

# **VENTS DES PRAIRIES**

# **PRAIRIE WINDS**

**SNJM MANITOBA**

**PRINTEMPS / SPRING 2017**



The Canada 150 tulip, also known as the Maple Leaf tulip.  
This beautiful bulb is the official flower of Canada's 150th anniversary

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# Sr. Lesley Sacouman

## Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Susan Wikeem, snjm

*Congratulations to Sister Lesley Sacouman for receiving the University of Manitoba Alumni Association 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service.*

Lesley was one of six honourees at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> *Celebration of Excellence* at the Metropolitan Theatre in downtown Winnipeg. House of Peace residents and staff and Sisters of the Holy Names were among the crowd of almost 300.

Among the highlights was a delightful video featuring Lesley's work at the House of Peace and staring several of the residents. The award for Community Service was presented to Lesley by The Honourable Janice Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

Noting Lesley's founding role at Rossbrook House, Anishnaabe Oway-ishi (an educational employment training program for Aboriginal youth), Esther House, and House of Peace, she said Lesley "sees everyday as an opportunity to demonstrate the true meaning of love." Her Honour continued:

"The Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service celebrates exceptional graduates who have significantly contributed to their community and made a difference to the well-being of others. For her unwavering belief that inside everyone is goodness and possibility; for her ability to rally our community time and again to care for those in need; for her commitment to offer hope and a home when they are needed the most; please join me in congratulating this year's recipient of the Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service, Sister Lesley Sacouman."

In her gracious response Lesley thanked the University, those who mentored her and those who have been her companions on the journey, mentioning in particular the youth at Rossbrook and the women at House of Peace. She shared that she has been inspired by a phrase first uttered by Helen Keller and given a Lesley twist – "Life is a daring collective adventure ... or it is nothing!"

In his closing remarks President Dr. David Barnard noted: "Tonight, we have shared the stories of people whose lives have been absorbed with contributing to the lives of others. We share them, because they are powerful. They are stories worthy of celebration in Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> year, and they are a source of inspiration as we extend the University's work beyond our 140<sup>th</sup>."

Read more about the evening and watch the video on the U of M Alumni website.



The 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients: L-R, Sr. Lesley Sacouman [BA/75], Isabella Wiebe [BMR(OT)/86], Patricia Patkau, CM [BID/73], John Patkau, CM [BA/69, BES/69, March/72], Reva Stone [BA/68, BFA(Hons)/85] and Desiree Scott [BA/16]. (Photographer David Lipnowski)

# Un hommage à deux de nos sœurs ...

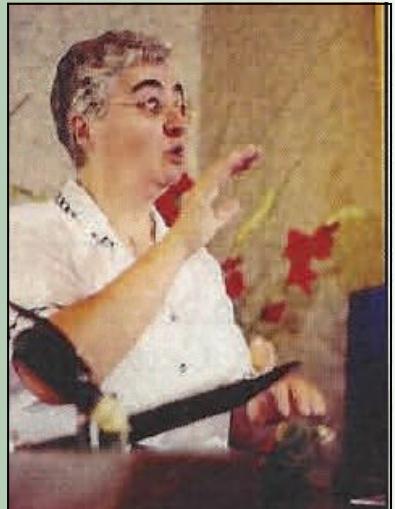
- Joane Laurencelle avec hommages venant du Programme de L'Alliance chorale Manitoba

Dans le cadre du 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Canada, L'Alliance chorale Manitoba a présenté un beau projet intitulé *La portée des voix*. Ce merveilleux spectacle fut une célébration de la riche histoire du chant choral au sein de la communauté francophone du Manitoba, dimanche le 23 avril 2017. Le programme fit hommage à deux de nos sœurs avec les articles qui suivent.



## Sœur Agathe Dorge (1912-2008)

Douée d'un talent musical hors de l'ordinaire, cette Franco-manitobaine native de Sainte-Agathe était à la fois professeure de piano et enseignante de matières connexes, ainsi que directrice de chorale en milieux scolaire, paroissial et communautaire. C'est à l'École Sacré-Cœur de Winnipeg, à l'Académie Saint-Joseph, à l'Académie Sainte-Marie, à Saint-Jean-Baptiste, à Flin Flon, à Sainte-Agathe et à l'École Holy Cross que les jeunes ont bénéficié de son enseignement musical. Elle a dirigé maints ateliers et formé des pianistes, des accompagnatrices, des chantres, des choristes et des organistes au Manitoba.



