

**Sister Mary Hayden's  
Message of Encouragement  
to participants at the Partnership for Mission  
Gathering held in Singapore in August 2010**

***'TOGETHER WE CAN'***

*Born in Ireland in 1919, Sister Mary Hayden lived and served in the Asia Pacific Region for 70 years with enormous courage and zeal. As a woman who lived Partnership with conviction, Sr Mary expressed delight to see the recognition of Good Shepherd Partnership for Mission within the Congregation and the Asia Pacific region during her lifetime. This message of encouragement was read to participants at the Partnership Gathering held in Singapore 12-14 August 2010.*

Just a few lines to contribute some reflections, after 70 years of struggling to follow the path traced by St Mary Euphrasia, in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd, carrying compassion and reconciliation to those most in need.

Like the aged Simeon in the temple, I can now say my Nunc Dimittis – 'Lord, Thou can'st now dismiss Thy servant in peace, for my eyes have seen Thy salvation'.

Who of us Sisters, has not longed, prayed and hoped for the day when we would see gathered close to us, myriads of seekers after justice and peace, who can no longer stand helpless in the middle of our affluence that breeds poverty and a power that breeds powerlessness? Never in the history of our abused and tortured world, were the needs for the compassion of Good Shepherd, more needed. These needs are all too clear.

We, religious Sisters can no longer claim – if we ever did so – to be the sole possessors of a charism that is uniquely a gift to bring hope where there is despair; peace where there is enmity; light where there is darkness; sufficiency where there is desperation. This cannot be the prerogative of the few, or the lifestyle of an elite.

Yes, we need religious Sisters whose lifestyle is inspiring and authentic, to bring the reign of God where God's will is most missing right now. Yet we likewise call for Good Shepherd People, who as partners, can confront today's realities with the clear values and firm convictions it will take to continue along the long weary journey toward justice. I end with a quote from Bangkok's reconcilers in the wake of recent troubles..... 'Together We Can'.

With great love and constant prayers, that more 'labourers will join the vineyard'.