

Vision

SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1, SUMMER 2011

In this issue,
we focus on:

- New Leadership
- Jubilarians
- 40 Years in Guatemala
- Sisters Honored

If you added up
the years of service
for all the Sisters
and Associates
mentioned in this
issue, they'd total
over 3,405 years!

That's a lot of
good works!



Photo: Christine Haggerty

The Congregation's new leadership team takes a break from a meeting in their board room at Mount Saint Vincent. From the left, Sr. Mary Kay Finneran, Sr. Eileen McGrory, Sr. Mary Ann Daly, Sr. Jane Iannucelli (President), Sr. Kathleen Byrnes and Sr. Dominica Rocchio.

Congregation Elects New Leadership

Have you noticed how we humans like to space out significant events in cycles of four years? Olympic Games, World Cup Soccer tournaments and presidential elections are just three examples. This cycle also holds true for the Sisters of Charity of New York who conduct their Assembly of Elections quadrennially.

Over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, 2011, the Congregation elected its leadership team

for the next four years. Sr. Jane Iannucelli was voted President on the second ballot. She named Sr. Eileen McGrory as her Assistant. Sisters Kathleen Byrnes, Mary Ann Daly, Mary Kay Finneran and Dominica Rocchio were elected as Regional Coordinators on the Council. This new leadership team, which serves through 2015, was installed formally on June 30 during the Transfer of Leadership ceremony at Mount Saint Vincent.

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Letter From the President

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

In the movie *The King's Speech*, King George VI of England finds himself in a seemingly impossible situation. His country, at the brink of war, desperately needs a leader who can inspire and unite them. Unfortunately, the King is handicapped by a speech impediment and his pronounced stuttering prevents him from providing his people with the courage they need, until an eccentric speech therapist enables him to *find his voice*.

What a gift – to enable another to find his/her voice!

In this issue of *Vision* you will read about many people imbued with the spirit of the Sisters of Charity, who are impelled by God's love to reach out and give people a voice in places like the Bronx, New Orleans and Guatemala.

Often times, as is evident in the movie, in the act of transforming another's life, we are also transformed. St. Paul tells us in his Letter to the Hebrews (13:2), "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." And so, the givers discover that they are the recipients of unexpected gifts. In the case of the speech therapist, his life was enriched by a great friendship with the King.

I can think of many instances when I have been similarly rewarded by the unexpected largesse of others. I believe it happens whenever we allow ourselves to be open to others, truly present, listening and responsive. Christ tells us that what we do to others, we do to Him. Why should we be surprised when our friendship with Christ becomes our greatest gift and inspiration? Christ has promised us the hundredfold!

As I complete my term as President of the Sisters of Charity and begin planning for another ministry, I thank all of you who have been such an encouraging support over the past eight years. You have enabled the Sisters of Charity and Associates to help so many find their voices.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Dorothy Metz, SC
President

The next issue of *Vision* will feature Sr. Jane Iannucelli's first letter.

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.



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Forty Years of Presence in Guatemala

By Sr. Maria Iglesias, SC

On Palm Sunday 40 years ago, Sr. Marie Immaculata Burke, Sr. Marie Tolle and Sr. Doris Pagano came to this very beautiful, yet hurting, country. Our mission to Guatemala began in collaboration with the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, doing healthcare and catechesis in the diocese of Sololá.

Over the years, the first Sisters were joined by a number of others who worked in parishes instructing the people, preparing them to be lectors, catechists, health care promoters, and advocates for justice. They also introduced needed water projects, cared for the elderly and alcoholics, and worked to heal the scars of a terrible civil war (1960 to 1996) which has been named a genocide of thousands of indigenous people.

Here in Guatemala, which Sr. Mary Meyler calls “Vincent territory” because of its great needs, we have tried to respond to the needs of a people whose lives are marked by suffering.

The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Novillero, (Sololá) is part of the large parish of Santa Lucía Utatlan under the care of Fr. Eliobardo and the Sisters of Charity of New York. These, plus the four clinics in Nauhualá, Ixtuahuacán, Novillero and Nueva Ixtuahuacán, continue to thrive under the care of Sr. Immaculata, Sister Marie, Doctor José and the health care teams.

While infant mortality is high most places in Guatemala, here it is kept at bay by prenatal care, well-baby care (including vaccinations), and education. It is here that visiting College of Mount Saint Vincent Nursing students told us they learned “the art of Nursing.”

The work in the Diocese of Quiché is forever marked by our own Sr. Bobbie Ford, whose anniversary of entry into new life we commemorated this May 5th. On the tenth anniversary of her death, we remember all that she died for: human dignity, compassion, justice. As Sisters and Associates we can do this by living similar gospel values each day.

Today, Sr. Bobbie would rejoice in the programs at the “Centro PAZ” as the bus drivers call the Barbara Ford Peace-Building Center. The Center programs touch in an integrated way the lives of all living in the community: women, men, young adults, children, couples, extended families, teachers and school officials, community leaders and authorities.

Our Sisters Virginia Searing and Mary Meyler, along with our Associate Carlos Enrique Mendoza, work with a 12-member team to build a unique resource that has as its mission:

“to promote integrated human and spiritual development with individuals, families and communities through the creation of programs of impact for social, religious, cultural, political and judicial change, empowering them for their own transformation into people of change in order to live more just and dig-

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Sr. Bobbie Ford, down in Guatemala.

All the Sisters here in Guatemala work closely with the two dioceses of Quiché and Sololá, especially by being present at the diocesan Assemblies. Pictured here in front of a map of Quiché posting the pictures of a few of the martyrs, including Sr. Bobbie, are Sisters Maria Iglesias, Eileen Judge, Gloria De Arteaga, Mary Meyler and Virginia Searing.



February 2011 Jubilarians

Although most of our Sisters entered the Congregation in September, in years past, some entered in February. They did so on February 2, an important Church celebration originally known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin and, more recently, as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

75 years (1936)

Sr. Eileen Mary Finnegan, SC, (Sr. Marie Ignatius) was an educator and served at 10 grammar schools in three dioceses over 48 years. Her longest school associations were with St. Peter's in Haverstraw (1949-59) and with the Elizabeth Seton Academy in Yonkers (1970-81). Sr. Eileen also was principal at Holy Trinity in Mamaroneck (1963-65). Her Congregational service included the post of Sister Servant while at Holy Trinity and 12 years working at the Congregation's administrative headquarters at Mount Saint Vincent after retiring from schools. *(Sister died on February 6 of this year – just four days after the 75th anniversary of her entering the Congregation.)*

70 Years (1941)

Sr. Regina Catherine Gorga, SC, taught at 7 elementary schools over 45 years. Her longest school associations were Blessed Sacrament on Staten Island (1944-55) and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Shrub Oak, NY (1966-96). At the upstate school, Sr. Regina taught grades 3 & 4 over 20 years, then spent 9 years in supervisory and clerical duties at the school. She was a volunteer in her final year there.

