

Vision

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

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SUMMER 2017

Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love 1817 – 2017



Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Since 2017 began, so many memories and feelings have tugged at my heart.

Our city, our Church, and the Sisters of Charity have grown together over these 200 years. Many concerns of the early years still exist today. Yet the mission of charity and justice continues to be part of the structure that brings life and hope to our people.

It was the call of the laity that Mother Seton responded to when she sent three Sisters to New York. Together, our Sisters and lay partners continue to call each other to meet the needs of those living on the margins of society.

The music soared and prayers were raised in thanksgiving as we gathered and began the 200th Anniversary year at our Evening Prayer Service on January 8. In many ways, it celebrated what was, is, and will be.

The luncheon in Staten Island brought together residents of our housing complex, doctors, nurses, teachers, family, and friends. What joy in reconnecting and in the telling of stories of partnerships and service!

Then came the Gala at Chelsea Piers and the picnic in Nanuet—truly family gatherings—the family being the company of Charity. There were so many more reconnections—many stories, laughter, games, and of course, dancing.

A significant part of this year of blessings was the gathering of the Sisters of Charity Federation. Sisters came from the United States, Canada, Korea, Belize, and beyond. We prayed, worked, and visited the places of our beginnings. The days were filled not only with the past but with discerning how we, as the Sisters of Charity Federation could move into the future, serving the mission together. The days were truly exciting and energizing. They spoke of a future filled with hope.

These special moments from Staten Island, Manhattan, and Rockland County lead us to St. Patrick Cathedral for a prayer service and dedication of the altar to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The power of Sr. Peggie Beaudette's work will truly fill our hearts with gratitude and joy. Please make time to come and see, stay, and pray.

The culmination of this year will be the return of our Sisters to the neighborhood and church where it all began—St. Patrick's Old Cathedral at Mott and Prince Streets. Here we will renew our vows and commitments to our God, lived in service to his people. How could my heart not be filled with joy and gratitude for the graces given and shared with so many? The blessings of our beginnings continue to overflow into this, our time and well beyond. We are made for Joy!

With gratitude,



Jane Iannucelli, SC



Cover photos: (top) Sister Carol Barnes carried the 200th Anniversary flag at the Opening Prayer Service on January 8, 2017; (left) 200th Anniversary cake, Maria Bastone photo; (right) Sister Jane welcomed the crowd of 500 at the Gala on May 18, 2017, Maria Bastone photo.

Photos from our various 200th Anniversary events may be seen on our website at: www.scny.org/news/200th-anniversary-galleries/

VISION enables the Sisters of Charity of New York to make a cohesive statement about how we reveal God's love in our lives and the many and varied ways in which we respond to the signs of the times.



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The Mission of Charity

The Next Hundred Years, 1867–1967

Text by Constance Brennan, SC, and Maryellen Blumlein, SC



Sister Mary Irene Fitzgibbon opened the New York Foundling Hospital in 1869 with five dollars. This photo was taken in 1880.



Mother Mary Jerome Ely
1861–1870, Second Term; 1876–1885

1867 marked the Sisters of Charity's fifty-year anniversary. Having moved to the new motherhouse in the Bronx in 1859, the Congregation had already opened thirty-eight schools, two hospitals (St. Vincent and St. Joseph Military Hospital—opened to care for injured Civil War soldiers), and two orphanages. The mission that began in Manhattan now extended to Brooklyn, Staten Island, Yonkers,

Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Newburgh, New Rochelle, Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, New Haven, CT, and even Halifax, Nova Scotia, which had become the foundation for an independent congregation in 1856.

At the second election of the New York community on December 8, 1849, Sister Mary Jerome Ely was chosen for the office of Mother General. Energetic, capable, and kind, she would be elected three times to the highest office in the community and would open three-fourths of its mission houses. Mother Jerome, whose second term began in 1861, oversaw the continued expansion of the mission that extended to Providence, RI, Clifton, NJ, Port Chester, and the Bronx.

It was during Mother Jerome's second term that Sr. Mary Irene Fitzgibbon, with Srs. Teresa Vincent McCrystal and Ann Aloysia Tierney, opened the New York Foundling Hospital in a four-story brownstone on East Twelfth Street in Greenwich Village in 1869 to care for orphaned children or "foundlings" as they were called.

Mother Mary Regina Lawless was elected in 1870 to lead the Congregation.



Mother Mary Regina Lawless
1870–1876

The community expanded rapidly during her administration, not only in New York, but also in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. She also began the extension and renovation of the Chapel in the motherhouse. As it stands today, this Chapel of the Immaculate Conception is a fitting memorial to her.

In 1876 Mother Mary Jerome Ely was elected Mother in the fiftieth year of

Continued, see page 14



Sister Angela Marie Rooney — Celebrating 100 Years of Life

by Patricia McGowan, SC

Above left: Sister Angela Marie sat for a photo just prior to entering the Sisters of Charity.
Right: Sr. Angela during her teaching days at St. Peter School, Yonkers, circa 1968.

“Make all my days to come productive. May they shine in their concern for others.”

When Sr. Angela Marie Rooney celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of Charity on February 2, 1989, these were her words, her Prayer of Thanksgiving. During this Sisters of Charity Anniversary Year, as she celebrates her 100th birthday, anyone who has ever lived or worked with Sr. Angela or even met her once will assure you that her prayer has come true. With one voice they say she is “gracious, beyond all telling,” “kind and thoughtful,” “has the most wonderful smile,” “always makes you feel special.”

The eldest of three children, Sr. Angela (Catherine Cecilia) grew up in the Bronx. Her parents, Hugh and Bridget Hearty Rooney, were Irish immigrants and she remembers fondly their happy household and their strong faith. Every night they said the Family Rosary and any visitor who happened to be in the house joined in. When she played school with her brother, Hugh, and her sister, Ann, the girls would pull a sheet or a pillow case over their heads as veils. Even as a child, Sr. Angela already knew she wanted to become a Sister.

That belief was reinforced in Our Lady of Mercy Parish, its Grammar School, and then at the Academy of Mount Saint Ursula. Her love for the Ursuline Sisters who taught her is evident even today. Perhaps it was providential she was given the name of the Ursuline Saint Angela Merici.

Sister Angela recalls those simpler days, filled with love and laughter. And some of them still hold special memories for her: the day her sister was born and the day her Aunt Mary (who later became Sr. Mary Patrick, O. Carm) came over from Ireland in 1924. That was the only day she and her siblings ate lunch in school, the day she had her first ride in an open-top automobile, the day when she was seven or eight and she and her mother took a trolley to visit Sr. Mary Melita Rooney, an older cousin, for the first time at Mount Saint Vincent.

Family and faith were always the core of Sr. Angela’s happiness, as cousins who came to celebrate her 100th birthday Mass on February 26 agreed. They talked about the central place the Rooney family, and Sr. Angela in particular, held in their young lives. Michael Hearty recalled how important Sunday dinner was, when they all gathered in the Rooney household. “We were not just first cousins,” he insists; “we were best friends.”



Young Catherine Cecilia Rooney with her little brother, Hugh.



Ellen and Margaret (both Rooney cousins) fondly remember buying a Wards cake (the Entenmann's of those days) and bringing it to the Rooney house for Sunday dinners, which were filled with stories of Ireland and lots of laughter. A cousin from Colorado has a more recent memory of Sr. Angela visiting in the 1980s and joyfully driving a group of Sisters through the mountains outside Denver, an area totally new to her. And, yes, Sr. Angela did have a license!

As with so many New York Irish-American Catholic families, much of their lives revolved around the parish. Every first Sunday of the month there was the Angels Society. After prayers there was a (silent) film to watch and a pastor who helped pay for each girl's high school tuition.

