



125 years of missionary service! CONGRATULATIONS MISSIONARY SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (SSpS)



Pictured at Maynooth: Left to right: Sisters. Renate; Sujata; Joan; Kay; Carmen; Judith; Ewa and Gini. Only Sister Renate from Raheny, was unable to be present due to illness.

On Saturday, September 6th, 2014, the Regional Leader, Sr **Sujata** SSpS, from Farnham, welcomed over 70 guests to celebrations marking the foundation of the Congregation of the SSpS in Steyl, Netherlands, 125 years ago. The celebrations took place in the Divine Word Missionaries house in Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

In the corridors of the SVD house, the sisters had prepared a display about their work in the region and around the world. They also provided interesting booklets about their congregation.

After words of welcome from Sr Sujata SSpS and Fr Twomey SVD, Fr **Pat Byrne** SVD, led us all in a beautiful mass of thanksgiving. He was joined around the altar by 7 other SVDs while, newly ordained Deacon, **Cyril Ma** SVD, proclaimed the Gospel. Sr **Gini** SSpS from India read the first reading. In his

homily, Pat spoke enthusiastically of the way the Congregation had developed from the time of St. **Arnold Janssen**, Blessed **Maria Helena Stollenwerk** and Blessed **Josepha Stenmanns**, while giving thanks for the work being carried out all over the world at the present time by 3000 sisters in 52 countries.



They arrived in Ireland in September of 1968 and began their work in the SVD House in

Maynooth. The pioneers and those from the Irish part of the region who had died were remembered. These included Srs Adelma, Lucille, Ursula, Clare, Mary Clare and Ger Knightly, whose mother, Monica, and sister, Claire, were present. Sr Renata Sitemich SSpS who is ill at present was remembered in prayer.



The mass was followed by a lunch at the end of which a jubilee cake was cut and shared. During the lunch, Sr **Kay** SSpS, from Dundalk and who is on home leave from her mission in Ghana and Sr **Yudith** SSpS, from **Indonesia**, who is missioned to Ireland, spoke a little of their lives as SSpS missionaries today.

It was nice to see so many members of the Holy Spirit Missionary Association too present along with relatives and friends to mark the occasion.