## Sœur Jeannine Vermette

Sœur Jeannine Vermette de Saint-Jean-Baptiste au Manitoba suit dans les pas de sa tante Sœur Agathe Dorge. Elle a fait une maîtrise en Arts avec une majeure en Musique d'Église et l'a remplacée à la direction de la chorale de la Cathédrale de Saint-Boniface à partir des années '80 jusqu'en 2002. Sœur Jeannine a aussi dirigé la Chorale des Petits Intrépides entre 1998 et 2015 pour ensuite céder sa place à Monique Guénette en 2015. Cette chorale est maintenant connue sous le nom de Rinnovo. Sœur Jeannine Vermette chante toujours avec La Chorale des Intrépides.

## Anne Mahon Speaks at Associates Gathering

Jean Van Walleghem, associate



Sr. Marylyn Gibney, Associates Gina Hoe, Kitty Kelly and Jean Van Walleghem with guest speaker Anne Mahon (center).

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the SNJM Associates were delighted to have Anne Mahon speak to us about her book, ***The Lucky Ones: African Refugees' Stories of Extraordinary Courage***. We invited the Associates and Sisters to bring a friend, and we were thrilled to welcome about 50 friendly, talkative people who listened to Anne's words, asked questions and had discussions over coffee and goodies. Anne related her experiences and friendships over six years of interviewing the refugees and writing their stories. I read each one with interest. I was so impressed with their honesty, their faith, and their endurance of so many hardships. Who wouldn't want to know the story of ordinary people from Africa coming from countries such as Rwanda, Zimbabwe,



Deanne McDonald (left) thanking Anne Mahon (right).

Nigeria and many more? They all live in Manitoba now. I love nine-year-old Zara's story, told by her mother, because it promises a better future for our ability to come together with all races and religions. I have met a few Ethiopians and they are all gentle and hardworking, participating in our working world and in our post-secondary education. Anne has become close friends with several of her participants. As she spoke, her peaceful demeanor let us know further that we need to learn about each other. She discovered 'the importance of personal story.'

History of the African countries is also compelling. Somalia was colonized by Italy, so the languages spoken there were Italian and Arabic. "The written Somalia language did not start until 1972." Raqiya did not go to school as a child but did go after she had three children. It is hard to read about the civil war (1991) in Somalia and how Raqiya was separated from her children for nearly 10 years. I can identify with some pieces of her life as she is now in her seventies as I am.

Many of us are committed to helping refugees being sponsored by our parish communities and the family being sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. At this meeting, the Associates were asked to vote on a third corporate stand, this one related to migrants and refugees. In a letter dated December 19, 2016, we were reminded that, at our 2011 General Chapter, corporate stands were identified as our "common ministries," the other two corporate stands related to human trafficking and water. Ballots were passed to each associate to be marked and then collected to be tallied.

Thank you to everyone who organized and made this event successful. Thank you to Anne for accepting our invitation. It was a wonderful evening!

## Fête de reconnaissance au Centre du patrimoine

Lorraine St-Hilaire, snjm

The Archives of the Manitoba SNJM province were housed at the *Centre du patrimoine*, managed by the Historical Society of St-Boniface, since 2005. This January, 2017, the SNJM community of Manitoba donated its Archives to the Historical Society of St-Boniface and financially supported a new project on Religious Archives. Researchers can access information about our Manitoba SNJM community and its mission by visiting this Centre located at 340 Provencher Boulevard in Saint-Boniface. The St. Mary's Academy Archives also contain many treasures for researchers and friends to enjoy.

Une centaine de personnes ont répondu à l'invitation de la Société historique de Saint Boniface à une fête de reconnaissance le lundi 15 mai 2017 au Centre du patrimoine, Saint-Boniface. A cette occasion le président, M. Michel Lagacé et le conseil d'administration ont remercié les congrégations religieuses féminines qui participent à une importante initiative visant l'acquisition, la préservation, la gestion et la mise en valeur d'archives religieuses lancée par le Centre du patrimoine au cours de l'automne 2016.

La Société historique a rendu hommage aux co-fondatrices du sous-fonds Archives religieuses, un sous-fonds du Fonds Centre du patrimoine détenu par Francofonds :

- les Missionnaires Oblates de Saint-Boniface
- les Religieuses de Notre-Dame des Missions
- les Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Hyacinthe
- les Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie
- les Sœurs du Sauveur

Sœur Cécile Fortier; porte-parole des congrégations exprime ainsi l'appréciation des congrégations religieuses :

« Nous savons que nos archives sont bien préservées dans un milieu des plus propices à la conservation et à l'utilisation aux fins de recherche. La promotion des archives permettra de garder vivantes les œuvres de nos communautés.»