Sr. Marion Halpin, SC, (Sr. Marie James) has been a teacher, accountant, program administrator and social worker. Her 57 years of service started with teaching at four schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. Then, she worked in the accounting office at The New York Foundling for six years, before managing the Student Aid Program at the College of Mount Saint Vincent for 7 years. After returning to school for her Masters in Education, Sister worked as a geriatric social worker with Catholic Charities for 10 years. That was followed by 20 years in parish ministry at St. John the Evangelist, Pawling, NY.

Sr. Marian Margaret Sullivan, SC, dedicated her ministry to education and library service. Her first 19 years were spent teaching elementary schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. At Blessed Sacrament,

the Bronx, Sister added library duties to her teaching of pre-high school subjects. Sr. Marian spent a total of 41 years on the college level as a librarian: 29 years at Elizabeth Seton College, Yonkers, and 12 years at Iona College, New Rochelle. She closed out her active ministry as a volunteer for 2 years at the St. Barnabas High School library.

65 Years (1946)

Sr. Marie T. Daly, SC, (Sr. Mary Placida) spent 47 years in active education ministry. She was associated with six schools over the years in Manhattan, the Bronx, New Rochelle and White Plains. After 22 years as a teacher, Sister became principal at St. John Evangelist in White Plains, and served in that capacity for 25 years (1969-1994). After retiring, she continued to serve the parish as a volunteer for another 14 years.

Sr. Helen Marie Horton, SC, (Sr. Mary Liguori) began her education ministry teaching the lower grades in schools in Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens. After 20 years at four different schools, Sister joined the staff at the Instructional Television Center in Yonkers. There, she served as Program Director and Program Scheduler for 30 years. Sr. Helen then moved on to Congregational service, where she was Volunteer of Special Projects at Boyle Hall, which houses the Sisters of Charity Archives.

Sr. Virginia Catherine Jarczyński, SC, (Sr. Katherine Veronica) has been both an educator and an administrator. After teaching for 8 years at Holy Name Day Nursery in Manhattan, Sister volunteered for service in the Congregation's ministries in The Bahamas, where she taught at two schools over 12 years. In 1967, Sr. Virginia returned to NY and was Director of Volunteers at The New York Foundling Hospital for five years. The next 11 years were spent as Attendance Coordinator at St. Peter High School on Staten Island. That was followed by a total of eight years on staff at two Congregation properties.



Sr. Mary T. Kane, SC, (Sr. John Maureen) taught at 6 elementary schools and served as principal at St. Peter's in Poughkeepsie (1962-68). Her longest school association was with St. Anthony in the Bronx, where she taught grade 6 (1974-83), then was a remedial substitute teacher (1987-95). Sister served a year as a clerical assistant at Cathedral High School. Her Congregational service included 4 years on the management team at a guest house and 7 years as switchboard operator at the Mount Saint Vincent Convent.

60 years (1951)

Sr. Dolores Ann Calamari, SC, (Sr. Agnes Dolores) began her nursing ministry in 1953 as a staff nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Manhattan, where over 12 years, she would also serve as a supervisor and instructor. Sister also was a supervisor and nursing instructor for six years at St. Vincent's on Staten Island. In 1971, Sr. Dolores Ann began her three-decades-long association with Pace University, Pleasantville, NY, as an instructor/assistant professor in nursing. Between 1995 and 2003, Sister served at St. Agnes Hospital's Maternity Clinic-Childbirth Education for the poor in White Plains while a professor emeritus at Pace. Since 1995, Sr. Dolores has been an active volunteer – with her Congregation; at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville, NY; and at various suburban retirement homes.

Sr. Maria Louis Octavio, SC, has been an active volunteer since “retiring” in 1991 after 38 years of working with young children. She began at The New York Foundling Hospital in Manhattan, where she was assistant to the director of the School of Child Care (1953-66). Then Sister moved into the classroom and taught first grade for 10 years at St. Peter School in Poughkeepsie, followed by 15 years teaching fourth grade at Sacred Heart on Staten Island. In 1983, Sr. Maria Louis began what would be 20 years as a summer docent at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD. Sister currently volunteers at the College of Mount Saint Vincent where, among other things, she prepares meals and clothing packets for distribution to the homeless during Midnight Runs.

Sr. Elizabeth Theresa Stelmack, SC, (Sr. Edward Maureen) began her nursing ministry in 1953, at St. Vincent's Hospital on Staten Island. Sister also served at St. Vincent's Hospital in Harrison, NY, for a total of 15 years: as a staff nurse, as Director of Patient Representatives (1984-91) and, since 2004, as a volunteer. Sister also served as a nurse at the Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers; at St. Elizabeth Hospital, formerly in northern Manhattan; at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn; at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Manhattan; and at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in the Bronx.

We congratulate these 11 Sisters on their milestones and thank them for their combined 725 years of dedicated service. We rejoice in their achievements and are grateful for all the lives they touched over the decades. Ad multos annos! ■



At the 2011 Spring Benefit, this year's honoree Bill Hurley catches up with last year's honoree Sr. Trudé Collins. This year's Spring Benefit was our most successful yet! Begun four years ago to raise funds for our Charity Response Team (CRT), the Benefit is a chance to meet the administrators from these six community-based ministries that work directly with people in need: especially women, immigrants and the homeless.

During the evening, Bill Hurley was honored for the contributions he has made over 15 years as the Congregation's Director of Development. Bill's wife, three children and son-in-law joined him for this special event. Each of the six CRT ministries received \$11,000 from the evening's proceeds.

Photo by Sr. A. Jean Iannone, SC

Elections

(continued from front cover)

Background information on the elected Sisters

Sr. Jane Iannucelli, SC, the new President of the community, has served as Director of Sponsorship Services for the Congregation for the past four years. Earlier leadership roles included service as Assistant to the President (2003-2007), Regional Coordinator (1999-2003), Social Concerns Coordinator (1984-88), and Director of the Formation Team and Novice Director (1976-81).

In addition, Sister was vice chair of the board of Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers, and was acting CEO of St. Vincent's Hospital Midtown (formerly St. Clare's) until it closed in 2007. She also was Senior VP of Mission at the Sisters of Charity Health Care System on Staten Island for three years, and was on staff at The New York Foundling for eight years. She was one of the co-founders of Part of the Solution (POTS), the central Bronx soup kitchen / multi-service organization, now in its 29th year.

Sr. Jane's first ministry was education. In the Bronx, she taught at St. Barnabas (1960-66) and was dean of students at Cardinal Spellman (1971-73). On Staten Island, she was a teacher, then dean of students at St. Joseph by-the-Sea (1966-70). In Dobbs Ferry, Sister was dean of students at Our Lady of Victory (1973-75). In Rye, she taught at Resurrection Academy (1970-71).

