

VISION

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

Living Lives of Love

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Received into
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SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

A New Home for the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center



Letter from the President

Dear Sisters, Associates, and Friends,

As we welcome the season of new beginnings, we have every reason to be grateful for blessings received and to be hope-filled to live the mission of charity into the future. Our “Adopt a Sponsored Work” program, an outcome of Assembly 2011, exemplifies this spirit.

Every Sister and Associate was asked to adopt one of the sponsored ministries by supporting, volunteering, praying for, and/or advocating for that ministry. The request was simple, the results were amazing, and the flame of charity was ignited anew.

Sr. Florence Speth, Director of Fox House, gathered those who chose that ministry and together they wrapped gifts and wrote Christmas cards with a personal note to each of the 13 women at the residence, letting them know that they were praying for her and her child. The residents were so moved when they received their cards— one resident had never received a personal note in her entire life. I can only imagine the effect that seemingly simple gesture had on that young woman and the others who received those notes.

Approximately 13 Sisters adopted the Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation. They came together one Saturday morning in December and sent 500 hand-written Christmas cards to those living in the Sisters of Charity residences.

Sr. Carol Barnes, Director of Mission Integration at The New York Foundling, went to the Convent of Mary the Queen to meet with the Sisters who chose The Foundling. She provided a complete history and details of The Foundling as it functions today so that the Sisters could be better informed and pray for that ministry. Sr. Carol created a Powerpoint presentation about The Foundling, which she presented to our retired Sisters at the Convent of Mount Saint Vincent. The presentation provided information about Medicaid and housing cuts that directly impact the lives of the children at The Foundling and those in foster care, enabling the Sisters and Associates to effectively advocate for the most innocent among us.

Sr. Jean Flannelly, Director for Mission, and Dr. Charles Flynn, President, of the College of Mount Saint Vincent, have developed very practical ways to further the Mission at the college. Those involved are making a difference for students’ life and service.

Some other activities were collecting socks for the children of the Pediatric Center and collecting clothing and food for distribution at POTS (our multi-service center in the Bronx). Visits were made to other sponsored works, to understand the ministries and find ways to be of service.

Stories like these abound as we find new ways to be present and supportive of those with whom we minister as we share the wisdom of our lived experience with each other.

True charity is contagious and life giving. How will each of us choose to live into the new beginning with the gifts we have been given? Gifts are meant to be shared. I pray that we will gather, amaze, and surprise each other with the wonder our God has showered upon us.

Peace,

Sr. Jane Iannucelli, SC
President

Vision enables the Sisters of Charity of New York to make a cohesive statement about how they reveal God’s love in their lives and the many and varied ways in which they respond to the signs of the times.



SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

CONTRIBUTORS

Sr. Carol A. Barnes, SC
Sr. Regina Bechtle, SC
Sr. Maryellen Blumlein, SC
Sr. Nora Cunningham, SC
Sr. Carol De Angelo, SC
Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC
Sr. Patricia McGowan, SC

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EDITOR

Elena Miranda

Articles without attribution are by Elena Miranda.

Article contributions to this publication are welcome. All submissions are subject to editorial and space constraints. See rear cover for our mailing address and contact information.

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center Moves to New State-of-the-Art Facility in Yonkers

Once Again, Sisters Step Up for the Children



In 1958, Sisters volunteered to help move the children across the street to The New York Foundling's new building. The ESPC children's special needs required them to be relocated by ambulance but Sisters and Associates were still on hand to help. **Below left:** Sr. Karen Helfenstein follows a nurse with the baby's supplies; **right:** Associate Kay Cassidy delivers a baby seat in Yonkers.



The spirit of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was alive and well on March 4th and 5th when the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center moved from its location in Manhattan to its new home in Yonkers, N.Y. As they did in 1958 when The New York Foundling moved to its current location, the Sisters of Charity were on hand to help the staff in every way possible before, during, and after the move.

Pat Tursi, CEO of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, was well aware of the historical significance when she invited the Sisters of Charity to participate in the relocation. As an Associate of the Congregation, she knew the Sisters eagerly awaited that invitation. The response was so overwhelming, she had to turn some volunteers away. We hope you enjoy this tribute to the ESPC and its history. ■

ESPC— Its Proud History & Bright Future



by Sr. Maryellen Blumlein, SC

In 1869, in response to the growing immigrant population and the increasing number of abandoned babies, Sr. Mary Irene Fitzgibbon began what would become The New York Foundling Hospital. From that small seed grew a very large institution which would serve thousands of children, their parents, and their foster and adoptive parents.

Opportunities for adoption were great, and many children were “boarded out” to be taken care of for a time by willing women. When the numbers of children became almost too large to handle, alternatives, like the Orphan Train, were tried to place the children with families in the West and in the South. In these instances, families willing to accept the children to work on farms or learn trades were

chosen by local pastors, and the children were provided with a home, meals, and the ability to learn life skills.

The numbers of adoptive and foster parents were large, but it soon became apparent that couples wished to adopt “perfect” babies, so those with “noticeable defects” were passed over and grew older

in the care of the staff at The Foundling. As this became more frequent, it was noted that some of the children were “unadoptable,” and it was therefore decided to set aside special areas of The New York Foundling Hospital as wards where these children would live. The children were well taken care of

by the Sisters, lay staff, and volunteers in the units, which became known as the Health Related Facility.

The time was the early 1970's. There was no known cure for many of the ailments and disabilities that the young

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Interior hallway at the new Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center



Pat Tursi
Elizabeth Seton
Pediatric Center CEO
Sisters of Charity Associate

by Sr. Carol Barnes, SC

Pat Tursi assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center (ESPC) on August 22, 2001, and hit the ground running. Although her previous experience had been primarily in geriatric services, the children of the Pediatric Center captivated her heart and she was determined from the very beginning to provide them with the best possible resident-centered care.

Prepared academically with an undergraduate double major in Family and Community Services and Psychology, she pursued a Certificate in Gerontology and a Master of Public Administration, Health Policy, all at Syracuse University. Her professional administrative experience includes all aspects of services for senior citizens in a variety of organizations. In addition, she worked as both a policy analyst and a lobbyist in the same field. Pat also has considerable experience in the planning and oversight of the building of new facilities for the elderly.