When her brother, Hugh, decided to enter the minor Seminary of the Holy Cross Fathers in Notre Dame, Indiana, the family was thrilled, but not-so-secretly, Sr. Angela was more thrilled with his decision to return home after two years and be ordained as a priest of the New York Archdiocese.

Following high school, she went to Hunter College for a year, but soon decided to go to Grace Institute, which was where she added another piece to her childhood resolution. She was going to become a Sister of Charity. Along with her cousin, Sr. Mary Melita, Sisters Mary Athanasia Marks, Carmela Regina Cahill, and Mary Hilda Stanton from Grace Institute had made a lasting impression on her.

After graduating from Grace Institute, she worked for a short time as a secretary-typist for a Consumer Clearing House and an Investigative Bureau and realized her love for that world. By 1939, when she entered the Congregation, she had her sights set on following her dream of continuing to work in a business setting. But that was not to happen. For the next forty years Sr. Angela taught all the grades in eight Archdiocesan elementary schools.

Although she loved the children in all of those classrooms, her heart was still with her earlier experiences. So in 1979, when St. Denis School in Yonkers was closing, she saw her opportunity to make use of her training from Grace Institute and her BS in Business Education from the College of Mount Saint Vincent. She applied for the position of Staff Secretary at the Sisters of Charity Center. For the next 31 years, as employee and then as volunteer, she prepared directories, brochures, newsletters, and booklets for the Congregation.

It was here Sr. Angela says, that she felt most fulfilled, making good use of her clerical skills. Today she remembers fondly the teamwork, cooperation, and appreciation among the Sisters and staff who worked with her. And she especially is grateful for the Sisters who were Congregation Secretaries during those days.

Continued, see page 19, right column

Above left: Sr. Angela's brother, Rev. Hugh Rooney, her mother, Bridget, herself, and cousin Sr. Melita Rooney, SC (deceased December 29, 1997). Above: Surrounded by her family, Sr. Angela receives Communion on the day of her 100th birthday Mass and celebration from Rev. John Duffell.



Young cousin Mairéad, age 8, made this 100th birthday card for Sr. Angela.

"All my life I have wanted to be a Sister and I have come to realize what a great gift it has been to be a Sister of Charity."



Joyful Prayer Service Opens the 200th Anniversary Celebration

by Maryellen Blumlein, SC

In contrast to the rather warm August day when the first three Sisters of Charity actually arrived in New York, the opening of the 200th Anniversary occurred on the cold and snowy day of January 8, 2017. At 3 PM, Sisters of Charity, Associates, colleagues, and friends gathered in the Mount Saint Vincent Chapel for Evening Prayer. The procession began with the acolytes, Associates Chris Gallagher and LeeAnn Brathwaite; followed by Sr. Genevieve Wetmore, the cross-bearer.

Then gifts representative of the Sisters' missions over the past 200 years were presented before being placed in a position of prominence in the sanctuary. Signifying our ministry in childcare, Sr. Loretta Thomas Donahue carried a tapestry stitched by the orphans in St. Patrick's Orphanage at Mott Street; education was represented by a large globe carried by Sr. Kathleen Sullivan; and Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips presented a stethoscope as a symbol of the many years the sisters spent in health care. Sister Eileen Judge carried a beautiful Guatemalan weaving, and Sr. Andrea Dixon a traditional Bahamian conch shell, representing the Sisters' longtime presence in these two missions, as well as outreach to other areas in our country and the world.

Top row from left: 1. Under the direction of Andrew Bauer, music and song filled the chapel. 2. Representing education, Sr. Kathleen Sullivan presented a globe. Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips, representing health care presented a stethoscope. Bottom row from left: 1. Sr. Andrea Dixon carried a conch shell to represent the many years of service in the Bahamas. 2. Sr. Eileen Judge carried a weaving to represent the mission in Guatemala. 3. Sr. Mary Cleary raised the conch shell before Sr. Pat Quinn placed it with the other items. 4. The items presented in the sanctuary.

Sister Elizabeth Vermaelen carried a copy of the original Constitution and Sr. Mary Lou McGrath carried the present Constitution, both signifying the Congregation's adherence to the Rule, dating back to the Rule of 1812 that had been adapted from St. Vincent's Rule for the Daughters of Charity written in the 17th century.

Sister Margaret Donegan carried the Scriptures, exemplifying our acceptance and following of the will and word of God in our lives. The 200th anniversary banner was carried by Sr. Carol Barnes, and Sr. Kathleen Aucoin blessed the assembly and the gathered gifts with incense.

Sisters Mary Cleary and Patricia Quinn received and placed the offered gifts in the sanctuary. The choir, composed of sisters and professional musicians and singers, was conducted by



From left: Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen entered the Sisters of Charity from Staten Island, Sisters of Charity Human Resources Director Sharon Dosin donned the traditional habit for the day, Vicar of Staten Island Msgr. Peter Finn was educated by the Sisters of Charity, and Sr. Kathleen Sullivan, former Superintendent of Catholic Schools in Staten Island.



From left: Native Staten Islanders Loretta Conniff, Barbara Huszcza, Joan Howe, and Sr. Sheila Brosnan, all graduates of St. Peter High School for Girls. Mrs. Huszcza and Mrs. Howe were instrumental in planning the luncheon in Staten Island.



Sister Jane with John DePirro, former CEO of St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island, and Judy Feldmann, wife of Eric Feldmann, retired Executive Director of Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation.



Native Staten Islander Sister Mary Carmel Craig was the guest of her cousin John Ferrante. Sister Mary Carmel taught at St. Peter High School for Girls.



Sister Jane with Kate Rooney and Alan Weisglass, longtime Sisters of Charity friends from St. Vincent's Hospital and Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation.

200th Anniversary Celebration held on April 29th in Staten Island

Former Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan staff joined in the celebration. The group includes nurses, administrators, and social workers. Several are graduates of St. Vincent's School of Nursing and spent much of their careers working at the hospital.

Sisters of Charity friends and a few residents from Sisters of Charity Housing posed for a photo with our "Sister of Charity for the day," Sharon Dosin.



F.D.N.Y. Marine Company 1 saluted the Congregation with a water display.



Band leader Gus Hayes led the singing of *America the Beautiful*.



Co-Chairs
Steve Korf and
Jennifer Coffey



Msgr. Thomas Leonard offered a blessing; (below) Sr. Margaret Egan played the drums for a few numbers.



Above: Luise Bethancourt, & Sisters Kathleen Tracey and Margaret O'Brien; (below) friends and family joined in the dancing and celebration.



Above: Dennis O'Brien, Theresa Mulroy, Ann Marie O'Brien, & Sr. Sheila Brosnan; below from left: Sisters Pat Brennan, Helen Wade, Wilda Asfour, Ms. Rita Houlihan, & Sr. Nancy Kellar



Photos by Maria Bastone and Elena Miranda

Friends, Partners in Ministry, Sisters, and Associates Mark 200th Anniversary with Grand Gala

“Birthdays and anniversary celebrations are always times of great joy and remembrance. How wonderful it is for us to celebrate tonight the momentous milestones in our history, the history of the Church and the City of New York.”

With these words, Sr. Jane Iannucelli welcomed 500 guests to the 200th Anniversary Gala on May 18, 2017 at the Lighthouse in Chelsea Piers. In telling the story of the three Sisters sent to New York by Mother Seton in 1817—Sisters Felicity Brady, Cecilia O’Conway, and Rose White—Sister Jane spoke of the mission of charity that grew from the first ministry on Mott Street to the sponsored

ministries of today. So familiar with the Congregation’s work and Mother Seton’s famous wisdom was the crowd that when Sister Jane spoke of the words imparted to the pioneer Sisters by their leader, “You will often be at a stand in a situation so new,” they joined in to finish the quote, “but only do your best and leave the rest to our dear God.”