Sr. Jane holds a BA in Mathematics from the College of Mount Saint Vincent and a M.Ed. in Administration from Fairfield University. She also has 59 graduate credits in Physics from St. Louis University.

Her dedication and contributions were recognized by Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers several times over the years. In 2001, the Pax Christi Hospice program bestowed its "Spirit of Life" award on Sr. Jane for her understanding and support of the hospice approach to care and treatment for the terminally ill. In 2009, Sister received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award at the Manhattan hospital's annual



Photo by Sr. Margaret Egan, SC

Sr. Dorothy Metz passes symbols of leadership – a candle and a mantle – to her successor Sr. Jane Iannucelli at the Transfer of Leadership ceremony.

Angelus Award Gala.

Sister entered the Sisters of Charity of New York in 1957; her religious name was Sr. Jane Dolores. She is a graduate of Bishop McDonnell High School, Brooklyn, and St. Gabriel School, East Elmhurst (Queens).

Sr. Eileen McGrory, SC, is the new Assistant to the President. She has been Secretary of the Congregation for the past seven and a half years and had served as Director of Formation for five years.

Education was Sr. Eileen's first ministry and, for over 23 years, she taught at three grammar schools, at St. Raymond Academy and at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. She was principal at Nativity of Our Blessed Lady, the Bronx, (1971-76).

For 16 years, Sister worked in the Diocese of Shreveport, LA, as an Instructor of Theology and Spirituality; as Director of the Office for Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry; and as Director of the Diocesan Library. Sister also spent a year in spiritual development work.

Sr. Eileen holds a BS in Science from the College



of Mount Saint Vincent; a MS in Biology from the College of St. Rose; and a MA in Theology from Fordham University.

Sister entered the congregation in 1954; her religious name was Sr. Bernard Mary. She is a graduate of Cathedral High School, Manhattan, and St. Athanasius School, in the Bronx.

Four Regional Coordinators round out the Council of the Sisters of Charity of New York:

Sr. Kathleen Byrnes, SC, has been the Director of the Mobile Soup Kitchen ministry at St. John's Bread and Life in the Diocese of Brooklyn for the past four years.

Sister's first ministry was at St. Paul School, Manhattan, where she was a teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal (1969-82). That was followed by five years working for the Archdiocese's Parish School Planning Program, two years as Assistant Director, followed by three years as Director. Sister also worked for two years at The New York Foundling, as case worker, home finder, adoption worker and foster care worker. She did pastoral work for seven years in Guatemala.

Sr. Kathleen worked for a total of nine years on Staten Island, as Community Resource Coordinator at the Sisters of Charity Healthcare facility and as a social worker at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center.

Sr. Kathleen holds a BA in History from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, a MS in Elementary Education from Hunter College, and a MSW from Fordham University. She also has her NY State Certification in School Administration and has studied at the Maryknoll Language School in Bolivia.

Sister entered the congregation in 1964; her religious name was Sr. Maura Thomas. She is a graduate of St. Raymond Academy and St. Raymond Elementary School, both in the Bronx.

Sr. Mary Ann Daly, SC, has been the Executive Director for the Sisters of Charity Federation for the past four years; she began working for the Federation in 2004.

Sister's first ministry was elementary education; she taught for eight years at St. Margaret of Cortona School in the Bronx. Then Sr. Mary Ann went back to school herself and earned a Masters of Divinity degree. After that, she was the Director of Religious Education at Visitation Parish, the Bronx; then, a Regional Director of Catechesis for the Archdiocese (while serving as the Congregation's Candidate Director); then, Formation Director for a collaborative Sister of Charity novitiate in Ft. Lee, NJ – five years in each position. Next, Sister was pastoral associate at a Newark parish for two years. At the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center, Manhattan, Sister was Director of Mission Effectiveness for two years, and Associate Vice President for Mission Leadership for five years.

Sr. Mary Ann holds a BA in English from the College of Mount Saint Vincent; a MS in Adult Religious Education from Fordham University; and a M.Div in Theology from Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University.

Sister entered the Sisters of Charity of New York in 1965. She is a graduate of St. Barnabas High School and St. Frances of Rome School, both in the Bronx.

Sr. Mary Kay Finneran, SC, has been the Administrator at the Congregation's Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers for the past seven years; she had been a staff nurse there in the '70s.

Sister began her congregational service as a teacher at Incarnation School, Manhattan. After teaching for three years, she went to nursing school. As a registered nurse, she served at St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, for six years. Sr. Mary Kay then was a missionary nurse in Puno, Peru, for five years. She worked in Atlanta, GA, for 24 years as a hospital nurse, a high school campus minister and as Coordinator of Member Services at the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

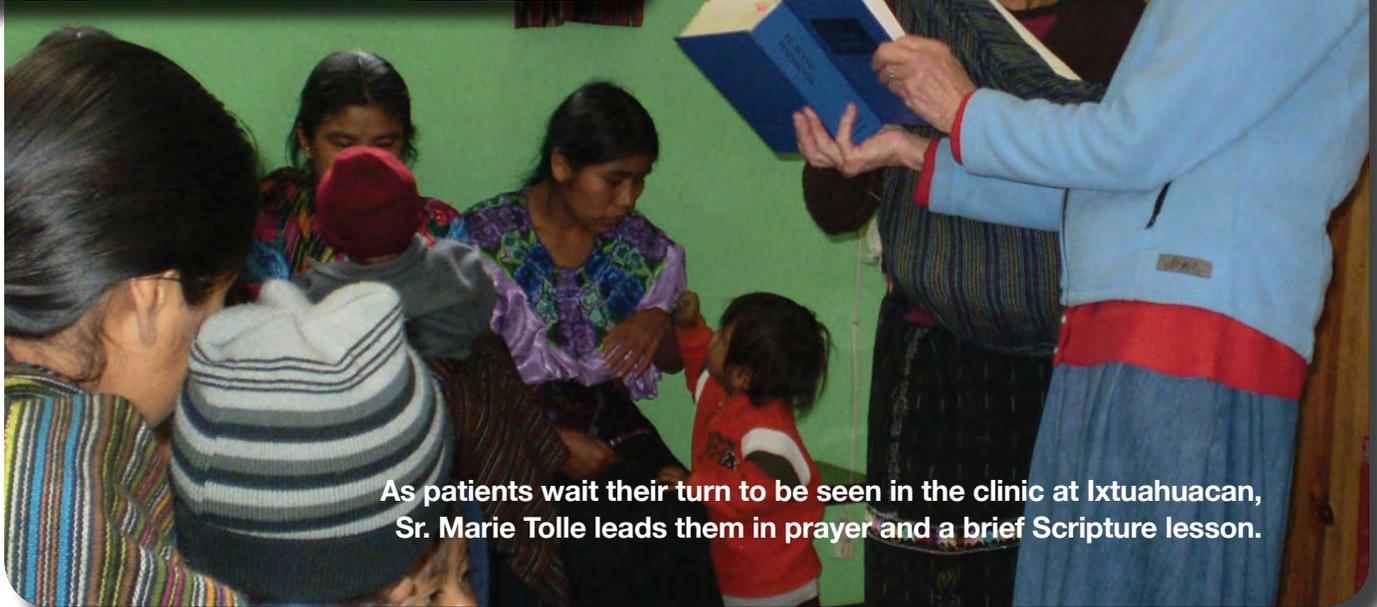
Sr. Mary Kay earned a RN in nursing from St. Vincent School of Nursing and a BSN in nursing from Hunter College.