Pat can best be described as a transformational leader with the ability to articulate a vision that can be understood and embraced at every level of the organization. A prime example of this kind of leadership can be seen in the major culture-change journey at ESPC that culminated in a neighborhood model of care in which departmentalized care was eliminated and the resident became the center of all care services provided.

Quality of care is a high priority for Pat and through her oversight, ESPC achieved four deficiency-free annual Department of Health surveys. She created an independent John A. Coleman School to meet the educational needs of the residents and then established a satellite campus in White Plains to educate young children with medical conditions who live at home, as well as a clinic to serve their medical and rehabilitative care needs. The most visible symbol of her accomplishments is the exquisitely beautiful, state-of-the-art, LEED-certified facility in Yonkers, which opened to receive the residents of ESPC the first weekend in March.

Born and raised in Liberty, N.Y., where her father ran the local pharmacy, Pat experienced loss with the death of her only two brothers, one at a young age, and her much beloved grandmother. These experiences seem to have engendered in Pat a vibrant compassion, especially for medically fragile children and their families. It is no wonder that when Pat was introduced to Elizabeth Seton, she found her soul mate! It also explains why, when a decision was made to change the name of the Center (it had been called The New York Foundling Hospital Center for Pediatric, Medical & Rehabilitative Care, Inc.), Pat embraced with great joy the name Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center.



Chapel stained glass

Pat is clearly a mission-driven leader and is very much aware of her responsibility to foster the charism of the Sisters of Charity through the mission at ESPC. Revealing God's love, God's unconditional love, to the children and their families is at the core of all the services provided at the Center, the School, and the Clinic. Aware that leadership toward this noble goal is not the work of one person, Pat has taken measures to develop within management an understanding and appreciation of mission as it is executed in visioning, in planning, and in the everyday activities of the organization.

Beginning in 2004, mission retreats were held at Mount St. Vincent and the Elizabeth Seton Shrine in lower Manhattan. In 2007, the "Leaders in Mission" program was established for managers who were interested in living the mission to a greater depth. Activities included a visit to the Sisters of Charity archives; presentations on the life, spirituality, and ministry of Elizabeth Seton; and the meaning of sponsorship, critical values, and building trust in the workplace. A highlight of the formation program was a two-day visit to the Elizabeth Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg. Mission Integration was originally a separate goal in ESPC's annual business plan, but since 2010 it has been a part of every goal.

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Elizabeth Seton and Family Takes its Rightful Place at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center



of the father. As he tried to shake the hand of the statue an enormous grin tore across the youngster's face and across the faces of many in that lobby.

It seemed fitting that such a small gesture engendered so many smiles, for it was a most joyous moment. Since it was unveiled, the 1,200-pound, almost 6-foot tall, bronze statue has elicited that same reaction.

The little girl who is the center of attention and welcomes all to the Center is medically fragile. She is wearing glasses and has a tracheotomy and braces on her arm and leg. Her older brother leans forward protectively and pats his mother's arm while her parents and Elizabeth Seton look at her, smiling.

While the girl is the focal point of this tableau, the other figures also are important. They are the caregivers who embrace all the children who come to the Center.



This little girl was modelled on Stephanie, a child who had been a resident of the Center before it moved to its new location. Today, Stephanie is able to live at her home with her mother. Still, both Stephanie and this little bronze figure personify the uniqueness of childhood and magic of all children, for that is the heart of the Center.

This is just what Sr. Margaret Beaudette wanted to en flesh in her statue. For over 30 years all of her sculptures, which grace

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by Sr. Patricia McGowan, SC

It has been said that joy is a sure sign of God's presence and the statue that stands in the lobby of the new Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center is a true symbol of that joy.

On "Moving Day" people who were looking at the statue of *Elizabeth Seton and Family* saw a small boy walk over and slip his hand into the right hand



Dr. Joann Galley, Director of School Psychological Services, described staff concerns about how the move would affect the children at the Center

Most of our children are nonverbal and cannot ask questions, express fears, or talk about what they will miss. So we have to say it for them. Everyone involved—teaching staff, therapists, nursing staff, administrators—talked to the children about moving, and what that would mean. For example, in some classroom groups, I would use games and activities that allowed children and staff to compare what would be the same in the new building (classmates, most teaching staff and therapists) and what



would be different (new rooms with different roommates, being able to go outside more).

But even then, we were reaching only a small portion of our children, most of whom respond best to multisensory experiences. To help them, we had a number of strategies. The Child Life Department prepared a puppet movie with great visuals, describing the process of moving and talking a puppet through his fears of moving by visual displays of staff helping children, activities such as pet therapy that would remain

the same, etc. Our music teacher prepared a "bridge" piece of music that was played before the move and again to children in the new building. Teachers used familiar scents (such as an orange) in class for the last several weeks in the old building and then again as school started in the new one. So, through vision, sound, and smell we worked on reassuring the children that we would keep them safe and that they would continue to have familiar people and experiences in Yonkers, as they did in the building in Manhattan. ■

St. Elizabeth Seton wrote, “All nature speaks to us of heaven”— winter sunsets, moon and stars, frisky kittens and singing birds, flowers and trees springing to life. The flow of ocean waves reminded her of “the passage to eternity.” St. Bonaventure taught that Creation, like a mirror, reflects the glory of God and, like a book, contains traces of God’s image. Centuries after him, the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins proclaimed, “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” Every time we sing, “O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,” we celebrate the gift of creation and the lavish goodness of its Creator.

More than fifteen years ago the Sisters of Charity of New York set as one of our main directions for the future “to reverence creation in a spirit of interconnectedness with all that is, living responsibly.” Sisters Hill Farm CSA, an organic farm in Stanfordville, N.Y., grew (literally!) out of that 1995 direction. Our most recent Assembly Direction Statement (2011) reaffirms our call to be “aware of Creation’s transformative energy of which we are a part.”