Continued, see page 9, bottom left

College of Mount Saint Vincent Creates Mott Street Scholarship Program



In the spirit of Elizabeth Seton and Vincent de Paul, the College of Mount Saint Vincent enjoys a long tradition of helping talented, financially needy students with grants and scholarships. The College recently added a new financial aid program, Mott Street Scholarships, for students who have persevered through foster care or homelessness.

The Scholarship's name honors the Sisters of Charity of New York. The first Sisters came to New York City in 1817 to staff the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum between Mott and Prince Streets in Old Saint Patrick's Parish.

The Sisters were visionary. They recognized that children need more than food, clothing, shelter, and love. The Sisters understood that education was essential to transform talent into opportunity and to promise their wards self-reliance.

The Mount created the Mott Street Scholarship Program after learning that public supports for foster and homeless children largely disappear at age eighteen. Opportunity for education largely disappears as well. In 2016, of the more than 10,000 college-age youth who at some point were in New York State's foster care system, only 350 enrolled in educational programs beyond high school.

In that light, the College reached out to Covenant House and designed Mott Street Scholarships for students like those the Sisters served at Mott and Prince Streets. Mott Street Scholarships are available to students whom Covenant House

and the College evaluate as academically and emotionally ready for college. Mott Street Scholars receive tuition, room, and board 365 days a year; fees, books, campus jobs, and when needed, supplementary support services.

For Mott Street Scholars, the Mount is home. Many are active in campus ministry. Sisters of Charity volunteer to work with them, and they volunteer to help the Sisters. Several Mott Street Scholars aspire to work in social services or as teachers. Uniformly they share an impressive dedication to service.

The program enrolled ten students in the fall of 2016. The College anticipates a total of 20 this fall. Academic success is impressive. One Mott Street Scholar, homeless since age twelve, was one of only fourteen Mount students who earned a 4.0 grade point average during the fall semester.

The Mott Street Scholarship Program is important. It is also very expensive. The College aims to enroll at least ten Mott Street Scholars each year. Now in the silent phase of a capital campaign, the College also intends to raise an endowment of at least five million to help to sustain its development.

Dr. Charles Flynn, President
College of Mount Saint Vincent

200th Anniversary Gala

Continued from page 8

To pay tribute to the contributions of those who have helped grow the mission of charity, Sister Jane invited all who have been a part of the mission in any capacity—teachers, former students, and partners in education; staff, nurses, and administrators at health and child care institutions; employees of the sponsored ministries; current and former SC Center staff; clergy and other religious; Associates and Companions—to stand and be recognized. All Sisters of Charity in the room saluted those standing with enthusiastic applause.

Later in the evening, Sister Sheila Brosnan, chair of the 200th Anniversary Committee, introduced Jennifer Coffey and Steve Korf, co-chairs of the Gala. Mr. Korf and Ms. Coffey were tireless in working with the committee to bring guests to the event and to raise awareness of the two centuries of service by the Sisters. Sister Sheila expressed the Congregation's gratitude for the time and energy the co-chairs devoted to the celebration. In their remarks, Ms. Coffey and Mr. Korf honored the work of the Congregation and its capacity to minister to all in need. They also paid tribute to Mrs. Anne Marie Gardiner, Director of Development, for her work in planning the special evening.

Much to the delight of the Sisters and guests, the evening concluded with dancing to the music of the Gus Hayes Band.

Fordham University Confers Doctor of Humane Letters in Honor of Congregation's 200th Anniversary



"Today, as they celebrate their 200th anniversary, the Sisters continue to change lives through their hospitals, childcare facilities, child welfare agencies, and schools." As Rev. Joseph McShane, S.J., President of Fordham University, read the citation honoring the Congregation and Sr. Jane, University Board Chair Robert Daleo and Faculty Sponsor Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, placed the hood on Sister's shoulders. The Commencement Ceremony took place on May 20, 2017, which was also Sr. Jane's birthday.

2017

A Red-Letter Year for Many Reasons

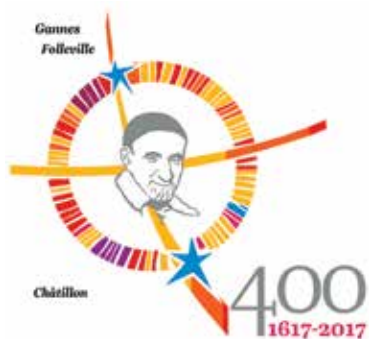
by Regina Bechtle, SC

The Sisters of Charity of New York aren't the only ones celebrating anniversaries in 2016–2017. We're happy to take our place among these other major events commemorated this year.

500 Years Since the Lutheran Reformation

Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk, posted his Ninety-Five Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. His protest against the Church's widespread practice of selling indulgences escalated (with the help of the newly invented printing press) into attacks on a wide range of practices and teaching. Counterattacks followed, but Luther had unleashed a call for reform that led to a major division among Christians. The Catholic Church responded with the Council of Trent (1546–1564), which called for a comprehensive program of reform, including the education of clergy. Saint Vincent de Paul (1580–1660) was among those who sought to bring the Council's decrees to life in France.

400 Years of the Vincentian Charism



In 1617, according to a biography by Bernard Pujo, CM, Vincent de Paul came to the realization that “his personal vocation was to place himself at the service of the poor and the sick where they were most abandoned,” and that “help for the least favored of society should be both material and

spiritual.” It was a conviction upon which all his future work would build.

What brought about his conviction? Early in the year, in the French village of Folleville, Vincent heard the confession of a dying man. It awakened him to the urgent need to bring Christ's love to the rural poor. Later that year, he became pastor in Chatillon-les-Dombes. One Sunday in August he asked for help for a local family in need. The response was overwhelming, but Vincent realized that it needed to be organized in order to be effective. He gathered a group of women and drew up a simple charter to guide them. Soon the model of “Confraternities of Charity” spread throughout France. Eventually it grew into the International Association of Charities (AIC), a network of 150,000 local volunteers,

mainly women, who work in their local communities to combat poverty in 53 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the United States. In this country we know them as the Ladies of Charity USA.

<http://famvin.org/en/2017/02/13/aic-400-years-video-presentation/>

200 Years of Service by Vincentians in America

In 1816, 13 Vincentians from Italy landed in Baltimore, en route to St. Louis. Rev. William Dubourg, the Sulpician priest who had invited Elizabeth Seton to begin a school for girls in Baltimore in 1808, had been named first bishop of the new diocese of Louisiana. While in Rome, he recruited priests from the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) to start a seminary in his new diocese. After a sea voyage of more than a month, the missionaries took more than a year to travel to St. Louis. Felix De Andreis and Joseph Rosati (later a bishop) were among the pioneers. Vincentian priests and brothers continue to serve at St. John's University, DePaul University (the largest Catholic university in the United States), parishes, and retreat and mission centers throughout the country.

175 Years of Fordham Education

Bishop John Hughes of New York had long wished to open a college/seminary for the education of young men. In 1841, when Hughes opened St. Joseph's Seminary and St. John's College at Rose Hill in Fordham, just ten miles from the city, he asked Emmitsburg superiors for Sisters of Charity to supervise the housekeeping departments. Sister Mary Basilia McCann was appointed superior of the Sisters at Rose Hill. At around the same time as the Sisters of Charity became an independent community in 1847, the diocesan college at Rose Hill was transferred to the Jesuits. Sister Basilia was missioned to St. Paul's, Brooklyn, and then to the new “foreign” mission in Halifax in 1849.