Sister entered the congregation in 1956; her

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Sr. Immaculata Burke, a registered nurse, works with parents to reduce infant mortality rates.



As patients wait their turn to be seen in the clinic at Ixtuahuacan, Sr. Marie Tolle leads them in prayer and a brief Scripture lesson.

Guatemala

(continued from page 3)

nified lives in harmony with each other and with the cosmos.”

Sr. Eileen Judge has worked for the past 12 years in the “Sor Herminia Casa de Ancianos” as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner. She has taught the staff, developed a Nursing Care Manual, and strengthened the running of the only home for the abandoned elderly in Quiché. Sr. Eileen also has organized teams of doctors from the U.S. who come to do eye and lip surgeries and other special diagnostic procedures.

In addition, Sister has received donations of much needed equipment to help the local public hospital as well as the “Hogar” (home).

As a result of the Novillero mission and the group the Sisters formed called “Marianistas,” young indigenous women began to dream of a call to religious life. The Congregation responded with a new initiative, creating a “Casa de Formación.” Sr. Gloria De Arteaga and Sr. Maria Iglesias were



Discernment is a process of prayerful reflection which leads a person or community to understanding of God’s call at a given time or in particular circumstances of life. It involves listening to God in all the ways God communicates with us: in prayer, in the scriptures, through the Church and the world, in personal experience, and in other people. Young persons may try to discern their life’s vocation by entering into such a process with the help of an experienced guide.

asked to begin working with the women of both Sololá and Quiché in 2006-07. Since that time, over 24 young indigenous women have been in discernment or are beginning to discern a call to religious life with us. Our outreach has also extended to the diocese of Huehuetenango this year.

Education in Guatemala is sorely in need of help. This year, the newspapers were filled with pictures of broken schools, lack of teachers and supplies, children sitting anywhere possible, often outdoors, to be taught. Last year, 2010, tourism dropped 60% in Guatemala due to the high crime rate. The incidence of undernourished children who die has not gone down and Guatemala is second only to Haiti on the poverty scale.

What is being asked of us as women of charity? What would Elizabeth Ann Seton do? The Sisters of Charity of New York are responding to the call, as they have in the US, The Bahamas and elsewhere since 1817. Rather than cursing the darkness, they are lighting candles. ■

Sr. Maria Iglesias serves as the Congregation's Vocation Director both in New York and in Guatemala.



Another project that emerged from the Formation House is the “Escuelita de las Enseñanzas de Jesús” as the local neighborhood children named their Saturday afternoon bible school. Now, over 30 children – some who are too poor to attend “regular school” – have a special time to learn about Jesus. Sr. Anne Denise Brennan has given special attention to this project.

Elections *(continued from page 7)*

religious name was Sr. Michael Maureen. She is a graduate of Blessed Sacrament High School and Immaculate Conception School, both in Manhattan.

Sr. Dominica Rocchio, SC, is entering her second term on the Council. She has specialized in secondary education and educational administration. Sister taught at St. Barnabas High School in the Bronx, the Academy of Resurrection in Rye, and at Cathedral High School, All Saints branch in Manhattan. She was dean of students at St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School on Staten Island and at St. Gabriel High School in New Rochelle, where she also was principal, 1975-80. Over the next 12 years, Sister was Associate Superintendent of Secondary Schools for the Archdiocese of New York. Then Sister crossed the Hudson and was Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Newark for 15 years; during 12 of those years, she also was Secretary for Education for the Archdiocese.

Nationally, Sr. Dominica represented the Archdiocese of Newark on the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Public Policy and Catholic Schools, served as a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Education, and was on the Board of Directors of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Sr. Dominica holds a BS in English, a MA in Religious Education, and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Fordham University, as well as a MA in English from Manhattan College. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Seton Hall University and studied for a year at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, MA.

Sister entered the Sisters of Charity of New York in 1962; her religious name was Sr. Regina Seton. She is a graduate of St. Jean Baptiste High School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, both in Manhattan. ■



Sr. Claire E. Regan (left) staffs the House of Charity in New Orleans with Sr. Monica Gundler, SC (Cincinnati) and Sr. Renee Rose, DC (East Central Province).

The House of Charity in came into being in January 2010 when the Archdiocese of New Orleans leased a former parish rectory to the Sisters of Charity Federation. Sr. Claire and the other two sisters host visiting groups of women religious and lay volunteers that come to do service for the poor in the Crescent City. At this House of Charity, young adults experience community in all its aspects. Days are busy but time for shared prayer and reflection is part of the schedule.

Views of New Orleans: A Visit to Port Sulphur

by Sr. Claire E. Regan, SC

This time last year, the media was focused on the problems caused by British Petroleum's Deepwater Horizon oil rig. It exploded on April 20, 2010 and leaked 4.9 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico until it was capped on July 15, the day after Sr. Claire wrote this reflection.

The Gulf region is still struggling to overcome the problems caused by the massive oil leak, on top of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. New Orleans still has much rebuilding to do. Sr. Claire and all who staff and visit the House of Prayer are aiding the recovery.

Sulphur conjures up many negative associations: Dante's inferno, the hallows of Hades, the smell of rotten eggs in a chemistry lab. Some of those associations played true for me during my recent two visits to Port Sulphur (an hour South of New Orleans):

- as I passed two oil refineries along the way and experienced their polluting odors
- as I witnessed the pangs of disappointment in the faces of poor persons who were waiting for food support which had run out
- as I heard the stories of life in the midst of the oil spill crisis in the Gulf.

I am struck by the vulnerability of this region. As we drive South, we are riding along a narrow highway with just a short distance to a channel on the one side and the Gulf on the other side. There are no hills or tall trees to protect the homes from strong rains or winds. I imagined the horror of Hurricane Katrina tearing through this land and bulldozing everything in her path.

I hear the stories of the people coming to Catholic Charities for help and can attend to the deep faith undergirding their experiences and their uncertainties. The ongoing days of further oil spill damage seem endless and, in their midst, hopeless. The best minds are working on this problem yet no one knows the extent of the long-term effects of this ecological and economic catastrophe. Yes, I see again that at times of deepest darkness, people of faith walk gently with a God who sees over it all, who sees beyond our limited sight.

The poor wait. They wait for their food voucher. They wait for their check from BP. They wait until they have enough money for gas. They wait for a good word that will give them hope.

