

## CELEBRATING 48 YEARS OF PEACE IN CHRIST



September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 was an occasion of celebration as Bishop, priests, religious and people of the diocese gathered in St. John's Church, Kilkenny to join with the Daughters of Mary and Joseph in thanksgiving for the contribution of Peace in Christ to the Diocese of Ossory and beyond. We were also joined by a number of former DMJs.



We are filled with gratitude for the vision of Bishop Peter Birch and the faith and commitment of our Congregation, who together embarked on a new and unknown ministry - the establishment of Peace in Christ Retreat House (the first Diocesan Retreat House in Ireland) in 1967.

For the past 48 years the ministry of Peace in Christ has been sustained through a faithful commitment to **COLLABORATION**. Bishops, priests, religious, people in the parishes of the diocese, many volunteers, a very devoted staff, the Extended Team and the Daughters of Mary and Joseph have cooperated to craft the rich story of this unique House of Prayer, enabling it be a place of hospitality, reflection, restfulness and healing for many people.



One of the remarkable features of the Retreat House was the role of **PARISH PROMOTERS**, who, in conjunction with the priests in their parishes, faithfully promoted all events: Parish Evenings, Reflective Days/Evenings/Weekends as well as taking responsibility for fund raising and enlisting the help of many other willing volunteers.



Since its establishment the **PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE** have participated in the retreat programme and supported the ministry in various ways.

We have been blessed by the presence of the **MANY YOUNG PEOPLE** and their teachers who came to Peace in Christ in preparation for their Confirmation. The openness, spontaneity and eagerness of these young people always contributed new life and energy to the atmosphere in the Retreat House.



Likewise, we have been inspired by the faith of the **MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM THE DIOCESE** and beyond and by the various groups who have come to pray, to meditate, to reflect and share their faith experiences.

We remember with deep gratitude the many people: priests, sisters, promoters, volunteers who are no longer with us - all of whom devoted much time and energy to the ministry of Peace in Christ.

We leave Peace in Christ with a sense of hope that the seeds sown and brought to life through this ministry may continue to bear fruit in new, and perhaps, yet unknown ways in the Diocese of Ossory



**A REFLECTION BASED ON LINES FROM THE MAGNIFICAT WHICH EXPRESSES OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD  
AND TO ALL WHO ARE PART OF THE STORY OF PEACE IN CHRIST**

**MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD**

We thank God  
for the blessings of the last 48 years at Peace in Christ  
for the faith of those who came  
for the faith that has been shared  
for the peace experienced  
for those who listened  
for those who served  
for those who inspired

**MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD**

**MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOUR**

We thank God  
for vision  
for creativity  
for artists  
for commitment  
for generosity  
for young people and adults  
for laughter and joy  
for debate and conversation  
for struggles and questions  
for support  
for friends  
for memories

**MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOUR**

## HOLY IS YOUR NAME

We thank God  
for the nourishment of the Eucharist  
for the healing touch in the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
for the privilege of God's presence  
for time to reflect on life  
for time to ponder God's Word  
in the sacred place that offered "PEACE IN CHRIST"

## HOLY IS YOUR NAME



Retreat House Team 2015