175 Years of St. Raymond's Parish, the Bronx

The parish of St. Raymond's began in 1842. At the time it was outside the New York City limits. Twenty-five years later Rev. Jeremiah Kinsella, pastor, asked the Sisters of Charity to staff a parish school. He had built a two-story brick schoolhouse on Green Lane (now Castle Hill Avenue), where the present rectory now stands. The need to provide housing for the Sisters delayed the school's opening until the next September. By

How did the SISTERS of CHARITY INFLUENCE your *life*?



Awilda Davila with Sr. Jane Hoehn during her visit in March.

I was at St. Agatha Home for Children from 1952 to 1954 and remember being cared for by a sister when I was a young child but I mistakenly remembered her name as Sister James. When I came across the book *St. Agatha Home For Children—Home Kids* by Nancy Canfield, I read a chapter titled, “St. Agatha in the Fifties” and saw a photo of a sister that looked familiar. I reached out to Nancy Canfield to ask the name of the sister in the photo. Nancy replied, “That’s Sr. Jane Maria Hoehn; she was the group mother during the fifties.” Nancy also informed me that Sr. Jane was alive and living in New York. I had just received my records a few days earlier and noticed that Sr. Jane Maria Hoehn was indeed my group mother during the time I was at St. Agatha Home. I found out where Sr. Jane was residing and gave her a call. I told her I was one of little girls under her care in the fifties and that I would be in New York soon and would like to visit her. She was happy to hear from me and told me to come visit her. I asked what I could bring her and she replied, “Just bring yourself.”

I had such a pleasant visit with her. I told Sr. Jane my entire life story, and she said, “I hope the others had a great life like you. I love what I did, and loved each one of my girls.” I knew Sr. Jane might not actually remember me, but I knew she loved me. I am looking forward to visiting with her again in the near future.

Awilda Davila

Look for it Only in Books...For it is no More than a Dream Remembered

I am often gripped by a longing for the past. When I hear Christmas carols or hymns, I am carried back to the halls of my youth—those quiet corridors where one often heard childish voices raised in prayer or song—Elizabeth Seton Academy. It was a beautiful old, Victorian building run by the crème de la crème of American religious—The Sisters of Charity of New York. I spent fourteen years of my life under their tutelage. All the things that I hold dear and sacred took root in that environment. From my earliest days I held them in the greatest esteem—fascinated by their serenity and holiness. The memory of those days will remain with me forever. I count among my greatest blessings that I was given this gift with all its graces and blessings. The sisters provided us with an indelible stamp that nothing can erase.

What did I learn from the Sisters of Charity? I learned about good and evil and life everlasting. I learned about kindness, generosity, discipline, respect for law, propriety, and Noblesse Oblige—to those who have received much, much is required. I learned how to comport myself—a natural reserve is the sine qua non of all personal interchanges. I learned that the most beautiful things in life are those that we cannot see. It was a beautiful experience.

As I reminisce, I remember all their faces and names and the aura of sanctity that surrounded them. When I dwell on their lives of dedication and commitment, I wonder if those who remain know what they gave to their students. I pray they do.

Written in loving and grateful memory of the quintessential Sister of Charity:
Sister Mary Christopher Ludden, 1921–2011
By Teresa Rippey Shebada, ESS '62

Continued, see page 20



Young Awilda



Sr. Mary Christopher Ludden

“I learned
that the most
beautiful things
in life are
those that we
cannot see.”



St. Agatha Home

Saint Agatha Home in Nanuet, NY, was founded in 1884 to serve dependent and neglected children. Mother Mary Jerome Ely appointed Sr. Mary Ulrica O'Reilly to head the home, a pioneer who, like herself, had carried the burden of uninterrupted responsibility for nearly forty years (Walsh I, 1960).

Needlework Art

In addition to basic academic subjects, girls attending schools and academies in the 1800s were also taught skills that could be useful in their later lives. One such skill was sewing and needlework.

This sampler, stitched by twelve students from the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent, was begun when the Academy was located in McGown's Pass, now part of Central Park. The needlework was completed by the students after the Academy was moved to Mount Saint Vincent on Hudson.

Sisters of Charity at Mount Saint Vincent

by Maryellen

St. Joseph Military Hospital

In 1863, the Sisters of Charity's first motherhouse at McGown's Pass (*right*) became St. Joseph's Military Hospital to care for the soldiers wounded in the Civil War.



Valiant Service

The medal awarded to William Seton—Mother Seton's grandson—for valiant service during the Civil War.



Sister Mary

Sister Mary of St. Joseph was a courageous woman and the other given the h stone, which



Sisters of Charity Archives Saint Vincent

Blumlein, SC

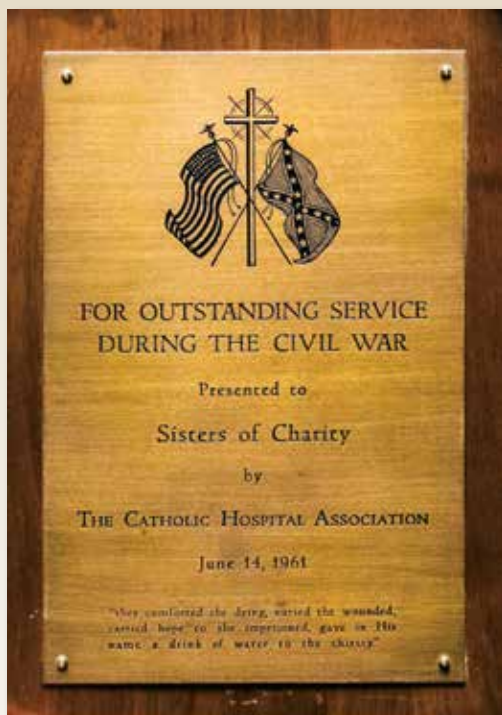
The Mission in the Bahamas

The Bahamas, once part of the Archdiocese of New York, was the first foreign mission of the Sisters of Charity of New York. After arriving in 1839, the Congregation opened nine schools, three medical clinics, and one childcare center. Sisters remained in the Bahamas until 2007.



Sister Mary Ulrica O'Reilly

Sister Mary Ulrica O'Reilly, superior of the Sisters of Charity Military Hospital, was a kind woman. She and other Civil War nurses were honored with a military tombstone that features the Army cross.



For Outstanding Service

Plaque honoring the Sisters of Charity for their service in the Civil War, awarded by the Catholic Health Association in 1961.

Inscription on bottom: "they comforted the dying, nursed the wounded, carried hope to the imprisoned, gave in His name a drink of water to the thirsty."



Cathedral High School

The first archdiocesan Catholic high school opened in 1905 at 50th Street and Lexington Avenue.



St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers, erected in 1888, formally opened to the public on March 19, 1890.

her religious life. In 1882, shortly before the expiration of her third term, John Cardinal McCloskey reappointed her to the office of Mother General. In so doing, he gave recognition to the woman who was most responsible for the expansion of the parochial school system as well as countless other charities. Mother Jerome died on April 28, 1885.

Sister Mary Ambrosia Sweeney (*no photo available*) had been Assistant Mother to Mother Mary Jerome. She assumed leadership after Mother Jerome's death until the regular community election. She became known for her kindness and unconditional support to all coping with illnesses, sorrow, and other difficulties. She organized a teacher training course in the novitiate so that sisters would be professionally prepared for the classroom. During her six years in office, she staffed nine parochial schools and Blessed Sacrament Academy, and established the mission in the Bahamas.