We're used to talking about waiting during Advent each year, yet in that darkness we know the Light that is to come, that has already come. What gives light to us in the midst of this abiding evil surrounding Port Sulphur and communities like her here in the Gulf region? I suppose it is that people of faith remain, with good hearts, willing to lend a hand and offer a step up when their neighbor is down. Even when not sure of what we have to offer, we trust that God is working through our best intentions and that good will come from it.

I see the power that resides in both family and community life. Husbands accompany wives to the center. Vietnamese neighbors gather and talk while they wait. Children are in the playroom. Volunteers carry large parcels off trucks.

Yes, Christ has no hands but ours, no feet but ours, no eyes/ears but ours through which He works his signs and wonders in our day and time. Here in New Orleans there is yet much beauty in the created world and in the people here. Yes, Christ is very much "at work" here in the tenacity and resilience of the people.

I praise God for planting me here in this acre of His vineyard! ■

Sr. Claire E. Regan is currently on mission at the House of Charity in New Orleans.



Vatican II: Did Anything Happen?

By John W. O'Malley, SJ, [et al] / © 2007, Continuum / 192 pages in paperback

By Sr. Jean Flannelly, SC

Recognized as the Dean of American Catholic Historians, John W. O'Malley, SJ, is also a great teacher whose scholarship is clear, balanced, lively and informative. If these credentials are not enough to encourage you to read his *Vatican II: Did Anything Happen?*, allow me to provide a few more.

This book, edited by David G. Schultenover, SJ, contains previously published essays by noted professors of theology and/or history: Joseph A. Komonchak, John W. O'Malley, SJ, Stephen Schloesser, SJ, and Neil J. Ormerod. These essays have been gathered into one book to help the reader understand the meaning of Vatican II, the 21st Ecumenical Council in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Title Question, *Did Anything Happen?*, weighs in on the meaning of the Second Vatican Council currently being debated in terms of continuity and discontinuity with the past. Some claim that the Council was in continuity with the past and by inference nothing happened. Other voices, our four authors included, speak to its continuity with the past as well as its discontinuity. Something new and different did happen at this gathering of the leadership of the Church 45 plus years ago and we need to pay attention.

John O'Malley, SJ, helps the reader recognize the dramatic shift that took place in the formulation of its documents. The ones that were issued by previous Councils were basically legalistic and/or juridical. They frequently contained condemnations of those who held a differing position or belief. The style of Vatican II departed from this and is pastoral, evangelical and persuasive.

Stephen Schloesser, SJ, a professor of history at Boston College, does a masterful job of presenting the Council as a response to the historical events that were such a crucial part of the 20th century: two World Wars, the Holocaust, the Cold War, the decolonization of Africa, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the emergence of feminism and sexual liberation – to name the most significant. It becomes clear that the Church is historically grounded and affected by what is taking place in history.

Joseph A. Komonchak of Catholic University, who is widely recognized as the principal historian of Council for the English-speaking world, describes it as an event that is continuing to unfold. In his analysis, he provides examples of the tensions and struggles that were the background in the debate and the formulation of the documents. These same dynamics

and tensions continue to influence the path taken in interpreting the meaning of the Council for the life of the Christian community.

Neil J. Ormerod, a professor of Theology in New South Wales, rounds out the discussion by acknowledging the change that took place at the Council. He calls attention to the resistance to change by some who hold a romanticized view of the Church and see it as a place of solidarity and permanence in an ever-changing world. He ends by making a plea for a missionary ecclesiology in order that we fulfill Christ's mission to the world.

I highly recommend this book to anybody who is trying to make sense of the conflicting voices claiming to be the "true interpreters" of the Council. The Council in its letter and spirit was a complex reality. Having a reliable guide to acquaint us with the issues and context will enable us to be faithful daughters and sons of the Church. ■

Sr. Jean Flannelly is the new Executive Director for Mission at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Bronx, where she had been a psychology instructor, 1965-69. She has over 40 years experience in lay ministry and seminary education and formation. She also does Faith Formation and Spirituality programs in parishes.

Trading Spaces

By Patrice Athanasidy

There have been some personnel changes at the Sisters of Charity administrative center. We have got some familiar faces in new places.

Sr. Mary Lou McGrath, SC, became the Director of Volunteer Services at the beginning of 2011. For the past six years, she had served as Director of Facilities at the Mount Saint Vincent Convent.



The energy Sister has for her new position is contagious as she describes all that is involved with Volunteer Services. One of the key programs, Sr. Mary Lou explained, is called Charity in the City. It provides young adult women (18-30) with an experience of ministry to the

poor while living together for two weeks in June in a faith community. These young women work alongside Sisters and SC Associates throughout the program.

Sr. Mary Lou said, “We hope next year to have a two-week program for high school juniors and seniors.” This would be a variation on the successful Bridge Building program that used to bring high school students to volunteer experiences during the school day. “The new program would be in the summer and not directly connected to school.”

Another program that is growing is Project L.I.G.H.T. (Learning English, Individually, and in Groups, by Helping each other Together). Sr. Mary Lou says it is “spiraling” with more than 30 teachers and some 100 students expected to participate in the next session. “It will have many outreaches, many connections,” she said, describing how it helps those interested in working toward citizenship.

Sr. Mary Lou said volunteer opportunities exist for those looking for either short or long-term service projects. “It is lay people, not women who are looking toward entering the Sisters...The idea is to provide an experience for these volunteers. We journey with them through it.”

Sr. Mary Lou said people can learn about various volunteer options available through the Congregation

at our website and apply right online to help at the farm, The Foundling and more.

The new director of our Peace, Justice & Ecological Integrity department has the pulse of three congregations. **Sr. Mary Katherine Hamm**, better known as Sr. Kati, is a Sister of Charity of Halifax. The department she now heads serves both the NY and NJ Charity Congregations.



Formerly Director of Volunteer Services for the Sisters of Charity of New York, Sr. Kati has had some experience with our Sisters, their ministries, and how they attract others looking for ways to serve those in need. She points to their 200 year legacy of compassionate and effective service. Saying how much she liked her volunteer position, Sr. Kati also points to how it helped her see that the interaction of the Sisters with the young women who volunteered were graced moments for both. Now working with two congregations, the challenge is to meet enough people, hear enough stories, see enough charity in action that the work for justice will flow from what is already part of the history and present direction of the Sisters at Convent Station, NJ as well.

In her new position since October 2010, Sr. Kati sees many similarities between the two Sisters of Charity groups. She points to their charity charism, their dedication to the poor, their involvement with education, the healthcare systems and immigrants as examples and explains that the two groups have been collaborating on the Leadership team level.

“The work of justice and peace today really is about changing unjust systems,” Sr. Kati said. “We study issues, identify where change needs to happen and work through support, advocacy and prayer in solidarity with those who are oppressed.” Both congregations held Assemblies this spring, and during them, the Sisters identified immigration/poverty and human trafficking as areas of particular interest.

