

HISTORIC MOMENT FOR COOK ISLANDS DAUGHTERS

Daughters of Charity International Interprovincial Mission

Provinces of Ireland, Great Britain, USA Provinces of Southeast (Emmitsburg, MD), Northeast (Albany, NY), East Central (Evansville, IN), West Central (St. Louis, MO), West (Los Altos Hills)



the lead role of this important mission.

The Cook Islands Mission of the Daughters of Charity experienced a rare transition, Wednesday, January 13, 2010 when they changed from leadership by the Australian Province to that of the US Province of the West. At the invitation of Bishop Stuart O'Connell S.M., the Daughters of Charity had established a foundation in the Cook Islands in January 2005. Sisters from the provinces of Ireland, Los Altos Hills, Evansville, and Australia were the founding members, with the Australian Province taking

On January 13, 2010 Sister Pauline Flynn, Visitatrice of the Australian Province, passed this leadership role to Sister Marjory Ann Baez, Visitatrice of the Los Altos Hills Province, during a ritual which took place at St. Paul's Church in Tikioki, Rarotonga, the largest of the Cook Islands. This was an opportunity to celebrate the Daughters of Charity Cook Islands Mission story so far, and to praise and thank God for the many blessings of the past five years. Sister Marjory Ann was presented with a beautiful wall hanging depicting the Community Seal and motto in a Polynesian motif. It was painted by local artist, Georgina Keenan. Also present were Sister Betty Marie Dunkel, Councillor for the Province of the West, together with the sisters on Mission in the Cook Islands—Sisters Anne Maguire, Sister Servant; Mary Ann Szydowski, Margaret O'Dwyer, Mary Duong, and My Hanh Cao.

In appreciation for her leadership during the Sisters' foundational years in the Cooks, Sister Pauline was presented with a carved pearl shell, from the Island of Manihiki, depicting the Community Seal.

On the 12 inhabited islands of the Cooks, there are only eight Catholic sisters. The Daughters of Charity continue to provide services to the disabled, run an afterschool reading program, engage in prison ministry, and work with special needs students at Nukutere College, the local Catholic High School.