Debout : Sr Cécile Fortier, m.o. Sr Claudette Robert, s.j.s.h. Sr Denise Kuyp, r.n.d.m.  
Assises : Sr Lorraine St-Hilaire, snjm et Sr Florence Vuignier s.d.s.



Sr Léonne Dumesnil

Texte tiré du livre de Sr Hélène Chaput intitulé **Manitoba 1874**, lu par Sr Léonne Dumesnil à la fête de reconnaissance:

#### **Enseignement de la musique**

Les débuts de la musique au Manitoba furent très modestes mais ils prirent graduellement de l'ampleur, si bien que le cours vint à comprendre l'enseignement du piano, de l'orgue, du violon, de la guitare, du chant, du solfège, de la petite flûte et de toutes les matières théoriques.

Qui ne se souvient des récitals annuels qui lui permettaient de faire apprécier ses talents? de la participation aux festivals du Manitoba, de Kenora, d'Altona, de Pembina, de la Montagne, de Flin Flon? des contributions musicales lors des congrès des instituteurs, des séances dramatiques, de collations des diplômes? Qui n'a souvenance du Cercle Sainte-Cécile dont la devise fut : « *L'art rend meilleur.* »

Que de paroisses ont profité des talents de maîtres de chant et d'organistes dont la compétence a contribué à rehausser le culte divin! Quelle floraison culturelle apportée par la Congrégation! Tous les élèves ne sont pas des virtuoses, certes, mais tous ont bénéficié de l'initiative et des aptitudes de professeurs dévoués.

L'avenir exigera une adaptation et une évolution toujours continues; l'esprit de nos Constitutions saura HARMONISER notre enseignement aux œuvres qui nous solliciteront. Ce sera la noble tâche d'une relève généreuse.



Enseignantes et musiciennes à l'Académie Sainte-Marie en 1896

## **Associate Judy Pound – A Valiant Woman**

Marylyn Gibney, snjm



Judy Pound with daughters, Patti and Christine, and grandchildren

Sometimes Easter comes early! It did so this year in the life of Judy Pound. Judy died peacefully at home on April 5, 2017. Her spirit is carried on by her husband Bob, her seven children and their spouses, her 21 grandchildren, her six siblings, and her large extended family.

Judy was a warm and passionate woman who made those around her feel loved. Hers was a reassuring presence that brought peace to all she met. She was a woman of strong faith who did not have to talk about her faith because everything about her exemplified it. She simply carried this faith and peacefulness that embraced all those she encountered. This included her peers at both St. Ignatius School and St. Mary's Academy where she attended school, the staff and students at St. Paul's High School where she worked, the youth at Rossbrook House who brought her so much joy, as well as the wee babes for whom she knitted blankets. She became an integral part of her parish community, the Catholic Women's League, the Betula Lake community, and the community of Hopkinsville, Kentucky. We came to honour Judy and, like the disciples on the way to Emmaus, we shared stories as we broke bread together.

Judy's contact with the Sisters of the Holy Names began in grade one at St. Ignatius School and continued through high school at St. Mary's Academy. She became involved at the Academy when her four daughters attended. It was at this time that Judy became an associate. In 1998, Judy committed herself to sharing in the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names, and in prayer for the work of the Community. She became involved in the inner city of Winnipeg, particularly at Rossbrook House, where she volunteered at Eagles' Circle as a teacher's helper. The children loved her.

It was easy to love Judy. Her kind and loving manner, with her delightful sense of humour, meant so much to so many of us. She wrote on her 2013 renewal form as an associate; "I value my association. XX". We, both sisters and associates, were blessed in return.

People came in great numbers to remember and honour this valiant woman by celebrating Mass of the Resurrection on Monday, April 17, 2017, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

# Pieds fermement ajustés à la terre!

## Jubilation de 50 ans pour

### Sœur Edith Grenier, SNJM

Carmen Catellier, snjm



Sr Edith Grenier

La lecture du passage de St-Paul aux Colossiens nous incitant à la compassion, à l'humilité et à la patience nous fait bien réaliser ce qu'est la personne d'Édith. L'exhortation à l'action de grâce et à l'amour nous donne un aperçu de ce qui anime le cœur de notre chère sœur Edith.

Après le renouvellement des vœux, la petite et nouvelle chorale snjm chante 'Mon Dieu tu es grand, tu es beau'. Les paroles de ce texte nous font goûter l'amour d'Edith pour la Création.