When talking about her new position, Sister says, “It is exciting....The thing I believe about both



congregations is that there is already a lot going on, but maybe the Sisters didn't name it working for peace, justice and ecological integrity. It is a very broad and deep way of seeing yourself in the world – not as just a localized individual, but as part of the humanity that is moving forward the Great Work of our day, a renewed Earth Human community."

Peggy Cekoric is the new director of the Associates program for the Sisters of Charity of New York. A nurse by profession, Peggy says, "This is my dream job....I had been on the Associate team for more than 10 years. I love the team. It was meant to be."



The first lay person to hold the position, Peggy plans to continue building on all that Sr. Ellen O'Connell and the late Sr. Mary Gallagher have done to create a strong program. One of her first projects as director was to start a prayer/prayee program. "I thought it would take a year to get it started. I talked to Sr. Elaine Owens and she said we can do it right away."

Other plans for the first year include re-establishing an Associate newsletter and creating a glossary that will help Associates better understand terms used by the Sisters, which at times differ from lay vocabulary. The word "charism," for example, has a very specific meaning to the Sisters of Charity.

Married to her husband Tom for 45 years, Peggy has been an associate since 1992. The sister of Sr. Carol Barnes, she is the mother of five and grandmother of five. "I thought being a parent was the most wonderful thing in the world. Being a grandparent is the most wonderful thing in the world," she quipped.

Peggy is a nurse by profession, most recently serving as a school nurse for grades 7-12. She called it a "fascinating occupation" explaining that school nursing is much more than medical. Often students and faculty seek out the nurse to talk about all that is going on at school.

As she looked back and forward she concluded, "I love this new job more than I loved the other one." ■

Patrice Athanasidy has been a SC Associate since 1997. She has an online column about life with her three children and writes for several not-for-profits.

Sisters Remembered and Honored

Our deceased Sisters are never far from our thoughts. In recent months, we've remembered three of them in special ways.

Sr. Barbara Ford was murdered on May 5, 2001, while on mission in Guatemala. On the tenth anniversary of this tragedy, Sr. Bobbie was remembered with a commemorative prayer service at Mount Saint Vincent. The prayer service booklet and the reflection given by that afternoon by Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick on Sr. Barbara's contributions to the Mayan people are both on our web site. Sr. Mary is working on a biography of Sr. Bobbie.

In Quiché, Guatemala, the Barbara Ford Peace Center was formally dedicated on June 1. Bishop Molina of Quiché blessed the new facility. The service was attended by local leaders, political figures, friends and neighbors, and, of course, Sisters of Charity. Earlier that day, four new Guatemalan Associates were welcomed to the Charity family.

Sr. Mary Linehan, who died on May 26, 2009, presided over a major expansion of St. Joseph's Medical Center (SJMC) in Yonkers during her 31 years at the hospital's helm. On June 2, the new Sister Mary Linehan Memorial Chapel was dedicated at SJMC; Bishop Gerald T. Walsh presided at the Liturgy. The chapel is on the first floor of the nursing home pavilion that is named after Sister; an oil portrait of Sr. Mary is outside the chapel.

Sr. Mary Gallagher, who died on April 7 this year, directed the Congregation's Associate Program from 1999 to 2010. On June 16, Sisters, SC Associates and friends gathered at Mount Saint Vincent to dedicate a plaque to Sr. Mary's memory at the "The Circle of Remembrance" at the Lourdes Grotto. The memorial reads "In thanksgiving for your leadership and friendship. Love, Associates, SCNY." During the ceremony, Associate Patricia Devaney read a poem she had written about Sr. Mary. You can read that at our web site. ■

SCNY Reps Active in Federation Meetings

by Sr. Charlotte Raftery, SC

This year has seen several gatherings of Sisters of Charity Federation representatives working to implement the 2008–2012 strategic plan of the Federation which is a commitment to:

- respond to the cries of the poor and marginalized
- use the energy of our love, gifts, talents, and our material and spiritual resources
- collaborate in systemic change, locally and globally for the common good of all.

In March, four delegates from our Congregation traveled to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity in Nazareth, KY, to attend a meeting of the Company of Charity Formation Personnel (CCFP).

Sr. Mary Ann Daly, the outgoing Executive Director of the Sisters of Charity Federation, and Sisters Maria Iglesias and Charlotte Raftery, were accompanied by Peggy Cekoric, the new Director of our Associate Relationship Program.

The CCFP meet annually to collaborate on how best to invite others to live the Charism of Charity.

During the meeting, Nazareth Sister Marilyn Shea reviewed the growth of the Charity Federation and CCFP, and invited us to “see with evolutionary eyes.” The CCFP became a formal subgroup of the SC Federation in 1992, and since then has developed numerous joint vocation and volunteer programs.

A viewing of the DVD *Humanity Ascending*, featuring author and futurist Barbara Marx Hubbard, oriented the gathering into a journey of transformation. Attendees reflected on ways to move forward through relationships that gather the “whole body” of the Federation in “igniting the fire of Charity.” The questions “How do we choose to be together?” and “What do we want to create together?” energized breakout groups to brainstorm creative ways of “moving out of comfort zones” as we live into the future in the Charism of Charity.

One of the most positive aspects of this year’s CCFP meeting was the participation of several directors of Associate Programs. Peggy Cekoric



From left, Sr. Charlotte Raftery, Associate Peggy Cekoric, Sr. Maria Iglesias and Sr. Mary Ann Daly, at the Foundation Site of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Bardstown, KY.

and her colleagues were involved in planning future events, both within the SC Federation and with the North American Conference of Associates and Religious. A new cross-congregation directory will enable Associates to connect with each other.

In May, Nazareth also hosted a Federation meeting of Temporary Professed Personnel, coordinated by Sr. Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, SC – Halifax.

At that gathering, Formation Personnel urged that new models of community and formation be explored and that personnel and media resources be shared.

The Vocation subgroup is committed to continuing its active outreach to young people on college campuses and in volunteer programs. A variety of discernment and service experiences are planned, including an online discernment retreat during National Vocation Week next year.

Federation initiatives such as the House of Charity in New Orleans were affirmed, and delegates urged that additional houses be established around the country.

Sr. Mary Ann Daly spoke of developments in the SC Federation, whose theme this year is “Weaving the Vision.” At their updated website, Federation members can receive news of ministry openings, retreats, NGO developments and more.

As Sr. Mary Ann Daly ends her term as Executive
(continued on page 16)



News Briefs

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton House of Prayer celebrated its 35th anniversary on June 12, Pentecost Sunday, the ideal day for a ministry which introduced many to Catholic Charismatic Renewal – a whole new way of praying, a better understanding of both the Bible and Christ's life and teachings, as well as how to share this knowledge with others.