Our recent history shows how we have been led to this moment. Since 1995, several Congregational groups such as the Global Interdependence Team, the Earth Charter Committee and its Land Use Subcommittee, and the SC Earth Committee have helped increase our awareness and educate us on the Earth Charter principles and their connection to SC mission and works. We have considered land use, the impact of



Spirituality & Earth Awareness

Sisters Regina Bechtle, SC

& Carol DeAngelo, SC

environmental issues on quality of life, and the work of the late Rev. Thomas Berry, CP, world-renowned “geo-logian.” Our Assembly 2003 endorsed the Earth Charter (www.earthcharterinaction.org) and Assembly 2007 approved a policy on ecologically responsible use of land owned by the Congregation.

We are not alone in that “Great Work,” as Berry named the massive shift in human consciousness that is transforming our understanding of humans’ place in the web of life. We are learning that the good of one species is bound up with the good of every other created being. Indeed, we are all one, interconnected, interdependent.

Noted Celtic spiritual writer and peacemaker John Philip Newell writes about the “essential harmony” revealed by the universe: “Everything exists in

relationship to everything else.” Newell’s words echo the insights of Thomas Merton, a saint for our times: “We are already one, but we imagine we are not. What we have to recover is our original unity.”

In their day, our founders— Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, Elizabeth Seton— awakened the conscience of society to the dignity of human persons. Today, we know that our concern has to extend to all creation, living and nonliving. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “We need to care for the environment: it has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom.”

How might a new awareness of God’s transforming energy in Creation shape the way we look at ourselves and our world? The way we pray and act? In her programs on

eco-spirituality, Sr. Carol DeAngelo reflects on these questions. At the dawn of Creation, from “a pinprick of energy, a flashing forth,” God, the Source of life and Ground of all being, created something out of nothing. And for 13.7 billion years, Sr. Carol emphasizes, God has been calling Creation to “comprehensive compassion” (in Brian Swimme’s words). In other words, every aspect of Creation grows into its fullness through relationship with others. Thus the richness, diversity, and complexity of the web of life— God’s handiwork— is revealed.

Many of us find that insights into Creation enrich our belief in the mysteries of our Catholic faith. For example, Sr. Carol notes that the ongoing story of the Universe, “where new life and possibilities arise out of death and

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Sisters Travel to Guatemala to Receive New Postulant into Congregation

The journey to Guatemala began on New Year's Eve for Sr. Jane Iannucelli, Sisters of Charity President, Sr. Eileen McGrory, Assistant to the President, Sr. Mary Ann Daly, Regional Coordinator, and Sr. Anne Denise Brennan, Formation/Novice Director. The Sisters' primary reason for the trip was a joyous one—to receive Rosenda Magdalena Castañeda González into the community as a postulant.



From left: Sisters Immaculata Burke, Mary Ann Daly, Eileen McGrory, Jane Iannucelli, and Marie Tolle

The Sisters were greeted at Guatemala City Airport by Sr. Nora Cunningham, SC, Postulant Director, and Gloria De Arteaga, SC, Aspirant/Vocation Director, both currently

missioned in Guatemala. The ride from the airport would take another 2.5 hours before reaching the home of Sr. Marie Tolle, SC, and Sr. Immaculata Burke, SC, in Novillero, where they were welcomed with a festive dinner. (Sr. Immaculata has served as a missionary in Guatemala since 1971, Sr. Marie has served since 1981.)

The Sisters began New Year's Day at the Church of Maria del Camino for Sunday Mass, which they described as "a wonderful experience." After the Mass the Sisters met some of the young children who attend the preschool run by the Congregation. They also had the opportunity to visit the Novillero health clinic, which is also run by the Sisters of Charity and co-sponsored by the Diocese of Spokane, Wash. In addition to basic medical care, the medical/dental clinic is equipped for lab work and medication dispensing, providing much needed resources for the community. The clinic is headed by Dr. Jose Miguel Vásquez Yaxon, who entered the Associate program with his wife, Irma Elena, in 2011. Dr. Vásquez has served the people of the community for over 40 years at the clinic.

After a day of exploring the beauty of Guatemala the Sisters again travelled 1.5 hours, this time to the formation house in Santa Cruz del Quiché where they celebrated the Feast of

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Meet Rosenda Magdalena Casteñeda González

On the Feast Day of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Rosenda Magdalena Casteñeda González was joyfully received as a new postulant of the Sisters of Charity of New York. She is one of five sisters and two brothers born to Santiago Domingo Castañeda and Encarnación González. Rosenda's family lives in the area of Solola, Huehuetenango. Their home is approximately five hours from the Casa de Formación in Quiché.

Rosenda's first Mayan language is Kanjobal. She is fluent in Spanish and plans to learn Quiché and English. Right now, however, Rosenda is concentrating on finishing her professional nursing degree at the Jesuit

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From right: Rosenda's mother, Encarnación, Sr. Jane, Rosenda, and Padre Tomás were joined by several family members for the special day.

By Sr. Nora Cunningham, SC





POTS Celebrates its 30th Anniversary in a New Multi-Service Community House

On January 6, 1982, Part of the Solution opened its doors in a small storefront on Fordham Road between the Major Deegan Expressway and Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx. Fr. Ned Murphy, SJ, SC Associate, Tim Boon, Sr. Jane Iannucelli, SC, and a local woman named Olga were ready and waiting with chicken soup and bread, hoping someone would actually show up. Six to ten people came to the small the storefront that day, and so began the amazing story of POTS.

POTS was equipped with little more than donated pots, pans, a stove, and a desire to help those in need. A shelter for young, homeless men on Bedford Avenue preceded the opening of POTS by about a year. This simple shelter provided more than a place to lay their heads, it gave these young men a sense of belonging. From that sense of belonging was born a desire to do for those who had even less than they did. The idea for a soup kitchen came from these young men. Kindness and love were the foundations from the very beginning.

Inspired by the desire of those young men to make a difference, Fr. Ned, Tim Boon, and Sr. Jane set out to make it happen. In the tradition of St. Vincent de Paul, the three founders not only wanted to feed the hungry, they wanted to treat their brothers and sisters with the kindness and dignity they deserved. And so as they served soup and bread, they sat with their brothers and sisters and they listened. In doing so, they were presented with vast opportunities to make a difference in the lives of many, and POTS grew.