Sister Mary Rosina Wightman, elected in 1891, was the first Mother Superior who entered the Novitiate at McGown's Pass. There she experienced the strong guidance of Mother Elizabeth Boyle. A Southerner to her fingertips, she became known for her gracious charm. Her life-long devotion



Mother Mary Rosina Wightman
1891–1894

to the Sacred Heart inspired her to erect a shrine on the path that led to the Mount Saint Vincent Cemetery. She opened schools both in Manhattan and upper New York.

Historian and collaborator in the writing of the first Sadlier textbooks for Catholic schools, Sister Mary Rose Dolan was appointed Mother after Mother Mary Rosina's death.

On April 10, 1894, the choice was confirmed by a community election. During her administration, the Sisters of Charity took charge of the Infirmary



Mother Mary Rose Dolan
1894–1900

and Housekeeping Department of St. Joseph's Seminary, in addition to opening five schools and Grace Institute.

Sister Mary Melita McClancy was Community Treasurer at the time of her election in 1900. She belonged to the Board of Managers of the nine corporations responsible for the legal and financial obligations of community institutions. She possessed a keen, retentive mind that impressed community lawyers. During her term in office she opened fourteen missions, including Nazareth Hospital in Spuyten Duyvil, Bronx, St. Eleanora's Home in Tuckahoe, and Cathedral High School, the first archdiocesan high school, in the Parish of St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Mother Mary Melita McClancy
1900–1906



Grace Institute's original mansion serves as the school until the early 1960s. It opened its doors in January 1898 to approximately 300 students, offering secretarial courses which enabled graduates to apply for jobs in the business world.



St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island, was formally blessed by Cardinal Farley on November 26, 1903.



Mother Mary Josepha Cullen
1906–1912

An experienced school principal before her election, Mother Josepha Cullen had the vigorous, confident personality of one born to lead. Her term in office, which began in 1906, saw the opening of a novitiate wing at Mount Saint Vincent as well as the opening of the College. In December 1909, the Centenary of the Sisters of Charity was celebrated in New York. Cardinal Farley sent a letter to each pastor enumerating the blessings the archdiocese had received through the zeal, self-sacrifice and simplicity of the Sisters of Charity.

Mother Mary Dolores Dunne, 1912–1915, (*no photo available*) became Mother General of the Sisters of Charity on December 8, 1912. During the previous sixteen years, she had been successively treasurer, mistress of novices and assistant to Mother Josepha. She was described as one whose thoughtfulness never stopped with words, and who never forgot a request. The opening of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in 1910 increased the responsibilities of the council. The first graduation in 1913 was an occasion of joy, gratitude and achievement. The facilities of St. Agatha's Home were increased in the first year of Mother Dolores' administration by the erection of a preventorium for delicate children. Sisters teaching in St. Charles Borromeo School, Manhattan, SS Peter and Paul in the Bronx and Holy Trinity, Mamaroneck, moved into their own convents in these parishes.

Mother Josepha Cullen, voted in for a second term, 1915–1921, suffered a tragic accident eight months after her election that resulted in her inability to walk for a year. In this time, she directed the work of the community from her hospital bed, giving an example of patience and fortitude. In 1916, the donation of a country residence in Stanfordville, New

York brought joy and excitement to the sisters. The death of Cardinal Farley in 1918 was a sorrow for the community. He had been sincerely devoted to the Sisters of Charity as they worked with him to respond to the many needs of the growing archdiocese.



Mother Marie Vincentia McKenna
1921–1927; 1935–1941

Sister Marie Vincentia McKenna was Mistress of Novices when the community called her to leadership in 1921. She had been neither a member of the council, nor a superior, principal or administrator in any capacity. Her religious life was grounded in the teachings of her patron, St. Vincent de Paul. Like him she was known for her deliberate waiting



Sisters gather at Saints Peter and Paul School in the Bronx.



Holy Name Day Nursery opened in 1921 for pre-school-aged children whose mothers were obliged to work.



Mother Marie Dionysia Howland,
1927–1932

upon God's will. Over a period of fifteen years, she was re-elected as Superior General three more times.

Mother Marie Dionysia Howland's administration, which began in 1927, saw the revision of the Sisters of Charity Constitution as well as the introduction of perpetual vows. She opened St. Patrick's Villa, a residence for senior sisters, as well as four schools in Scarsdale, Yonkers, and the Bronx. Two substantial gifts given to the commu-

nity at this time were St. Margaret's Villa in Stanfordville, which was a gift to the Sisters of St. Vincent's Hospital, and thirty acres of property for St. Eleanora's Home in Tuckahoe. Mother Dionysia died in office in 1932.

In accordance with the provision of the community Constitution, Sister Miriam Regina Walsh, Assistant Mother, succeeded to the office of Mother General until the expiration of Mother Dionysia's term in 1933; she was then elected to a full term. Her love for Mother Seton was ardent and practical. At a council meeting on October 30, 1933, she presented



Mother Miriam Regina Walsh
1932–1935

to Cardinal Hayes for his approval a program of prayer and sacrifice necessary to beg the miracles needed for Mother Seton's canonization. During her administration, permission was granted for an annual devotional renewal of vows on December 8th.

Mother Miriam Regina Walsh died during her term on February 15, 1935. Mother Marie Vincentia McKenna, who had been Assistant Mother, returned to the office of Mother General. In 1936 the Sisters of Charity were asked to undertake the foundation of a native community in Nassau, the Congregation of St. Martin de Porres. New York mourned the death of its beloved Cardinal Hayes, who for twenty years had been the presiding officer of Sisters of Charity council meetings. At this time because of the requests for sisters in the Archdiocese of New York, the sisters were gradually withdrawn from missions outside the area.

Mother Vincentia died on December 6, 1941. In accordance with the community Constitution, Sister Mary Josephine Taaffe, serving as Assistant Mother, was appointed to fill out Mother Vincentia's term of office. As the United States entered into World War II, Mother Josephine's responsibilities included the successful functioning of six hospitals, two large child-caring homes, and more than seventy-five schools, all within a radius carefully circled on enemy maps. In spite of the challenges before her, the distinctive mark of her administration was the intimate, genuine concern for the spiritual growth and happiness of every sister under her care.



Mother Mary Josephine Taaffe
1941–1948



St. Patrick Villa, a residence for senior sisters, is the fulfillment of a long-cherished plan on the part of the mothers general and the council. A generous gift by Cardinal Hayes made it possible to begin construction in 1929.



Mother Mary Josephine Taaffe, Mother Mary Fuller, (back row, fourth and third from right, respectively), Mother Mary Berchmans Reed (front row, third from right) attend the Mother Seton Conference in Cincinnati in April 1949.



Mother Mary Berchmans Reed
1948–1954

ing, and began a program of renovating and building at St. Agatha's Home, Nanuet.



Mother Mary Fuller
1954–1960

dedications of new buildings under the charge of the Sisters of Charity, including Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx. Mother Mary built the Convent of Mary the Queen as a home for sisters no longer on mission. It opened in 1958.

Sister Loretto Bernard brought to the office of Mother General vision, dedication, long experience in administration, and a special capacity for enlisting the talents and enthusiasm

Mother Mary Berchmans Reed was an indefatigable worker with a quiet, gentle manner and a decisive, active mind. The six years of her administration fell within a period of intense building activity in the archdiocese. The greatest example of this was the long-range planning for a Catholic Medical Center in a new ultra-modern St. Vincent's Hospital. She also planned for a badly needed Novitiate building, and began a program of renovating and building at St. Agatha's Home, Nanuet.