Over the years, 18 Sisters of Charity of New York have lived in the House of Prayer, which currently is staffed by Sisters Mary Benedict, Bernadette Brennan, Pauline Cinquini, Nancy Kellar, and Mary Tommasino. Located in the convent of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarsdale, the House of Prayer has been described as the "power house of the parish." But this ministry isn't limited just to lower Westchester; the Sisters have taken it throughout the country and around the world!

To mark the occasion, the Sisters prepared a wonderful journal, "Let Your Light Shine," that's filled with photos, memories and messages of gratitude and appreciation for the many blessings associated with the House of Prayer over 35 years.

The Center for Renewal and Education (C.O.R.E.) observed its 20th anniversary. Sisters Margaret Ellen Burke and Nora Cunningham founded C.O.R.E. in 1990 after discovering unmet laity needs in Sullivan County parishes. In 1999, these two Sisters expanded their ministry into Orange County.

C.O.R.E. has prepared many men and women to train others to serve in ministries such as Eucharist, Word, Baptismal Catechumenate, Bereavement and R.C.I.A. Hundreds others have benefited from courses in Scripture, Christology, Social Justice, Liturgy and other forms of spirituality. Sisters Margaret Ellen and Nora have contributed significantly to the role of the laity in the Church.

Sisters Hill Farm in Dutchess County was recognized by the Millbrook chapter of the Garden Club of America "for its dedication to the production of healthy food and for nurturing our bodies, spirits, communities and the earth." Sr. Mary Ann Garisto accepted the Club Horticulture Commendation on June 27.

Sr. Claire E. Regan received a Gold Spike Award from the Louisiana Orphan Train Society (LOTS) on July 16. She was a guest speaker at the annual gathering of friends and relatives of LOTS who were grateful that their ancestors had been sent west by The New York Foundling. (Sister wrote about her first visit to the Orphan Train Museum in Opelousas in the fall 2010

issue of *Vision*.)

This award has double meaning for Sr. Claire. In addition to its connection to the Congregation's history, it is a dear token of her father who repaired track for the NYC Transit Authority for 32 years.

Sr. Cecilia Harriendorf is featured in the September issue of *Woman's Day (WD)* magazine (p. 65). In the article "I Made Over My Retirement," Sister tells how she joined the Congregation in 2002 after producing a spiritual public affairs TV show for 30 years.

Sr. Ceil, as she is familiarly known, has been the director of campus ministry at the College of Mount Saint Vincent for six years, a vocation she calls "a wonderful gift."

The interview also has been posted to the magazine's web site – www.womansday.com. *WD* has 3,800,000+ readers monthly.

Sr. Margaret Beaudette is busy these days with two projects for the Diocese of Metuchen. She has been commissioned by Bishop Paul Gregory Bootkoski to sculpt two statues for the St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral – one of the patron saint and the other of Pope John Paul II, who established this New Jersey diocese in 1981. Each statue will be 5' 2" high.

Our ESL program Project L.I.G.H.T. is expanding! In addition to hosting classes twice a week over 22 weeks to help immigrants improve their English, we've added a citizenship preparation class. Plus, some semi-retired Sisters meet every Tuesday for one-on-one conversation with 12 of the students.

All aspects of our program are free. We're always looking for volunteers to work with the ESL students; no prior teaching experience or second language needed. For information, call program coordinator Luz Devine at 718.549.9200 x 219.

The Elizabeth Seton Women's Center has published its Calendar of Events for classes running through February. The Center, on W. 70 Street in Manhattan, is in its 15th year serving as a place of spiritual sanctuary, community, empowerment and growth for women from all walks of life. Sessions cover prayer, poetry, decluttering, vision mapping, Tai Chi, coping with grief, and women's health issues; there are five women's AA meetings weekly.

Last year, over 5,000 women visited the Center – the most yet! Sr. Arleen Ketchum has directed the Center from its start. For more information, call 212-579-3657

(continued on page 16)

Four Vincentian Questions

by Sr. Regina Bechtle, SC

The writer Angeles Arrien tells us that many traditional societies have the practice of reflecting on what she calls the “Four Rivers of Life” – inspiration, challenge, surprise and love.

According to Vie Thorgren, a teacher of Vincentian spirituality, St. Vincent de Paul may well have absorbed this awareness from the Basque culture of southwest France where he was born.

Like people of the land everywhere, he took his experience seriously, and taught others to do the same. He believed that God’s presence and will were revealed through the stuff of everyday life. Learning to read God’s writing, as it were, requires that we pay attention to the events of our lives, and notice what moves and shifts in our hearts and minds.

We might translate the “Four Rivers of Life” into four questions:

- How have I been inspired?
- How have I been challenged?
- How have I been surprised?
- How have I been moved – to love, to compassion, to action?

Often, we who follow Vincent’s way use these simple questions – perhaps at the end of a day, or on retreat – to reflect on how God’s Spirit has been at work in and around us. ■



News Briefs

(continued from page 15)

or email eswc@aol.com. You’ll find the class calendar online at www.teswc.org

SC Associate Retta Blaney is producing “Broadway Blessing” for the 15th time since she developed it in 1996. This evening of song, dance and story brings the theater community together every September to bless the new Broadway season. This year’s theatre reflection will be delivered by Richard Maltby, Jr., currently serving as creative consultant for the Off-Broadway musical play *The Magdalene*. Maltby is a producer, director and lyricist who holds the distinction of having conceived and directed the only two musical revues to ever win the Tony Award for Best Musical: *Ain’t Misbehavin’* (1978, also Tony Award for Best Director) and *Fosse* (1999).

“Broadway Blessing” is held at the Cathedral Church of St. the Divine (Amsterdam Avenue at 112 St.), on Monday, September 12 at 7pm. Reservations are not necessary. A contribution of \$10 would be appreciated. For more information, call 212-794-6163.

Retta is a theatre and religion writer and author of *Working on the Inside: The Spiritual Life through the Eyes of Actors*.

The John A. Coleman School and Children’s Rehabilitation Center will hold its 8th Walk-a-thon and Fall Festival on Sunday, October 16, at Saxon Woods Park (Westchester), starting at noon. Many of our Sisters take part in this annual event which benefits two of our sponsored ministries.

Guatemala will hold presidential elections on September 11. The people are hoping for change, but reality is against this happening. Prayers are needed. ■

Federation Meetings (continued from page 14)

Director of the Sisters of Charity Federation, CCFP members expressed deep gratitude for her years of competent and inspiring leadership.

This summer, regional Federation meetings – on the theme “The Future of Charity Is Now” – are being held in Halifax and in Cincinnati. There will be local gatherings in the fall.

In June 2012, there will be a joint gathering of Leadership and CCFP at the Federation meeting

hosted by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. ■

Sr. Charlotte Raftery is on the Sisters of Charity Formation Team and is active on the Federation Connections Committee. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she is a Faculty Advisor in the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. Her ministry experience includes grade school and high school education, parish ministry, and social work with families in a Home Health Agency to prevent placement of children into foster care.