And then some celebratory speeches honoured the well-loved Edith.

Edith's niece and very close friend, Jocelyn Leslie, spoke on behalf of the family. So many came to congratulate and show love to their aunt. Later in the program, the presence of a new-born great-great niece was acknowledged.

Sister Johanna Jonker, snjm, gave a humorous and detailed description of Edith's life as a sister, her mission to the Inuit, her love of camping and the outdoors, her generous service in leadership, her attention to the sick, and her gentle hospitality.

Sister Johanna concluded: "Recognizing God in the world

On jubile ensemble le samedi 27 mai 2017 à la cafétéria de l'Académie Ste Marie simplement décorée pour l'occasion par nos soeurs avec l'aide des filles de la classe qui sont avec Edith, des partenaires de prière. À l'entrée de la salle, la belle statue des mains ouvertes de Mère Marie-Rose accueille tous les invité.es à la fête. Une jeune pousse de fleurs à transplanter décore chacune des tables de la salle de réception. La couleur orange, préférée d'Edith, est très visible! À la fin de la rencontre, un ou une heureuse gagnante l'apportera pour la planter dans son jardin en souvenir de notre heureuse jubilaire.

La partie cérémoniale débute avec l'entrée d'Édith accompagnée de sa sœur, ses frères et leurs conjoints au chant de 'Oh When The Saints Go Marching In.'

Sr. Léonne Dumesnil, snjm anime avec finesse et entrain le déroulement de la fête.



Renouvellement des vœux

around her has urged her for more than 50 years to dedicate herself to the service of people, of the earth, and, especially, of her God. May she continue to discover new images of God and weave them into her whole life."

A delicious lunch was served and guests had an opportunity to visit with and congratulate the Jubilarian.



Richard, Lorette, Sr Edith, Donald, Rémi et Etienne Grenier



Kitty Kelly, Sr Edith et Joy Lussier



Sr Edith et le Comité de Jubilé; Sr Susan Wikeem, Sr Pauline Sauvette, Sr Johanna Jonker & Sr Léonne Dumesnil



La Famille Grenier

## Celebrating “Gold” with Sr. Cathy Laviolette

Carol Peloquin, snjm



Sisters, Associates, family and friends gathered at St. John Brebeuf Church to celebrate Sr. Cathy Laviolette's Golden Jubilee. A feeling of happy anticipation prevailed as Cathy greeted each new guest. Sr. Lorraine St. Hilaire welcomed us with special words for Cathy: words of admiration, words of empathy; "during this last year you were tested by fire, and you had to find new ways of being and relating. You came through with surrender and new energy." We rose to greet the celebrant, Fr. Mark Tarrant, and his co-celebrants.

Fr. Mark, in his homily, reminded us that we are all called to know God, love God, and serve God faithfully. He challenged us to "imagine following Cathy for 51 years and see where she's been and what she's done!" He said, "like Cathy, we do not know what our YES to God will mean, but in faith, we say it anyway."

Cathy had the last word. She shared precious moments in her spiritual journey: her decision to join the Holy Names in 1964; her discernment that culminated in her move to Winnipeg in 1982; her first experiences at St. Anne's parish; and most poignantly, her question to God during her recent time of serious illness: "What if I die now?" followed by the flood of peace she experienced upon further reflection:

"Parishes, Nathaniel, snjm leadership....my life has been full. I am grateful. Here I am, Lord."

The luncheon, held in a beautifully decorated parish hall, was delicious, and the program that followed, with Sr. Alice Konefall acting as M.C., was playful and deeply moving.

Sr. Carmen Catellier began by offering a roast, a toast, and a boast about Cathy, teasing her about her focus on perfection, and highlighting Cathy's enthusiastic hospitality, manifested in countless ways through the years. Catherine Kelly, snjm associate and long-time friend, using the image of a garden, portrayed Cathy preparing the soil, planting seeds, nurturing growth, weeding and pruning. She and Sr. Charlotte Leake led us in singing, 'Friends are like flowers'. Frances Petrowski thanked Cathy for the retreats and spiritual growth opportunities she provided while pastoral assistant at Gimli, and for the enrichment Frances herself received through the Nathaniel program. George and Sheena Brown from John XXIII Parish spoke gratefully of the 'Cathy effect': "You brought us, Anglican and Catholic, together as a community. Your time with us was one of particular blessing." All in all, Cathy's Jubilee celebration was PERFECT!



