

Sr Moira Donnelly RSCJ (*Religieuses du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus*)

I always felt God had moved Moira to Aberdeen as part of the big plan! She moved to the beautiful convent where the Sacred Heart Sisters lived just at a time when, having done some Ignatian training, I wanted to share what I had received but didn't know how!

Moira had been involved in delivering courses for years, including at Nile Grove. She was experienced and always so encouraging and generous in sharing her wisdom, knowledge and resources. The convent was an ideal place for us to use and we were welcomed there when we gave our first prayer courses.

Then, with Moira's encouragement it seemed like a really brave thing to offer The Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living course. Moira had then become a good friend and also the convent had been sold! The remaining sisters lived in two little cottages in the grounds of Bishops' house. Moira had a cottage to herself and I spent many hours enjoying her hospitality and sharing frustrations and plans and putting the Church to rights.

She mentored me through the first courses offered in Aberdeen and we organised retreats at St Drostan's Lodge at Tarfside in Angus too.

Moira was so keen to work with all the different denominations and when we offered a course for clergy it was an attempt to show them what we were offering and gain their trust – in order that they may encourage more of the people to take advantage of the courses. She shared my enthusiasm for helping people in our congregations to nourish their personal relationships with God and so to reach a deeper and more fulfilled level in worship and life!

Moira would have been 90 years old in June and was born in Ardrossan. She trained as a teacher before taking her vows in Rome with the Society of the Sacred Heart. She gained a Bachelor of Divinity degree in Ireland and lectured at Craiglockhart Training College until it closed in 1981. She then worked in Africa, Europe and the USA before moving to Aberdeen.

In Aberdeen, as well as helping with the Ignatian courses, she was active in many areas and a member of St Mary's Cathedral. She was often called upon to talk and write and was always ready to help anybody prepare for anything they had been asked to do. She was anxious to ever learn too and I remember being very impressed when she was one of the first I knew to give a PowerPoint presentation. The affection and respect held for her was evident at the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of her Profession I had the privilege of attending in Aberdeen while she was here.

In last year's diary I have 'Dalkeith' written in my diary on 2nd April. I had been planning to visit Sr Moira, Sister Barbara Farquharson and Sr Alda Civiera. Then of course the pandemic prevented my visit. Moira had been in pain for years. She gave up facilitating courses because sitting for any length of time in one place caused great discomfort. She is without pain at last.

"Requiescat in Pace"



The photograph above was taken at Sister Moira's graduation in 1978.