With simplicity, sincerity, and the essential integrity of a woman of prayer, Mother Mary Fuller lived out the ideals she held out to others. The archdiocesan building program begun by Cardinal Spellman gained momentum each year. New convents and schools, increased facilities for hospitals, and other institutions were erected in rapid succession. Mother Mary's administration was marked by nineteen



Mother Loretto Bernard Beagan
1960–1966

of the young and gifted. During the exciting times of Vatican II, she was a charismatic leader who immersed the community in the documents and exposed it to the challenging thinking of world-famous theologians. On March 14, 1965 Mother Loretto Bernard sent a relay to all the convents inviting the sisters to participate in the Harlem March for racial and civil justice. That summer about 30 sisters participated in the Summer in the City Program initiated by Monsignor Robert Fox.



The Sisters of Charity were among many religious groups and laity who gathered in Harlem in 1965 in support of civil rights and equality for all.

Continued, see page 19, left column



Miss Katherine Sanborn, dressed in black, is seated in the center.

2017—A Red-Letter Year

Continued from page 10

that time Holy Angels, the girls' department of the Catholic Protectory, had moved from Manhattan to property near St. Raymond's (later the site of Parkchester). Father Kinsella arranged for Sisters assigned to the parish school to live at the Protectory convent. In September, 1868, St. Raymond's school opened with two Sisters and 130 pupils.

125 Years Since the Opening of St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing

From 1892 the legendary Miss Katherine Sanborn served as director for forty-two years and laid a foundation of nursing excellence that continues to mark graduates of St. Vincent's. Approximately 5,750 students graduated from the school before it closed in 1999.

100 Years (and More) of Education

The present Sacred Heart school building on North Burgher Avenue, Staten Island, was built in 1917 when enrollment outgrew the previous school (then known as St. Rose of Lima). Sisters of Charity service there began in 1876. Sisters Eileen Grubert and Marguerite Mahony (both deceased) are still fondly remembered by generations of students whom they taught in their more than twenty-five years of ministry at Sacred Heart.

100 Years of Catholic Charities of New York

"Long before most government safety nets began, lay men and women, clergy, and nuns stepped in to serve those in need. At first they worked alone. Later, these groups drew strength



by standing together, incorporating The Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York by a Special Act of the New York State Legislature in 1917." Today Catholic Charities represents a federation of more than 90 agencies, extending from Staten Island to Sullivan County, on both sides of the Hudson River, which serve Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

100 Years as Neighbors

Our Riverdale neighbor, the Hebrew Home for the Aged (now known as the Hebrew Home at Riverdale of RiverSpring Health) began in 1917 in a small synagogue in Harlem to care for poor, aging immigrants. In 1951 it moved to the Riverdale property formerly occupied by the Colored Orphan Asylum.

50 Years of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

A group of Catholic college students on a weekend retreat outside Pittsburgh received a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit. The experience spread widely among other groups in colleges, parishes, centers, and throughout other Christian denominations, and fostered a renewal of prayer and community in the Church after Vatican II. In the years following, several Sisters of Charity of New York began St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer in Scarsdale and became leaders in the Charismatic Renewal. One of them, Sr. Nancy Kellar, has spoken and led retreats at charismatic gatherings in more than 50 countries around the world.

Other Events That Occurred 100 Years Ago (1917)

- » United States population exceeded 103.2 million.
- » United States combat troops arrived in France after Congress declared war on Germany (World War I).
- » Albert Einstein published his first paper on cosmology, applying the general theory of relativity to model the structure of the universe as a whole.
- » The Russian Revolution broke out. Czar Nicholas II abdicated and the Bolsheviks took control.
- » Ten women suffragists were jailed for picketing the White House in favor of an amendment granting women the right to vote.
- » The world-wide influenza pandemic struck.
- » The world's largest man-made accidental explosion occurred when two ships (one filled with explosives) collided in the harbor of Halifax, NS, and devastated that city. About 2,000 people were killed by debris, fires, or collapsed buildings and an estimated 9,000 people were injured.

Other Events That Occurred 50 Years Ago (1967)

- » World population reached 3.485 billion; United States population exceeded 198.7 million.
- » Pope Paul VI established January 1 as World Peace Day.
- » The Six-Day War between Israel and Arab forces ended with Israel occupying the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, and Gaza.

Continued, see page 19, bottom left

The Mission of Charity 1867–1967

Continued from page 17

Mother Evelyn Schneider, a former hospital administrator, succeeded Mother Loretto Bernard as Mother General. Under her leadership, the Sisters of Charity would clarify their goals, make a searching evaluation of their apostolic works, and give increased responsibility to individual members through new forms of government and community living. Mother Evelyn led the congregation through the implementation of Vatican II guidelines. Options expanded in ministry, community living, prayer, and dress. Stressing that spiritual growth was the heart of authentic renewal, she organized programs for theological and spiritual updating to foster the sisters' mature response to the Gospel. Beginning with her administration, the congregation leader was known as "Sister" rather than "Mother," and sisters were free to return to their baptismal names. In the face of unprecedented change within and beyond the congregation, a large number left religious life. Mother Evelyn's steadfast trust in the Holy Spirit sustained her and the community members during these challenging years.



Mother/Sister Evelyn Schneider, 1966–1971



A group of sisters meet for recreation shortly after the option for personal dress began; one can see the traditional habit, the modified habit, and several sisters wearing the "dress of the day."

Sister Angela Marie Rooney

Continued from page 5



Tashauna Vigo and Lisa Wacht (back row) and Elizabeth Mercado and Boris Pina (front row) helped Sr. Angela celebrate on February 22, the day of her 100th birthday.

And the Sisters who worked with her there return the compliments. Sister Mary Carmel Craig, a former Congregation Secretary, fondly recalls the high, lilting voice of Sr. Angela greeting her with a cheerful "Good Morning" every workday, knowing that there was never a request too great or too inconvenient for her. The present Congregation Secretary, Sr. Eileen McGrory, remembers how Sr. Angela, in her humble, quiet manner, always managed to get things finished by the end of each day, often finishing things that she had not quite completed. And her artistic abilities also became evident in the many greeting cards and calendars she so generously produced.

After Sr. Angela retired she continued to put those artistic talents to good use. When she lived at the Convent of Mary the Queen and, today at the New Jewish Home in the Bronx, she can be found at her computer, making posters and beautiful greeting cards for Sisters' birthdays and other occasions.

During her 100th birthday Liturgy Father John Duffell thanked Sr. Angela for being a woman who truly does seek first the Kingdom of God and for being a woman who knows how to make important in her life what truly is important. To all of this, the guests replied "Let us rejoice and be glad." Alleluia!

In 2014 Sr. Angela joined other Sisters of Charity to live at the Jewish Home Life Care assisted living facility and she readily admits that it was very difficult. Today, however, she is very happy. She is happy because she has come to realize the love and kindness of so many people, lay people as well as her dear Sisters, who live and work there. She is happy meeting so many new, gracious people of all different faiths. She is happy walking down University Avenue and around the corner with her walker to shop at a local deli and she laughs when the check-out clerk says, "You can't be 100 years old."

Well, Sr. Angela is 100 years old and she is probably the happiest 100-year-old person you will ever meet. And she will tell you why: "All my life I have wanted to be a Sister and I have come to realize what a great gift it has been to be a Sister of Charity."

2017—A Red-Letter Year

Continued from page 18

- » The United States and the USSR proposed a nuclear non-proliferation treaty.
- » Thurgood Marshall became the first African-American Supreme Court Justice.
- » The Apollo 1 explosion killed three astronauts.
- » Race riots erupted in Detroit, New York's Spanish Harlem, and other cities.

