

# Irish MSC Provincial Conference 2008

## Naming the now – Envisioning tomorrow

**Interim Communication: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Delegates from the six areas of the Irish Province began their Provincial Conference in Grace Dieu Manor, Waterford on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Torrential rain on Sunday evening threatened to cause havoc to travel arrangements although the only mishap was to the Russian delegates who suffered a flat tyre. Unfortunately also, a lay delegate, Ana Pirela Rodriguez from Venezeula, had an accident just before Conference and could not travel. Since Monday the weather has been kind enough to allow the attendees enjoy the grounds and sea-shore during the rare breaks in proceedings.

During the opening liturgy led by the Provincial Team, each delegate lit a candle from the main conference candle to symbolise bringing the light of Christ into their midst; the following morning the candles were taken in procession to the conference room.

Each area takes charge of one day's Morning Prayer and evening liturgy leading to a variety of celebrations with different languages and diverse music.

Conference began by engaging Chapter resolutions with a view to evaluating progress on the following:

- MSC Religious Life
- Vocations
- Formation
- MSC Leadership
- Mission and Ministry
- Lay members of the Chevalier family
- Lay collaboration

Six small groups were formed each considering the following questions:

- 1) How has the Chapter changed the life of the Province?
- 2) What has been different because of the Chapter?

The distillation of ideas, presented in PowerPoint, led to a lively plenary session reviewing the progress, or otherwise, of the implementation of Chapter resolutions.

Wednesday's sessions concentrated on engaging with the current reality of the Province as articulated by:

- The Province-wide template (drawn up after consultation with all MSCs)

- The Provincial's report to the conference.

Six different small groups, each comprising one member of the Provincial team, one MSC from England or Ireland, one MSC from the missions and at least one lay person, considered a randomly-selected theme from one of the Chapter themes, excluding Mission and Ministry which would be discussed on Thursday.

Proposed action statements were generated, again using the wonder of PowerPoint, relating to the individual, the community, and the leadership levels. The plenary session that followed allowed everyone to freely express their opinion on how the conference was proceeding.

In the days ahead, the Mission and Ministry challenges within each area will be examined. Recommendations on all the themes will be taken from conference for consideration and implementation by all members of the Province.