# We Hear the Cries for Peace and Reconciliation

## Acts of 34<sup>th</sup> Chapter 2017

Winn Leslie, associate, and Marylyn Gibney, snjm

More than 80 people from St. Ignatius and St. Kateri parishes met in each other's sacred space to begin a journey towards reconciliation as called for in the *Truth and Reconciliation Report: Calls to Action*. The event was sponsored by sisters from three Congregations, a brother, two priests, and two laywomen, who needed to see that the powerful TRC report, released in June 2016, didn't just "sit and gather dust on a shelf."



Left to right top row: F. Obrigewitch, SJ. M.Hughes, NDS B. O'Reilly, NDS J. Jonker, SNJM V. Dunne, RNDM  
Bottom row: T. Novak, OMI N. Sarmiento, OMI W. Leslie, J. Molloy M. Gibney, SNJM T. Truong, RNDM

Session I at St. Ignatius Parish focused on Truth presented through the personal stories of two residential school survivors. We were moved by their stories as they traced their history from their first days of residential school to the present.

Ted Fontaine told of four parts to his life: at home until seven (he wondered who would bring kindling and water to his grandparents after he was taken), in residential school for 12 years where he suffered sexual abuse and alienation from his family, then into society (drinking, nightmares, depression, suicidal tendencies), and lastly, in coming to terms with his life. He attributes this to his return to church and going within himself to find reconciliation. Further healing occurred when he made peace with one of his abusers. His book, *Broken Circle*, is widely available.

Florence Paynter's ten years at residential school began at age six. A remarkably peace-filled and radiant woman, she traced her story of loneliness and physical abuse. She spoke of the touching account of meeting her husband at a weekly dance at the school. She was six, he was eight. Her journey after school took her through difficult times and, like Ted, her salvation came from finding reconciliation within herself. She once again met her Creator in the Traditions of her people.

Right: Sr. Bernadette with Ted Fontaine and Florence Paynter





Sr. Marylyn Gibney introducing Rev. Stan McKay



Rev. Stan McKay



Sr. Johanna Jonker saying thank you.

The parishioners of St. Kateri Parish welcomed participants to Session II with homemade soup and bannock. Rev. Stan McKay, a United Church minister and former Moderator of the United Church of Canada, spoke on Reconciliation and the Calls to Action. He began with an engaging tale of when as a young minister he found himself in a northern community with three churches, Catholic, Anglican and Methodist (now United). There was tension between families split along church lines. The Catholic priest suggested that when one of them was away, the two remaining would serve each other's parishioners. As a survivor of the residential schools himself, it was his first of many experiences of reconciliation. He urged us to continue to build on the relationships that had begun forming between the two parish communities.



Second gathering at St. Kateri Parish

In round table groups after both sessions, we were inspired and uplifted by the personal stories. As we shared, there was a spirit of fellowship and a sense of hope for the future.



Left: Facilitors Winn Leslie and Joan Molloy

Right: Drummers: John and Joy Mason



# Encountering Our Story 1.0

## Pilgrimage to Longueuil May 18-22, 2017

Michelle Garlinski, snjm



Photo taken at Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu. Sr. Michelle, Cecilia, Dave, Deb and Maria reading from the *Pilgrimage of the Heart* book.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 well beyond twilight, four eager staff of St. Mary's Academy arrived at the Congregational House of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, in Longueuil, Québec. They were greeted by a warm breeze off the St. Lawrence River and Sr. Michelle at the doors. *Encountering Our Story* is what we have called this experience initiated by the Charism and Mission office of SMA with the support of Connie Yunyk, Sr. Lorraine St-Hilaire and Sr. Lorraine Mongeon. Over four days, participants had a chance to broaden their understanding of the charism, put our story into historical context, and deepen their personal faith journey. This occurred through prayer, rituals, relationship building with the Sisters and staff, experiencing the sacred sites in Longueuil along the Richelieu landscape, and community time together.

It was exciting for me to watch as they experienced different "ah ha" moments. Their depth of faith sharing was an inspiration to me and drew me more deeply into our story. At the end of our day along the Richelieu, during our reflection and sharing, I asked them, "*Which Pilgrimage site connected with you the most?*" With their permission, I share these reflections with you.