Over the past 30 years, POTS has served over 4 million meals and expanded its services beyond feeding its neighbors



POTS mission statement as seen by all who walk through its doors.



Jack Marth, SC Associate, who served as Acting Director of POTS, is the Director of POTS' legal clinic.

Photos above from left: Sr. Kathleen Byrnes, SC, Timothy Boon, Sr. Mary Alice Hannan, OP, NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and Chris Bean

to “nourishing the myriad of needs of the community in a holistic way.” Today POTS is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of New York.

On January 6, 2012, the thirtieth anniversary of its first day, POTS officially opened its new “community house” with a ribbon cutting ceremony that included the Honorable Christine C. Quinn, New York City Council Speaker; Sr. Mary Alice Hannan, OP, Former Executive Director; co-founders Timothy Boon, Fr. Ned Murphy, SJ, and (for Sr. Jane) Sr. Kathleen Byrnes, SC; Donn C. Dolce, POTS Board Chair; Jack Marth, Acting Director of POTS and SC Associate; several Bronx elected officials; and Wally John, “the Mayor of POTS.” Representing the Sisters of Charity of New York were Sr. Karen Helfenstein, SC, Director of Sponsorship Services, Sr. Mary Kay Finneran, SC, Regional Coordinator; Sr. Mary Ann Garisto, SC, Director of Sisters Hill Farm (which donates food to POTS); Sr. Teresita Duque, SC, and April Boone, SC Associate. Sisters Ann Citarella, SC, and Carol Ruf, SC, who work at POTS, were on hand and gave tours of the impressive center before the ceremony began.



Board Chair Donn Dolce greets Sr. Mary Ann Garisto, Director of Sisters Hill Farm, which donates food to POTS.

Those who spoke at the opening echoed the same sentiment—the importance of providing basic necessities and services to those in need in a manner that enables them to live a dignified life, and to remove the stigma attached to reaching out for help. Speaker Quinn paid tribute to those who have come together to make the new center a reality. She spoke with pride of having volunteered at POTS as a college student in the 1980s and shared that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is her mother’s favorite saint.

Sr. Mary Alice Hannan, OP, who retired in June 2011 as Executive Director of POTS, returned for the ceremony



Speaker Quinn celebrates as Wally John, the Mayor of POTS, cuts the ribbon.

and was thanked for her dedication and loving service to those who came to POTS. Sr. Mary Alice credited Chris Bean, former Finance Director and newly named Executive Director, with making

sure the new building became a reality, and was proud to see him step into the role she held for so many years.

“It’s a beautiful building,” POTS board chair Donn Dolce added. “As far as I’m concerned, this is going to be a model for the rest of the country. This is more than a soup kitchen.”

With the help of many, Wally John cut the blue ribbon in front of the center at the conclusion the ceremony.

In addition to hot meals, the new multi-service center provides such basic needs as haircuts, hot showers, a food pantry, clothing, a mailroom, legal advice, and more. A free medical clinic is scheduled to open soon in the center’s basement as well.

On January 11, Sisters Jane Iannucelli, Eileen McGrory, Dominica Rocchio, Karen Helfenstein, Ann Citarella, and Carol Ruf were on hand to welcome Timothy Cardinal Dolan

(then Cardinal-designate) as he arrived at POTS to bless the center. Cardinal Dolan was warmly greeted by staff and clients alike. He, in turn, thanked the staff and visitors, who were visibly excited by his visit, then went on a tour of the new facility. After the tour, the Cardinal and guests enjoyed a meal together in the new, comfortable dining room.

“This is what it’s all about— God giving us gifts, and us giving those gifts to others— which is what you do here at POTS,” said the Cardinal, as he blessed the center.

“It’s a wonderful day for the people who are guests here,” said Sr. Jane Iannucelli. His coming here to bless POTS means that we are important.”

POTS is still in the process of expanding its services. We invite you to visit their website, www.potsbronx.org, to learn more about this wonderful, life-affirming center. ■



From left: Srs. Eileen McGrory, Jane Iannucelli, and Karen Helfenstein admire the new center.



Then Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, spoke with the staff and thanked them for helping make POTS the wonderful center it is.



From left: Srs. Karen Helfenstein, Ann Citarella, Carol Ruf, Mary Alice Hannan, Msgr. Donald Dwyer, and staff members join in prayer with Cardinal Dolan on Jan. 12th.



All at the ceremony enjoyed a light-hearted moment as Cardinal Dolan generously blessed everything within reach.

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. Ned Murphy, SJ, SC Associate, POTS Co-Founder + April 4, 2012



Fr. Ned at the POTS opening

How does one share the gifts of Ned Murphy, SJ, gifts he shared so generously with the poor of every type who needed his assistance, especially those who through their shame hid their needs from us?

Born the youngest of a family with fierce Irish roots and deeply committed to the Irish revolution, Ned became steeped in peacemaking and nonviolence.

From his earliest days as a Jesuit, he opened his mind and heart to learning the causes of every kind of oppression that led to poverty, violence, and war. His resistance

and civil disobedience with respect to the Vietnam War and the nuclear arms race led him to live with and serve those living in poverty. For Ned there was no “us and them.”

His days at Covenant House brought him face to face with young men who lived on and sold themselves on the streets. He instinctively knew they needed a place to belong. As a result, the house on Bedford Park Boulevard and POTS began. Ned drew countless groups into a community of service. So many benefitted from his mantra “Let us live in the unconditional love of God.”

Ned understood how fragile and vulnerable we all are as he learned from those he served how, together, we can truly be people of peace.

Rest well, Ned.

Sr. Jane Iannucelli, SC
April 5, 2012

Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Sr. Florence Mallon, SC, RN, Chaplain

As Sister Florence Mallon watched the children arriving at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, she reminisced about her earlier years as a baby nurse. In 1955 she was a student at The New York Foundling Hospital and in 1958 she moved to the (then) new Foundling Hospital on 68th Street and Third Avenue.



Sr. Florence Mallon, right, and Sr. Eileen McGrory were on hand to help relocate the children at ESPC.