How did the SISTERS of CHARITY INFLUENCE your *life*?

Continued from page 11

As a young student nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing way back in 1954, I was assigned to the evening shift on one of the wards—either St. Therese or St. Lawrence. We had a seriously ill patient (whose diagnosis I don't recall) and the attending physician, along with an intern or resident, were performing an intricate procedure. I, too, was at the bedside assisting in any way a lowly freshman student could while at the same time offering the patient comfort as best I could during the uncomfortable procedure.

The next day as I was walking to one classroom from another suddenly Sr. Agnes Miriam, then Director of Nurses, stopped me. Her question, "Miss Haerer, were you on duty last evening?" made my heart "stop" for a moment as I thought "What have I done wrong?"

Much to my grateful surprise, Sister's next words were "Dr. Jones commended you. He said you were very helpful and especially kind to the patient and he believed you would make a fine nurse one day."

I have never forgotten those words and have often repeated them over the years to many in so many different situations—be it one of my own children or a young "just learning" altar boy and to any number of people, young or old, who were struggling to do their best.

Dr. Jones and Sr. Agnes Miriam taught me well the value of encouragement. I will always be grateful for their heartfelt training and education.

Patricia A. Kelleher, nee Haerer, R.N.
St. Vincent's Hospital
School of Nursing, 1957

"I was blessed to be educated by the Sisters of Charity at St. Joseph by the Sea High School."

I have loving memories of my four years at St. Joseph by the Sea, from day one at the temporary site at Our Lady Star of the Sea with my eighty classmates forming the foundation class. Sister Joseph Marietta welcomed us all in our gray suits and white berets and we began a great adventure together. It is an incredible experience to be the foundation class of a new school, building a community and creating a vision together.

I was part of a community building a vision for the education of young women at a most interesting time in world history, *the times they really were a -changin'.* The world our parents knew and understood was changing. The Second Vatican Council transformed our parents' experience of Church—Mass was in English, the priest was facing the people, and there were guitars and tambourines. The Beatles and the Rolling Stones arrived on the music scene, in stark contrast to Perry Como and Doris Day. The early 60s saw the beginnings of social protests, civil disobedience, and sit-ins. Our parents knew a different world with different values. There was a revolution of social norms that were counter-cultural to our parents. Amid all of this, the foundation class of eighty girls were learning how to be young women in a world our parents didn't know.

For me, my beloved teachers became my role models of strong women. They taught me to believe in myself, and to dream the possibilities. The Sisters gave me the confidence to take risks, and to accept myself for who I am.

The Sisters taught me about courage and strength, service and unconditional love. I graduated from St. Joseph by the Sea with a sense of self and a sense of purpose. I believed that I could make a difference in the world.

I have been living in Sydney Australia for the past forty-three years, and I've brought my gifts from the Sister of Charity with me. My children reflect my learnings in the strong, caring, and loving adults they are, and they are passing these gifts to their children. The charism of the Sisters of Charity has rippled through my beautiful son and daughter, and my six precious grandchildren.

All of my teachers at St. Joseph by the Sea touched my life in different ways.



Sr. Charlotte Raftery



Sr. Joseph Marietta (Sr. Catherine Maloney) welcomed students in their white berets and gray suits.

Sister Joseph Marietta taught me about strong leadership, and Sr. Virginia taught me that I could achieve the impossible—including trigonometry.

Sister Charlotte (Brigid Mercedes) taught me how to be a strong woman. She taught me about faith, and hope, and unconditional love. She stood with me and held me tight through a deep loss a lifetime ago. She has remained an inspiration and a dear friend for many, many years. I treasure the precious time I spend with her whenever I am visiting New York.

Thank you, Sr. Charlotte and Sisters of Charity, for the gift you have been to me.

Peggy Saab



Sisters of Charity Federation Gathers in New York

Sixty leaders of the Sisters of Charity Federation of North America gathered in Tarrytown, NY, for the 2017 Annual Leadership Meeting. Representing two provinces of the Daughters of Charity and eleven congregations of Sisters of Charity in the United States and Canada, the Federation meeting opened on Thursday evening, June 1, with greetings from Sister Jane Iannucelli, President of the Sisters of Charity of New York. Sister Jane spoke of the theme “Hazard Yet Forward: Futuring Charity Together” as an invitation to “cross over the bridge to the future we are creating together.”

Topics covered included issues faced by migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons with a focus on women and children; the decision regarding the Paris Agreement; the House of Charity, the Federation’s mission in New Orleans; and the future of the Federation as seen through the eyes of the younger members.

On Saturday, June 3, Sisters, speakers, and staff travelled to the Sheen Center in Manhattan to see an afternoon performance of the Turlough McConnell play *How the Nuns of New York Tamed the Gangs of New York*. The group walked to St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral for Mass, which was followed by dinner at the new Archbishop Hughes Center, former site of the Congregation’s first mission. The meetings continued until Monday, June 5.

Kristen Blacksher, SC Federation

Sisters of Charity Teaching Tradition Continues at New Archbishop Hughes Center at 32 Prince Street

In 1822 the Sisters of Charity sent by Elizabeth Ann Seton to staff the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum opened the first free school there at St. Patrick’s at Mott and Prince Streets. In 1866 it became the first and oldest parochial school in New York City.

St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral School served successive waves of immigrant children until 2010. Now as the new Archbishop Hughes Center, the teaching tradition of the Sisters of Charity continues this summer at an inaugural children’s Summer Music Camp from July 24th to 28th.

This summer learning experience for children in grades two to seven features the historic 150-year-old Henry Erben pipe organ, the “King of Instruments,” which was heard by the city’s struggling immigrant families and the Sisters of Charity who were devoted to them.

Each day, students will discover different orchestral instruments through the lens of the monumental pipe organ. Teaching activities will include interactive science workshops focused on the physics of sounds, singing, English hand bells and hand chimes, movement/yoga, creative arts projects, and more.

The program is offered by the Basilica of St. Patrick’s



Old Cathedral, Camp Rhythmo, and Friends of the Erben Organ. The latter group is a new non-profit formed to restore, preserve, and maintain the 150-year-old organ as well as offer instruction and performances. For further information, register online www.CampRhythmo.org or email organist@oldcathedral.org

Anne Riccitelli
Friends of the Erben Organ

With Love and Appreciation We Remember...

Visit our website at www.scny.org/news for complete biographies.

Sister Patricia Lawlor (*Sister Mary Philomena*)

Entered: 1948 + Date of Death: 11/25/16 + Age: 87

Sister Pat spent thirty-two years in the ministry of education on the elementary and high school levels, after which she felt called to the hospital ministry as a chaplain where she served for twenty years. Of her most recent work she said, "This ministry certainly teaches me about healing, love, prayer, joy and suffering, and about the beauty of my brothers and sisters—images of God."



Sister Mary T. Boyle (*Sister Dominic Marie*)

Entered: 1950 + Date of Death: 2/12/17 + Age: 92

Sister Mary T. Boyle spent nearly fifty years in the ministry of Nursing and Nursing Education. In 1952 she was missioned to Saint Vincent Hospital, Harrison, as a Supervisor and Instructor. Later at Saint Vincent Medical Center, Manhattan, she filled many roles: staff nurse, nursing instructor, Assistant Administrator, and Supervisor. Of her ministry, she said, "What is important to me is to try to bring the message of the healing Christ to people."



Sister Cecilia Haley

Entered: 1938 + Date of Death: 11/28/16 + Age: 98



Most of Sister Cecilia's ministry was spent in elementary education, where she taught almost every grade in parishes throughout New York City. She later she became part of the administrative team at the Convent of Mary the Ocean Star in Ventnor. She had a wonderful sense of humor, a generous heart, and a welcoming spirit.

