

Harvesters of Jesus

“We have created a ‘throw away’ culture which is now spreading...The excluded are not the ‘exploited’ but the outcast, the ‘leftovers’.”

(Pope Francis)

This has been addressed before within the LITTLE EDEN Society context.

What is it that makes LITTLE EDEN different?

What is it that **appeals** to:

- the families of the resident, to have their family member call LITTLE EDEN home?
- the staff that care for these special souls?
- the donors that are prepared to invest in the current and future of the organisation?

My experience of the commitment and dedication of Domitilla and Danny Hyams, in their care of the residents, is at the base of this **appeal**. The job ultimately became far too large for them to do on their own. As a result, a culture was encouraged and many others gathered around them to contribute to this ongoing *Love & Care*¹: the staff, the donors, the Government...

For me, the foundation of the drive within Domitilla, came from her religious beliefs. She claims to have had an apparition of Our Lady, the Mother of God, which for her was an answer to prayer for what she should be doing with her life. From when she was young, I understand she spent her time in daily prayer. During the decades of her work at LITTLE EDEN she would pray to Our Lady for intercession and to Our Lord for the needs of the Society. Daily Holy Mass was a given: to the extent that holidays were only taken at locations where there was Holy Mass every day.

At the outset there was a culture of prayer; a belief in the Divine Presence. God would answer her prayer. It did not always happen as Domitilla envisioned, but she believed her prayers were answered. During the early days of the Society, a prayer was composed by Fr. Reggie Webber for the needs of the organisation. The prayer is included at the end of each of the Harvesters of Jesus letter, in the hopes that it is said daily by those who receive this.

I invite you to please say this prayer in the quiet of your home for the needs of the Society.

The **appeal**, for me, is the culture that has been exemplified by the Founders that I hope is carried into the future.

Do we want to be taken for a commercial operation, or a place of *Respect* and *Love & Care*?

What culture would you like to see develop around you?

Christmas has become a season of increased commercial activity.

How about putting “**Christ back into Christmas**”?

This is the example the Founders have given us.



¹ *Love & Care* together with *Respect* and *Sanctity of Life* are the 3 Values of LITTLE EDEN Society as identified collectively at a staff workshop.

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Society for the Care of Persons with Mental Handicap

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