She has warm memories of those days. Each morning the nurses would administer a teaspoon of cod liver oil to help stave off germs. Each month she was assigned to a different unit with six infants. In good weather, the nurses would sometimes take the children from the East Side to Central Park for some fresh air.

After she entered the Sisters of Charity in 1960, her nursing career took several turns. She was a nurse and supervisor at St. Joseph's Hospital, co-founded its pastoral care department, and was the hospital's home health care coordinator. Today she is an associate chaplain at Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, N.Y.

While her years of dealing directly with ill children have ended, she is still a nurse who cares deeply for these children who are, perhaps, more challenged than the earlier babies were. She is able to connect with the staff here who are upbeat and excited about the cheerfulness of the rooms, the outdoor space for play, and the tradition of caring for all children in need.

Well before our government touted the phrase "no child left behind," it was an essential part of the Sisters of Charity tradition. And at this new Center, Sr. Florence would agree that the tradition lives on. ■

Sr. Patricia McGowan, SC

Pat Tursi

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Pat has been active in the life of the Congregation, giving presentations at various gatherings of Sisters, as well as participating as a member of the transitional Sponsorship Task Force. In 2010, Pat solidified her relationship with the Congregation when she became an Associate of the Sisters of Charity.

For her rare vacations, Pat visits places where she can see dolphins, whales, and other sea critters. In addition, Pat takes great joy in her special relationship with a former resident of ESPC, fourteen-year-old Stephanie G., with whom she shares many forms of recreation—gardening, shows, and time at a lake.

Pat's outstanding leadership has been recognized by *Leading Age* (a nursing-home trade association) at both the local and national levels: "Young Administrator of the Year Award" in 1996 and the "Innovation of the Year Award" in 2005, both at the state level; and the "Excellence in Leadership Award" in 2008 at the national level. Last September, the Boards of ESPC, the John A. Coleman School, and the Children's Rehab Center honored Pat for her ten years of dedicated service.



Pat Tursi (second from right) at the Associate renewal of commitment ceremony

The Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center's children, families, and staff have been truly blessed by Pat Tursi's professionalism, dedication, determination, and spirit over the years. This was especially true as she oversaw the relocation of the entire organization this past March. In the tradition and spirit of the Sisters of Charity and Elizabeth Seton herself, the care, comfort, and well being of the children was Pat's primary concern and for that, we are forever grateful. ■

Sr. Carol A. Barnes, SC
Director of Mission
Integration
The New York Foundling



Elizabeth Seton and Family

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many places in the United States and abroad, have portrayed God's love and compassion, and when she started to sculpt this statue about two years ago there were certain characteristics—the love and the wonder and the beauty of all children—that she wanted to be present in this special piece.

Left: Sr. Margaret Beaudette, SC, with the 1200-pound statue she created for ESPC.

It is almost impossible to look at the statue and not smile. The smile of that little visitor on that first day was contagious. As is the joy that is present in the children, the families, and the staff at the Center. ■

Sr. Patricia McGowan, SC
Educator



Elizabeth's Children: William Seton

A mother loves each of her children in a unique way. Elizabeth Seton was no exception. She recognized the strengths and limitations of each of her children. As a 29-year-old mother who was widowed after only nine years of marriage, Elizabeth's choices impacted their lives even as she strove to live what became her mantra: *First, I am a mother.*

In the last issue of *Vision* we saw how her daughter Catherine Josephine became a Sister of Mercy at the age of 45, and lived to be 90. Her contributions to the poor and destitute in New York City, especially to prisoners and their families, were legendary even in her own day.

Elizabeth and William's oldest son, and second child, William Seton II, also lived to a mature age. He was born in 1796 in New York, and died in 1868.

In the intervening 72 years, William's life took many twists and turns. When he was a year old he became so seriously ill that his parents and grandfather, Dr. Richard Bayley, feared for his life.

He was seven when his father died in Italy, where he and Elizabeth had gone to seek some relief from the consumption which ultimately took his life on December 27, 1803.

Elizabeth's conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1805 brought new challenges to both herself and her children. Thanks to the generosity of the Filicchis, the Italian family who were lifelong friends and supporters, she was able to send the boys, William and Richard, to Georgetown.

In 1808, at the invitation of the Sulpicians, Elizabeth took her daughters to Baltimore to start both a small school for young girls as well as the religious community that would become the Sisters of Charity. When Elizabeth relocated her family and fledging community to Emmitsburg, fifty miles away, the boys transferred to Mount St. Mary's College, near their mother's new community home. Visits to Elizabeth and their sisters were fairly frequent during their student years. They were with Anna Maria in 1812 when she died of consumption; neither was present when their youngest sister,



Rebecca, died of the same disease in 1816 nor with their mother at her death in 1821.

But boys grow up and seek a life of their own, not always one to their parents' liking. William had a yen for the navy at a time when troubles on the high seas made the naval life a terrifying prospect for his mother. Elizabeth was able to persuade William to try working in the Filicchi Banking House in Livorno where his father himself had received training. It was a fiasco on many levels, not least of which was that he had neither aptitude nor interest in the life.

Returning to the United States in 1817 and with the help

of his mother's wide circle of friends, he received a commission as a Midshipman aboard the *USS Macedonian* and served in the Navy until 1834. He was away at sea when Elizabeth died in 1821.

In 1832 he married Emily Prime, daughter of a wealthy banker, with whom he had eight children. He lived the life of a prosperous land owner on an estate he built called Cragdon, in Westchester County. Though he married into a Protestant family, he had his children baptized and raised Catholic.

His daughter Helen became a Sister of Mercy, joining her Aunt, Mother Catherine Seton, in the Dobbs Ferry community.

At his request, William was buried at Mount Saint Mary's, Emmitsburg, having outlived his wife Emily by many years. Before his body was taken to the Mount a funeral Mass was conducted at St. Francis Xavier Church on West 16th Street, Manhattan, by his own son, Monsignor (later Archbishop) Robert Seton.

