The Interview

“There are two histories of every land and people

The ***Written History*** that tells what is considered politic to tell

and the ***Unwritten History*** that tells everything. “

(Callum Campbell)

THE INTERVIEW

- Purpose – of the Interview
- How we plan for it
- Process – how we do it
- The Learnings we've had
- Challenges – we've encountered

Purpose?

- The complete life of this Sister?
- Her life as a Sister of Mercy?
- Ministry?
- A particular experience?
- Some aspect of life and ministry in the Province or Congregation?
- Another purpose?

Planning

- Who to interview
- Contact
- ‘Memory Joggers’
- Research
- Pictures and Mementos
- Test equipment/practise recording
- ‘The Travel Kit’

Travel Kit (1)

Contract

Checklist

Memory Joggers

Travel Kit (2)

Contract

Checklist

Memory Joggers

Travel Kit (3)

Contract

Checklist

Memory Joggers

Props!

- Small table
- Table cloth
- Carpet tile
- Travel Clock
- Small pieces of cardboard
- Coasters
- Tissues
- ???

A Good Recording?

- Capabilities of Equipment
- Acoustics of Recording Environment
- Capabilities of Interviewer

Recording Environment

- Be there ahead of time
- Set up & test equipment
- Utilise layout of room

Learnings

- Relax!
- Preparing the Interviewee
- Contract
- Attentive listening
- Clear questions and probes
- Letting go intelligently!

Doing it (cont'd)

- Staying silent – as much as possible!
- Awareness of the presence of the 'Unseen' 3rd party in the room
- Length of the interview?
- Closure of Session

Post - Interview

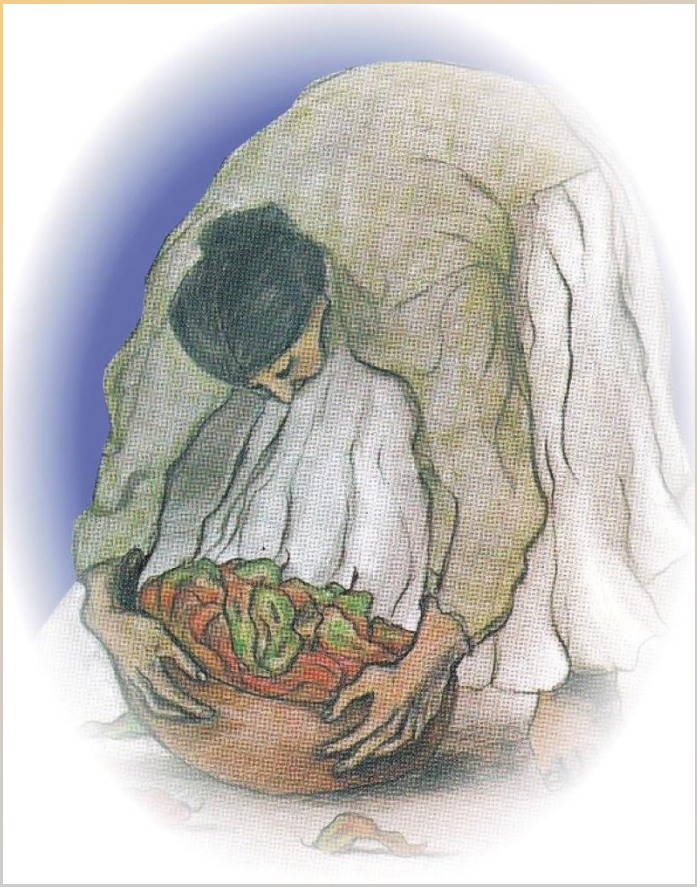
- Another Session?
- Transcribing
- ‘Thank you’ letter

Challenges

- ‘I haven’t anything interesting to tell …’
- ‘You’ll probably only want to hear good stories’
- New technology
- Cost
- How Short the Time!
- Weight!

Interviewers' Experiences

- Privilege
- Humbling
- Awesome
- Wonder
- Hilarious

Interviewees' Experiences

- Affirmation
- Healing
- Enjoyment
- Surprise