and wished them well. GIFT has been very fortunate to have them help us for the last 6 months. May the Lord bless them both as they continue on their journey towards becoming SMSM sisters. (See the front cover for a picture.)



Sonia, Kalo, Warwick, John, Alice and Susan at Gavin's farewell party.



IN OUR PRAY-

Farewell to Gavin Murray, who left Sinclair House in May. Pictured is the residents and caregivers of Sinclair House and GIFT House who had a farewell party for Gavin the night before he left.

ERS

Shirley, Sr Jean's

Grace, Gavin, Janice and Sonia ▶



sister, goes into Auckland Hospital as this newsletter goes

to print to have a cancer removed from the inside of her cheek. She will also be undergoing plastic surgery as part of the procedure. We all pray that the Lord will be with you Shirley and carry you through this difficult time. We also remember Sr Jean at this time. Talk about taking the good with the bad - we also *congratulate* Shirley who celebrated her 80th birthday on the 22nd June! Happy birthday, Shirley!

CONGRATULATIONS

To everyone who took part in their Special Olympics ribbon day. Susan McCrae got 2nd in cross country walk and 3rd in the relay at Warkworth. Sacha Hayes got third in softball as well. Good luck to those of you heading to Christchurch of the nationals in December.

WELCOME

We have some new volunteers who have started in the last couple of months. Welcome to students Mel Lee, Christina Fullerton and Remar students from Marcellin College (who have made themselves at home with the Companions!). See the pictures opposite ►



Mary, Christina & Sandy



Jemima & Carlos ▶



◀ From left: Stephen, Grace, Pryanka, Kevin, Trisha, Sandy and (seated) Ron and Agnes.

BIRTH-

DAYS

JUNE— Karen, Trisha, Shirley

JULY— Janet, Clare, Sandy, Agnes, Narelle,
Sandra

AUGUST— Madeleine, Jackie, Ron and Roy



DATES TO REMEMBER

24th JULY - Sonia Lewer's First Holy Communion, Church of the Good Shepherd, 9.30am (Bring a plate of food for morning tea which will follow the service in the GIFT Centre).

24th SEPTEMBER - Music Workshop for Study Group and Companions