And one of his grandsons, Ferdinand Roscoe Jevons, the last direct descendent of William and Elizabeth, was present at her beatification in 1963. ■

Material for this article taken from:
Elizabeth Bayley Seton 1774-1821,
by Annabelle M. Melville

Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC
Charism writings, retreats
and spiritual direction
Boyle Hall





The swimming pool allows the staff to employ water therapy with the children at ESPC.



The historic stained glass windows in the St. Elizabeth Ann Chapel were removed from the chapel in Chelsea and installed in Yonkers.

residents of the Health Related Facility manifested, but they were kept warm and well fed, meds were given when necessary, and a major ingredient of their care was the love of those who cared for them. The number of residents in the Health Related Facility grew and the disabilities of the children became more severe. The unit continued to evolve, and in 1987 the Sisters of Charity restructured and renamed it The Pediatric Center, an affiliate of The New York Foundling Hospital. As the years went on, The Pediatric Center developed and, although still housed in a New York Foundling building, grew into an independent facility. In 2005, now fully independent from The Foundling, it was renamed the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, the name under which it has continued to expand, decentralize, and flourish.

In the past few years, money from donations and grants was raised and a \$100,000,000 mortgage was procured to

build a beautiful, new, state-of-the-art home for the residents of ESPC. The children range in age from infants to twenty-one years. Many can breathe only by means of their respirator or tracheotomy. A large percentage are fed through feeding tubes to provide sustenance for their growing bodies. Their disabilities are multiple, they are very fragile, but they crave the love and the touch of those around them. Some parents and siblings are able to learn how to care for a child themselves, and will then be able to take them home, with continued support and training from staff members. Other children are so fragile and in need of constant care that they will remain at ESPC until they are twenty-one.

All of the children have the opportunity to attend school within the Center itself, and each learns at his or her own pace. Life skills as well as educational skills are part of their training, in conjunction with physical therapy and stimulation. These children are vibrant, energetic, playful, and loving.

The new Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center is now open in Yonkers, N.Y. The site of the new Center provides the opportunity for fresh air and sunshine, and more privacy than the New York City streets could offer the staff and residents. From the ground

breaking in September 2009 until the residents moved in on March 4th and 5th, 2012, the dream of the new Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center has become a reality. It is presently at full the capacity of 137 children.

Each staff member knows the children they care for by name and is very familiar with their needs and wants. Though its size bespeaks an institution, its atmosphere is one of compassion, hope, respect, and faith. The entire staff is dedicated to its ministry with the children, and is guided by the CEO of the Center, Pat Tursi. In an interview Ms. Tursi said, "Once you experience time with our children you are forever inspired to see a child's life as encompassing so many elements beyond their being medically fragile. We are propelled into action to ensure that these children experience the limitless world of possibility." And the children of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center have that "limitless world of possibility" open to them each and every day.

Sr. Mary Irene and her companions would be delighted to see what their humble beginnings have wrought in the past 144 years. The mission of Elizabeth Seton lives on in all who serve and live at the Pediatric Center named in her honor. May charity continue to impel us into a bright and promising future. ■



Bright, airy rooms are now equipped with in-wall oxygen and suction for use when necessary.

Sr. Maryellen Blumlein, SC
Assistant Archivist
Boyle Hall



2012 February Jubilarians

The following Sisters celebrated jubilees in February 2012. Please visit our website under News/Recent Events to read about our Jubilarians. We congratulate them, we celebrate them, and we thank these wonderful Sisters for their years of dedicated service to the mission of charity.

75 Years

Sister Mary Ellis, SC

70 Years

Sister Anne T. Golden SC

65 Years

Sister Claire Marian Barton, SC
Sister Margaret Beaudette, SC
Sister Jane Maria Hoehn, SC
Sister Anna Marian Lascell, SC
Sister Rita Elizabeth Moon, SC
Sister Clare Regan, SC
Sister Helen Scoltock, SC

60 Years

Sister Wilda Asfour, SC
Sister Margaret C. Kelly, SC
Sister Miriam Jude Trank, SC
Sister Ann Marie Walsh, SC

Spirituality & Earth... *Continued from page 6*

extinction,” deepens her understanding and appreciation of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus and how the Paschal Mystery is lived in us each day. In Creation, one form of life feeds another, becoming one with it so that new life can emerge—an image that can enhance our sense of the Eucharist.

Growing in awareness of God’s transforming energy in all Creation, of which we are a part, is one way that the Sisters of Charity are igniting the fire of Charity anew. A spiritual awareness such as this fosters reverence; it can indeed sustain us in our mission of revealing God’s healing, reconciling, and nourishing love to all, especially those on the margins of society. ■



Sister Ann Marie Lagan was the last Sister of Charity principal at St. Mary's.

Education

St. Mary's School, Yonkers

by Sr. Maryellen Blumlein, SC

On June 24, 2011, the school bell at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Yonkers, rang for the last time. On this day students received their final report cards from their beloved school. At dismissal time, amid good-byes, hugs, and many tears, 154 years of excellence in education came to an end in this local parish. Economic difficulties led to a decline in enrollment, and the loss of Interparish Financing funds resulted in the inability of the school to continue to sustain itself.

The parish of St. Mary's was originally a Jesuit mission whose church opened in the early 1850s; the first pastor was Rev. John Ryan, SJ. A definite need was seen for a parochial school to educate the children of the parish. In 1857 two Sisters of Charity from Mount St. Vincent—Sr. M. Chrysostom and Sr. M. Wini-fred—came to begin St. Mary's elementary school, the only Catholic school between New York City and Poughkeepsie at that time. By 1860, Fr. Edward Lynch completed construction on the new school building. The Sisters of Charity, De La Salle Christian Brothers, members of other religious communities, and dedicated lay teachers continued the high standards of excellence begun by those first Sisters of Charity back in 1857.

The last Sister of Charity administrator—Sr. Ann Marie Lagan—ministered at St. Mary's until 1996. Two lay principals served as the school administrators

until the school's closing. In June of 2011 there was one Sister of Charity on staff as a full-time teacher, one as a part-time teacher, and three Sisters volunteered in the school.

