

Monday 28 September 2020

2020 LOG Newsletter

By this time we are all aware that there cannot be an Annual LOG Reunion this year – the first time since the start of LOG Reunions!

However, there are a few items that can be written and sent by email.

NEWS OF LORETO SISTERS

1. Sister Emer wrote

I have sad news. Sister Deirdre Mellett who spent many years in South Africa died peacefully on the evening of 22 April in Dublin. May her dear soul rest in peace. Deirdre returned to Ireland some years ago and continued to work with staff and students of our schools, giving retreats and spiritual direction. In the past few years she struggled with arthritis and died peacefully in Marley Nursing Home. Her niece, also called Deirdre, was allowed to be with her on the last evening and was with her when she breathed her last. Only ten people were allowed to be in the church for her requiem which was streamed from the Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham, Dublin, Ireland, at 11 am on Saturday 25 April 2020.

2. Go to www.ibvm.org for further information on the activities of Loreto Sisters.

SCHOOL NEWS

Please refer to the following websites for information.

1. Loreto Convent School Nana Sita Road (previously Skinner Street) Pretoria at www.loreto.co.za This has an updated “Timeline” to include the 140th Anniversary of Loreto Sisters in Southern Africa.

2. Loreto School Queenswood at www.loretoqs.co.za

3. Loreto Primary School, Strand, Cape, at www.loretops.co.za

LORETO OLD GIRLS NEWS

LOG Anniversary

Pam (Rudolph) Sinovich (Hillcrest 1963) and her husband Vince celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17 January 2020. His Grace Emeritus Archbishop William Slattery said the Anniversary Mass at the original house of the Sinovich Family in Hercules. The event was enjoyed by many members of the Sinovich Family including Ursula (Sinovich) (our organist) (Skinner 1966) and her husband Jaksa (Loreto Old Boy) Jadrijevic.

LOG Birthdays

Congratulations to Yvonne (Rens) Sutherland (Skinner 1952) on her birthday on Sunday 27 September 2020. She is just as lively and cheerful as ever she was in the past!

Ursula (Sinovich) Jadrijevic (Skinner 1966) celebrated her birthday on 25 September 2020. Congratulations and well done!

LOG Memories

Beatrice (Richardson) Eksteen (Skinner 1946) remarked that the windy days of not only August but also September reminded her of the terrible dust storms of Delaryville where her husband started and ran the Pharmacy for 42 years. Here also her four children grew up. She now lives in the Sally Martin's Retirement Village in Parys where her daughter Clarissa and her husband have managed the home for 16 years.

LOG Obituary

We note with sadness and sincere condolences the passing of Maria Odendaal, beloved mother of Natasha Odendaal (Skinner 1987) on 14 April 2020. Maria was widely involved with Church activities at the Thaba Tshwane RC Church.

LOGS Who Have Moved House

Carol-Ann (Shaw) Winterburn (Skinner 1967) has moved to a smaller flat.

LOG Travellers

Alida (Andreatta) Cosani (Skinner 1971) will be a guest at the Vrischgewacht Olive Farm – the area is beautiful, surrounded by mountains, peace and tranquillity.

Alida sent a message - Praying that everybody and their families remain healthy and safe.

LOG Births

Alida (Andreatta) Cosani (Skinner 1971) became a granny for the third time – her son and daughter –in-law had a beautiful healthy little boy called Kristian Zoran Cosani on 23 March 2020.

Joan (Acker) Kerswill (Skinner 1971) became a granny to the beautiful Aurora -Mae Kerswill born on 20 September 2020, so she is very “new”!!!!

Lockdown

Father Kevin Reynolds (Skinner and Hillcrest Loreto Old Boy) sent a delightful survey of how the Lockdown affected him. Here follows what he said.

WHAT LOCKDOWN TAUGHT ME

I am sure that by now we each have a particular memory of the past six-month lockdown period in our lives.

One special memory for me is how virtually every weekday I popped into Mass in various churches around the English-speaking world. I could do that by courtesy of the Mass-online.org website.

In doing so I could not but be impressed in a unique way how truly universal our Catholic faith and its practices are. It was very comfortable for me to identify with the spirit of each Mass because it was celebrated in exactly the same way as I had done in my home earlier in the day.

Of course, there were certain churches and particular celebrants I enjoyed seeing day by day.

I was particularly impressed by the morning Mass celebrated by the Benedictine monks at Buckfast Abbey in England. I grew accustomed to the principal celebrant being either Fr Francis or Fr Dominic. In time, I got to learn that the monks of this Abbey also created beautiful stained glass windows, set in concrete, like those of Leo Theron in our Queenswood, Sunnyside and Lynnwood churches in Pretoria.

Of course, the magnificent beauty of Buckfast Abbey chapel will remain in my memory for the rest of my life.

Every weekday at lunchtime I had the choice of attending Mass in either Toronto or St John's cathedrals in Canada. Both these Masses were celebrated by the archbishops in their cathedrals.

The one in St Michael's cathedral in Toronto was usually celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins who greatly impressed me by his homilies that flowed effortlessly from his mind and heart and his proceeding to the Blessed Sacrament chapel after Mass to kneel down before the tabernacle to pray the rosary at such a lovely sedate pace. (He never just gabbled through the words of the prayers at break-neck speed). I was personally edified to see above the beautiful tabernacle the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help which was on my ordination and silver jubilee cards.

Archbishop Peter Hundt was the celebrant of the lunchtime Mass in his cathedral of St John the Baptist in St John's, Newfoundland. I noted how he wore his archbishop Pallium vestment every time he said Mass. He, too, is a gifted homilist.

My daily popping into Mass around the world virtually every weekday during our lockdown period inspired me in my own manner of celebrating Mass in my home every early morning. It was then and throughout the day whenever I said the rosary in the company of the Lord's dear mother that I begged God to preserve me, my family and friends (including you by name) from Covid19.

LOG To Do List

Here is your exciting "to do" list: Scratch around for news, memories, events, all adventures (funny or otherwise), festivities, achievements, anniversaries and bereavements for future LOG Newsletters. Look on the website www.loreto.co.za for LOG newsletters from 2011 to 2019. Also for Reports and photos of LOG Reunions.

Send your news contributions to loretooldgirls1950@gmail.com