Sister Bernadette Marie Del Frate (*Sister Maureen Joseph*)

Entered: 1949 + Date of Death: 2/18/17 + Age: 85

Sister Bernadette's education ministry was in elementary schools in the Bronx, Westchester, and Queens, as teacher, principal, and Director of Education for the Congregation. She ministered at the Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer and served as a Regional Coordinator for eight years. Sister Bernadette ministered at Grace Institute Outreach and at the Yonkers Multi-Service Center. After retiring she continued to volunteer in her parish.



Sister Margaret Franks (*Sister Marian Christopher*)

Entered: 1941 + Date of Death: 12/13/16 + Age: 93

Sister Margaret spent most of her fifty-seven years of active ministry in the field of nutrition at Mount Saint Vincent, at Saint Vincent Hospitals in Manhattan, Staten Island, and Harrison, as well as the Foundling and Lincoln Hospital. She continued to teach neighborhood and home care groups in the Bronx until her move to the Convent of Mary the Queen in 2011.



Sister Mary Theresa Fowler (*Sister Mary Charles*)

Entered: 1949 + Date of Death: 2/20/17 + Age: 85

Sister Theresa began her ministry in elementary education at Saint Agatha Home, Nanuet, and continued at schools in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Sister Theresa then taught at the Dalton School in Manhattan for twenty-one years. She was an excellent and enthusiastic educator who will long be remembered by her students and their parents. Sister Theresa loved to travel as well as cook special holiday meals.



Sister Marion Halpin (*Sister Marie James*)

Entered: 1935 + Date of Death: 1/9/17 + Age: 99



Sister Marion Halpin's first ministries were in elementary education in Manhattan and the Bronx. She later used her business skills at the New York Foundling and at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. After earning a degree in Gerontology, she ministered to seniors in New York City and Westchester. She enjoyed working with the children she taught and the senior citizens she counseled and assisted in understanding their medical needs.



Sister Margaret Beaudette (*Sister Miriam Brendan*)

Entered: 1947 + Date of Death: 3/12/17 + Age: 89

While Sr. Margaret is well known for her artistic creations, her early ministry was in education, on the elementary, high school and college levels. Opened in 1987, the De Paul Studio is where she continued to create sculptures until the time of her death. Her work, which includes more than sixty major statues, can be seen across the United States in hospitals, churches, shrines, and places of burial. In addition, she has sculptures in France, Canada, Bermuda, Haiti, and South Korea. Her final work will be installed at St. Patrick's Cathedral in October 2017.

Sister Margaret Aileen Fennell (*Sister Miriam Brendan*)

Entered: 1947 + Date of Death: 3/22/17 + Age: 88



Sister Margaret Aileen's first ministry assignments were in the field of elementary education, where she served for sixteen years. She then transitioned to high school guidance, where she worked for twenty-eight years. She chaired the guidance department at Cardinal Spellman High School for an additional thirteen years before volunteering for one more year before retirement.

Sister Joan Glowacki (*Sister Maria Seton*)

Entered: 1946 + Date of Death: 4/3/17 + Age: 89

Sister Joan's ministry in the field of elementary education spanned almost thirty years. In addition to her missions in the archdiocese, she also taught in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Sister Joan also provided secretarial and library services in schools and served as the receptionist at Mount Saint Vincent Convent.



Sister Marie Schutté (*Sister Catherine Maureen*)

Entered: 1943 + Date of Death: 4/28/17 + Age: 92



Sister Marie spent her entire ministry in elementary education. She taught almost every grade in Archdiocesan elementary schools in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Yonkers. Sister Marie then served as a reading teacher and volunteer for the Yonkers Board of Education for over thirty years.

Sister Loretta John Meehan

Entered: 1959 + Date of Death: 6/5/17 + Age: 89

Sister Loretta John's ministry was in various areas of health care as a Licensed Practical Nurse in New York and North Carolina. After her first assignment at the Convent of Mary the Queen, Sr. Loretta John went to Hayesville, NC, where she ministered in a nursing home and in a home health agency, bringing hands-on nursing care and the development of community services to the people of Appalachia for almost thirty years.



2017 VISION SCHEDULE

Please be advised that during this anniversary year, VISION will not be published on the regular quarterly schedule. The next issue is scheduled to be mailed in December.

Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Sculptures by Margaret Beaudette, SC



Join us in Celebrating 200 Years. Support Saint Patrick Cathedral's New Shrine

The new Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton weaves memory, art, and technology to commemorate both the saint and 200 years of service of the Sisters of Charity of New York. Just as nineteenth century immigrants gave lovingly to build Saint Patrick Cathedral, constructing the Cathedral's new shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton depends on the generous gifts of those who honor the Sisters' 200 years of mission and dedication.

The Sisters of New York warmly invite you to share in a unique opportunity to honor or memorialize individuals or families within Saint Patrick Cathedral, America's most renowned Catholic Church.

For a gift of \$5,000 or more, white marble flooring will be engraved with your name and/or the name of a loved one. Gift levels to consider:

- Seton Society Gifts of \$25,000 or more
- Bayley Society Gifts of \$10,000 – \$24,999
- Boyle Society Gifts of \$7,500 – \$9,999
- Vincent Society Gifts of \$5,000 – \$7,499

Gifts received prior to August 30, 2017 will be engraved in time for the proposed installation dedication date of October 8, 2017. Although pledge commitments may be paid over a two-year period, there is an urgent need to realize much of the funding in 2017.

For more information contact Anne Marie Gardiner at 718.549.9200 Ext. 239 or email amgardiner@scny.org

200th Anniversary Prayer Service *Continued from page 6*

Mr. Andrew Bauer. Sister Mary Cleary led the recitation of the psalms, Sr. Margaret Donegan read the Scripture passage, and Sr. Dorothy Metz offered the prayers of petition.

After the recessional song and the procession from the Chapel, all were invited to a reception in Smith Hall. During the reception, a six-minute video presenting several members of the Congregation, Associates, and coworkers expressing their hope for the future of the charism of charity was shown.

The afternoon marked a special anniversary, in a place of great historic significance, and all who came to celebrate experienced the presence of the spirit of joy and hopefulness that will carry the charism of charity forward into the future.

More photos of the Evening Prayer Service may be viewed on our website at: www.scny.org/news/200th-anniversary-galleries



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Seton Village Board Chair Anne Marie Smith and Town Supervisor George Hoehman.



Sister Evyleen Larkin with family of Seton Village residents.

Seton Village Celebrates SCNY Anniversary with Picnic for Residents and Friends



Above: Sisters Christine Rogers, Robert Fimbel, & Thomas Donohue with their friend Efraim. Below: Sr. Eileen Walsh (center) with her nephew Tommy and friend Maureen Reiser.



Above: Nico Reilly with the chickens. Below: Sisters Donna Dodge (SC Housing Exec. Director, left) and Regina Bechtle.



To commemorate the 200th anniversary, the Sisters of Charity marched in two parades celebrating St. Patrick's Day. On Friday, March 17, a contingent of Sisters, Associates, and friends marched in Manhattan. With Sr. Kevin Phillips (right), Olivia Perez and Jada Majors (left), juniors from Saint Raymond Academy for Girls in the Bronx, and Nicole Quarento, a junior at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, were "Sisters for the day," representing the three Sisters sent to New York in 1817 by Elizabeth Ann Seton. Below from left, Sisters Sheila Brosnan, Margaret O'Brien, and Jane Iannucelli led the Congregation in the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18. The Yonkers parade was dedicated to the Sisters of Charity.