During the last few years of the school's existence class sizes were small, but the students continued to work hard. The ten full-time teachers and three part-time teachers worked to provide many educational opportunities for every student. In the Class of 2011, one boy was accepted to Regis High School, and many of the other 17 students were accepted into the Catholic high schools to which they applied. For the students in the lower grades, enrollment in new schools was evenly split between other Catholic and public elementary schools.

Now the school bell rings for the Thomas Cornell Academy, a Yonkers public school housing grades Pre-K to 3, and looking toward expansion in the future. The name for the school was chosen for a man who worked on the extension of the Hudson Line of the railroad and researched the history of Yonkers and the arrival of the Sisters of Charity into the area.

The need for education continues to be met, and the bells in St. Mary's steeple continue to ring out. For the thousands of students who attended St. Mary's School over its illustrious 154-year history, what was learned there will not be forgotten. The lessons, the values, the friendships, and the memories have lasted and will last far into the future. ■

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The annual celebration of the feast day is always special but this day was even more so. Padre Tomás Ventura, Vicar for Religious of the Diocese of Quiché, presided over the special liturgy. During the Mass, Sr. Jane engaged in dialogue with Rosenda, asking her if she wanted to enter into the Community. Sr. Mary Ann then asked Sr. Nora Cunningham if she was willing to accept the role of Postulant Director. The local community present was asked if they were willing to support Rosenda in her vocation discernment. Sr. Jane then presented Rosenda with a framed Mission Statement in both Spanish and English. Rosenda's mother and several other family members were present for the ceremony and celebrated this special day with the six Sisters and the happy new postulant.

On their last full day in Guatemala, the Sisters visited the Sr. Barbara Ford Peace Center, where they learned more about the programs offered and were able to spend time with those who work

at and visit the Center. Now in its fourth year, the Center offers social, spiritual, educational, cultural, political, and legal programs to support those in need.

The afternoon provided the Sisters with the opportunity to visit Hogar de los Ancianos, a home for the aged, and Casa Nueva Vida, an alcohol rehabilitation center, where a plaque in the gazebo honors the Sisters of Charity for their service to the people of the community.

Sisters Jane, Mary Ann, and Eileen returned home feeling a tremendous sense of appreciation and gratitude for their time in Guatemala. In the words of Sr. Eileen, "It is a growing and stretching experience to live in another culture and lifestyle for a while, to get to know the people and their values and to learn first-hand the work of the Sisters who are or have been in Guatemala." ■



(Sr. Anne Denise Brennan remained in Guatemala to work with the Sisters, returning to New York in late February.)

University, Rafael Landivar, which has a satellite campus in Santa Cruz.

Before Rosenda entered the Congregation, she worked in the parish clinic. Her passion is for nursing and serving the poor. With the charism of charity, she looks toward a future in this healing ministry among the people, who are the poorest here in Guatemala.

Rosenda has always valued her parish church and community in San Pedro, where she was very active. She is now assisting catechists on Saturdays in the local parish church of the Sacred Heart. She also uses her nursing and pastoral skills on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays when she volunteers at Hogar de los Ancianos, a home for the elderly.

In addition to ministry, this time of being a postulant or candidate is a period of initiation into community, prayer, and the charism as lived by the Sisters of Charity of New York, the lived experience that facilitates the prayerful discernment of the call to be a Sister of Charity. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. Margaret Farrara, SC (formerly Sr. Marguerite Marie)

Entered: 1946 + Date of Death: 1/21/12 + Age: 88

"Sr. Margaret was a teacher— one who touched the lives of everyone she met with her understanding heart and the acceptance of all persons as she found them."



Sr. Marguerite's ministry in education began at St. Peter's in Poughkeepsie in 1947. She went on to teach Latin at Cathedral High School—Holy Trinity Branch, Manhattan, and York Catholic High School in York, Pa. Sr. Margaret also served as Regional Coordinator and later as Dean of Students at Elizabeth Seton College, Yonkers.

Sr. Margaret returned to her hometown area in 1974, where she taught first and second grades at Hoosick Falls Central School until 1991. Upon her retirement, she and Sr. Mary Liegey undertook the development of the Religious Education Program at Immaculate Conception, Hoosick Falls, serving as Co-Religious Education Directors until 1997. After this time Sr. Margaret volunteered at Habitat for Humanity.

In 1994 Sr. Margaret and Sr. Mary began making jellies to raise money for the Sisters of Charity missions in Guatemala. In a 2007 article in Catholic New York, Sr. Margaret was quoted as saying, "Anything we can give them is a great help." Sr. Margaret and Sr. Mary continued making jellies in their retirement. ■

Sr. Helen Marie Horton, SC (formerly Sr. Mary Ligouri)

Entered: 1946 + Date of Death: 1/8/12 + Age: 88

"Reaching so many people, reaching children through the media and helping educate them — that certainly has been very fulfilling for me."



Sr. Helen worked for five years as a professional singer in such places as the Stork Club and the Hotel Pierre. In spite of her success as an entertainer, Helen realized there was something missing in her life. After much discernment, she entered the Sisters of Charity of New York in February 1946.

Sr. Helen's early years of ministry were spent teaching primary grades. She was assigned to St. Gabriel and St. Raymond, both in the Bronx, Our Lady of the Angelus in Rego Park, and St. Joseph's Academy in Manhattan.

In 1967 her ministry in education took on a new dimension when she was assigned to work at the Archdiocesan Instructional TV Center in Yonkers as Program Director. In 1984 Sr. Helen received the first annual William E. Fagan award from Children's Television International, recognizing her "excellence in leadership and contribution to the growth and quality of instructional television."

Sr. Helen's beautiful voice continued to be a gift to many throughout her life. She was leader of song at St. Joseph Parish in Yonkers for over 25 years, where she also prepared many children for First Holy Communion. ■

Visit www.scny.org/memorial.html for complete information about the Sisters' ministries.

In 2006 Sr. Jean Iannone's dream of becoming a chef was on its way to reality. One day, as she was returning from Mass at St. Margaret's Church in Riverdale, a bus passed by with an ad for Monroe College's Culinary Arts program: "Did you ever think of becoming a Chef?" She started to think about this, and her response was, "Yes, I have!"

