

Thank You Margaret

by Elvine Msimuko

"Its Monday, the twentieth day in the month of May. The year is 2019. 123 years since our humble yet vibrant and graced beginnings at Holly Place.

What was God doing that God brought into being a congregation that was to grow in ways unimagined? That God called forth all kinds of women from across the world and set them on a path that led them through hardships, separation, lean times and times of plenty, of growth, of expansion always full of joy.

God continues to bring us though history still full of faith, passion and life. 3 or 211, 6 or 600+ the Holy Spirit enlivening each one.

What is God doing that in 2019, God is still calling us forth, still counting on us?

Margaret,

This is our story that you tell with such love, affirmation, hope. You hold our journey with such sacredness and deep affection.

In these days you have led us to listen to the Holy Spirit telling us that dying is about living fully, that the Holy Spirit's agenda promises a future that is vibrant regardless of age, health, numbers.

As a Facilitator,

You made us pause and listen to an emerging future that even now God is bringing to birth all around us and within the congregation.

You guided us as we reconnected with who we are – our being mission – instruments of blessing by our being here, being part of the universe's story and journey into Christ being all in all.

As sister to us,

You have walked beside us, urging us forward when we tried to head back to the familiar, the known

As a Spiritual Director,

You led us inwards, stood with us as we searched deep within, respecting our pace, our fears and resistances. You were patient with our dysfunctional reactions.

As a mother,

You have held us together as sisters and brothers - equal, gifts to one another, gifts to the mission of the Church, to the mission of Christ. At times you pushed us, at times pulled us but always with respect, with love. We know we are your favourites.

Margaret, Thank You

20th May 2019 Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre, Larne Northern Ireland
FMDM GENERAL CHAPTER 2019