*"The Birthplace of Eulalie Durocher (Oct 6, 1811). Although her house is no longer here, one can feel her presence. Just across the river lies a monument commemorating the centenary of the SNJM Congregation. How fitting for it to be here. The water of the Richelieu flowing downstream, the ripples lapping against the shore, the birds singing their songs in the trees as the sun shines upon the place where she, a servant of God, was born. It is said that a young Eulalie would look outside her dining room window and see this wonderful creation of God. The life-giving tree that hovers and protects the monument is a symbol of Eulalie Durocher. This is where it all began, this is Holy ground. One cannot dismiss this beauty of nature and not be touched."* (Maria Marasco)

*"My most memorable and meaningful stop along the Richelieu pilgrimage was at the sign just past the St. Antoine Cathedral, our second stop of the morning, facing the river. We were given jars by Sr. Michelle, and I had to go then, not wait, to put water in mine, even though it was a bit precarious getting down to the river. I just had to go. It was as if God was calling in the sun-filled breeze that filled the air. The time is now. MMR wants to connect with you through the sacred waters of the Richelieu!" (Dave Chell)*

*"My most memorable stop on the Mother Marie-Rose Pilgrimage: The first stop at St. Antoine's – Mother Marie-Rose's birthplace, was the most significant site for me because it emphasized the influence her family played in her overall development and especially in her faith development. Her family allowed her to explore her surroundings, allowed her to roam around like a tomboy and discover who she was. Her play was not structured. She could use her imagination to entertain herself. As an educator, it cemented for me the importance of early childhood development so that all children may reach their full potential. From her story, her parents were her first teachers and that education was augmented by a caring and involved Grandfather. I wonder, how much this early educational experience contributed to her faith development and leadership skills." (Deb May)*

*"The site that I found most powerful during our pilgrimage along the Richelieu River, was at Mount St. Hilaire. This is where I felt Eulalie realized what she was going to do with the rest of her life. It is where the idea of becoming a Sister and starting the Sisters of the Holy Names was becoming a reality. I think discovering your path, your talent, your passion is a sacred event. A sense of Holiness is present when your heart has found its true resting place, when you feel at home in the universe. This was the moment for Eulalie and it was significant to me that we were exposed to this part of her story. She is the foundation of a huge part of my life. As we read and reflected on how Eulalie walked the way of the cross up the mountain, it became clear to me that it was a metaphor that our realization of our 'Heart's true resting place' is a journey and it may not be a specific moment in time. Eulalie's realization came when she was doing what she loved, and when she was serving God. This is a comforting idea, encouraging me to do what I enjoy because when I do that, I am doing God's work." (Cecilia Wojcik)*

It was a privilege for me to accompany and share with the staff, our collaborators in the mission, our story at its roots. This experience is not an end unto itself. It contributes to the ongoing personal and professional faith development for our staff. Just as on an airplane, we cannot help another unless we "don our masks first". Personal nourishment and growth will overflow into family life, friendships and professional situations. The New Evangelization is alive and well! Blessed be the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, now and forever!



The classic picture on the staircase in the Congregational House

## **SMA Staff and Students attend the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women in New York**

Susan Wikeem, snjm

Teacher Cecilia Wojcik sent the following email report from the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women to the Manitoba Justice Committee that sponsored the trip in March 2017:

*"The speakers are powerful and many of them focus on their projects from around the world. We are excited to see what wisdom will be stirred in our hearts from their influence."*

*"One of the biggest ideas that is changing for me is the meaning of Empowerment!!! It Is not just being bold and feeling you have the power, it is the action! Our spirituality teaches us a lot about Social Justice and that empowerment and love is not just a feeling, it is action. How do we act to make a difference? What actions show love?"*

*"We are hearing many women speak of the difference they are making in the world in terms of refugees, gender differences, slavery, media representation etc. At times, it is frustrating because it seems that their ideas are in such a far part of the world that it doesn't apply to us. However, their stories are remarkable and they empower us to make a difference. The girls' hearts are open and they are constantly sharing with us their thoughts and feelings. They too are finding amazing connection in spirituality. We are so proud of them!"*

*"We are grateful for this opportunity.... Thanks again."*

The teachers and students will give a full report to Sisters and Associates at Summer Days 2017.



Cecilia Wojcik (L) and Carol-Ann Swayzie (R) meet Sr. Katileho Kang , snjm from Lesotho.



SMA Students: Soomin Han & Bethany Kolisniak

## **Congratulations Joane and Mike**



On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Joane Laurencelle, our administrative assistant in the provincial administration office, wed her long-time beau, Michael De Cuypere, before an intimate gathering of family, friends and SNJMs at St. Bernadette Parish.

Congratulations, Joane and Mike, from the SNJM family. May God bless you with a lifetime of love and happiness.