Working full time at the Sisters of Charity Center as Director of Information Systems and teaching Computer Applications one night a week at The College of New Rochelle did not allow her much free time. However, her dream had taken hold, so the process began. This was August, 2006, and in September, 2006, she found herself in class two nights a week from 5:30 to 9:30 pm until courses completed in December, 2008. Because she had other degrees, many courses were waived and she only needed a total of 33 credits in Culinary Arts.

The Culinary Arts program is taught by Chef instructors with years of experience in what is perhaps the latest



state-of-the-art culinary instructional facility in the metropolitan New York area. The four new kitchen labs on the college's New Rochelle campus include two à la carte, one banquet, and one baking and pastry kitchen outfitted with Jade commercial ranges, induction cook tops, and combination oven/steamers that allow chefs to steam, poach, roast, broil, bake, and "rethermalize" food simultaneously.

Sr. Jean began her journey with 16 students, four at each table every week

acting as a team to learn the skills of cooking. After a year, the distinctive Baking and Pastry program was introduced for students who enjoy the culinary environment, but wanted to specialize. This specialty was for her.

The program was designed to meet the challenges facing today's bakers and pastry chefs, so students could learn to adapt to fast-changing trends and to be successful in the specialized world of baking. They developed a working knowledge of baking, pastry, and dessert production and culinary arts, as well as the fields of cost control, food purchasing, and safe food handling.

Sr. Jean graduated from Monroe College with a degree of Associate in Applied Science, Summa Cum Laude, on December 18, 2008. Since her graduation she has been able to donate her services to the Development Office for fund-raising events, such as Dinner for Eight, Dessert of Your Choice, and many other specialties. In her new residence at Kingsbridge, she is able to use all her skills, both in cooking and baking.

"Chef Jean" has enjoyed following her dream. It has brought her many challenges with delicious results. We look forward to the recipes she will provide for us in *Vision*. Enjoy! ■



Chef Jean Recommends

Mango Meringue Tartlets

Caribbean ingredients make these beautiful little tarts something special.
Servings: Makes 6 tartlets.

Ingredients

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 cups powdered sugar, divided
- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, melted, lukewarm
- 3 tablespoons sweetened flaked coconut
- 3 large ripe mangoes, peeled, pitted, sliced, divided
- ¼ teaspoon ground allspice
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅓ cup fresh lime juice
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1 (14-oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 6 large egg whites
- Pinch of coarse kosher salt
- 6 fresh mint sprigs

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350°F. Using fork, mix flour, ½ cup powdered sugar, melted butter, and coconut in medium bowl until dough forms. Divide into 6 equal pieces. Press each piece onto bottom and up sides of 4½-inch-diameter tartlet pan with removable bottom. Chill crusts 30 minutes. Can be made one day ahead. Cover and chill.

Bake crusts until golden, pressing down with spoon if bubbles form, about 25 minutes. Cool. Purée 2 mangoes in processor. Measure 1¾ cups puree; mix in spices. Transfer to bowl; cover and refrigerate.

Pour lime juice into small saucepan; sprinkle gelatin over. Let stand until gelatin softens, about 10 minutes. Stir over low heat just until gelatin dissolves,

about 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Whisk in condensed milk, then spiced mango puree. Divide filling among cooled crusts. Chill at least 3 hours and up to 5 hours.

Using electric mixer, blend egg whites and coarse salt in large bowl. Gradually add 1½ cups powdered sugar; beat until stiff peaks form, about 5 minutes.

Spoon meringue atop tartlets or pipe atop tartlets using pastry bag fitted with large star tip. Using butane torch, lightly brown meringue. (Alternatively, place tartlets in 500°F oven until meringue is golden in spots, watching carefully to prevent burning, about 3 minutes.) Garnish with remaining mango slices and mint sprigs. ■

Chef Jean

Sisters of Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul of New York
Sisters of Charity Center
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471-1093
718.549.9200
Fax 718.884.3013
www.scny.org



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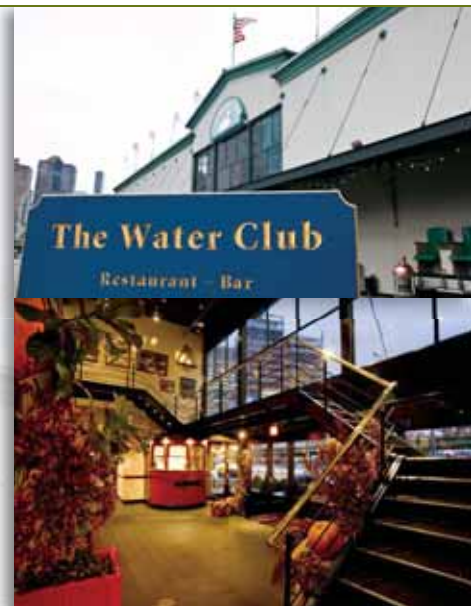
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SCNY NEWS



St. Vincent's Hospital, NYC

On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, the New York City Council approved plans to name the triangle at 7th Avenue between West 12th Street and Greenwich Avenue, "Saint Vincent's Hospital Park." The site of this new city park will incorporate the history of St. Vincent's Hospital along with an AIDS memorial. A seat on the planning committee has been set aside for a Sisters of Charity representative to participate in the final design of the park and memorial. The hope is that the result will be "a park that pays tribute to the institution that did so much good for the community and served so many individuals."

Our thanks to Sr. Jane Iannucelli, who worked tirelessly with New York City officials to assure this outcome.

Congratulations to Sr. Anne T. Flood whose book, *Grace and Courage*, has been translated into Italian by Don Gino Franchi, pastor of the parish of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Livorno, Italy. This is the city in which Elizabeth Seton was inspired to become a Catholic. Her husband, William, is buried in the church cemetery. On Easter Sunday, Don Gino gave all parishioners a copy of the book.

Sisters Dorothy Metz, SC, and Dominica Rocchio, SC, travelled to Rome to represent the Sisters of Charity at the elevation of Archbishop Timothy Dolan to Cardinal on February 18, 2012.



Srs. Dorothy Metz (left) and Dominica Rocchio in Rome