In Memoriam



Sr. Marian Jude Byrne, SC Educator / Administrator

Entered: 1943 • Final Vows: 1949

Age at death: 85 (4/11/11)

Sr. Marian Jude's talents as an educator were recognized early on. For 14 years, she taught at a total of 6 parochial schools. Over the next 39 years, Sister was either principal or assistant principal at each of the high schools to which she was missioned. Sister's longest service was at St. Raymond Academy for Girls, where she served in administration for a total of 25 years.

Wherever Sr. Jude served, students, parents and faculty felt the grace of her influence.



Sr. Loretta Josepha Conran, SC Educator / Administrator

Entered: 1944 • Final Vows: 1949

Age at death: 85 (1/27/11)

Sr. Loretta Josepha's education ministry spanned 5 decades, 9 schools and 2 countries. Her long-time desire to serve in foreign missions was fulfilled by 7 years in The Bahamas, where Sister was a teacher and headmistress. Sr. Josepha's longest school affiliation was with Saints Peter and Paul, the Bronx, where she served a total of 32 years.

Sister was a joyful, enthusiastic person who was quick to assess a situation and often had a witty remark.



Sr. Marian Joseph Craddock, SC Educator

Entered: 1935 • Final Vows: 1940

Age at death: 94 (10/17/10)

Sr. Marian Joseph was a versatile teacher who spent 34 years in elementary education before moving on to the high school level. Her longest association was with Grace Institute, where she taught clothing construction for 25 years, then volunteered for 4 years. Sister retired at age 85.

Sr. Marian Joseph is remembered as an excellent and committed teacher, energetic and engaging, lighthearted and full of fun. Like St. Vincent de Paul, she had a special place in her heart for people who were ordinary and overlooked.



Sr. Yolanda DeMola, SC Educator / Administrator

Religious Name: Sr. Marita Carmel, SC

Entered: 1942 • Final Vows: 1949

Age at death: 88 (10/18/10)

Sr. Yolanda's education ministry spanned all levels: 17 years in elementary school, 10 years in high school, and 27 years in college. Her longest posting was at Fordham University, where she taught Spanish, was the Assistant Director of Admissions and the Assistant Dean.

Sister earned 4 degrees and wrote for magazines such as *America*. She was proud of her Spanish heritage and was a sought-after translator. Sr. Yolanda loved life and lived it to the fullest and shared her strengths and talents that were uniquely her own.

You'll find specifics on each Sister's ministries at our web site – www.scny.org/memorial.html

In Memoriam



Sr. Eileen Mary Finnegan, SC Educator / Administrator

*Religious Name: Sr. Marie Ignatius, SC
Entered: 1936 • Final Vows: 1941
Age at death: 95 (2/6/11)*

Sr. Eileen taught at 11 elementary schools over 48 years. Her longest parish associations were St. Peter's in Haverstraw (10 years) and the Elizabeth Seton Academy in Yonkers (9 years).

Sister's Congregational service included being the Sister Servant at Holy Trinity Convent in Mamaroneck, while serving as principal of the parish school. At age 70, Sister began what would be 12 years at the Congregation's administrative headquarters at Mount Saint Vincent.

Sr. Eileen died just 4 days after her Diamond Jubilee (75th).



Sr. Mary Gallagher, SC Educator / Administrator

*Entered: 1962 • Final Vows: 1970
Age at death: 72 (4/7/11)*

Sr. Mary is remembered as a savvy, capable and caring mentor and teacher. She was a committed advocate for women in church and society and was a founding board member of the Congregation's Elizabeth Seton Women's Center. For 11 years, Sister directed the Congregation's Associate Program. Her interest in parish work was ongoing; at the time of her unexpected death, Sister was office manager at St. Paul's in Yonkers.

Sr. Mary is survived by her sister Eileen, also a Sister of Charity of New York.



Sr. Cecilia Dolores Holmes, SC Educator / Administrator

*Entered: 1939 • Final Vows: 1944
Age at death: 90 (12/30/10)*

Sr. Cecilia dedicated her entire ministry to education and served at 8 schools over 60 years – 22 years as a teacher, and 38 years as an administrator. Her longest tenure was at St. Peter's, Poughkeepsie, where she was administrator for 29 years. Sister was well-beloved there and the new school cafeteria was named in her honor in January 2001.

Sr. Cecilia was proud of her Irish heritage and was active in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which honored her in 1996.



Sr. Eileen Regina Leonard, SC Educator / Administrator

*Entered: 1945 • Final Vows: 1950
Age at death: 87 (3/7/11)*

Sr. Eileen's education ministry spanned 64 years, 3 boroughs, 3 schools and 1 parish. She dedicated 42 years to Cathedral High School – teaching Spanish, chairing Modern Languages Departments, and founding the school's renowned marching band.

Sister was known as a "Master Teacher" and was awarded the Archdiocesan's Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award, its highest honor.

After retiring from Cathedral High School, Sister volunteered her Spanish skills in her Rego Park parish.

You'll find specifics on each Sister's ministries at our web site – www.scny.org/memorial.html

In Memoriam



Sr. Alice Luby, SC Educator / Administrator

*Religious Name: Sr. Antonia Miriam, SC
Entered: 1936 • Final Vows: 1942
Age at death: 92 (10/13/10)*

Sr. Alice loved being an educator! Her vocation spanned five decades, two levels of schools, and administrative roles across three dioceses. For most of her ministry, Sister was a teacher, except for the three years she served as principal of Our Lady of Mercy School, Port Chester.

In her “retirement,” Sr. Alice became indispensable in numerous ways at Our Lady of the Angelus, Rego Park.



Sr. Maria Rhoda Reed, SC Educator

*Entered: 1937 • Final Vows: 1943
Age at death: 91 (1/16/11)*

Sr. Rhoda’s mission was always to serve the poor and she did so via education, teaching at 7 parochial schools over 40 years. Her longest association was with St. Mary’s (AKA the Immaculate Conception) in Yonkers, where she served 4 roles over the course of 38 years. Sr. Rhoda officially retired from active ministry at age 83, and St. Mary’s gave Sister a big send-off. But Sister was still available to help out and often spoke to the school children about St. Elizabeth Seton.



Sr. Mary Rosilda Tabacco, SC Educator / Administrator / Librarian

*Entered: 1928 • Final Vows: 1934
Age at death: 99 (1/6/11)*

During Sr. Mary Rosilda’s 51 years in elementary education, she served at seven parish schools in three capacities. Her longest parish association was with St. Ignatius, and, in her retirement, Sister loved talking about her 22 happy years there.

Sr. Rosilda died just four months shy of her 100th birthday. The times she lived through were often tumultuous, yet Sister spent her life in quiet service to the Community she loved, and to the countless children she prepared for their futures.



Sr. Mary J. Walsh, SC Nurse / Administrator

*Religious Name: Sr. Maria Rosaire, SC
Entered: 1937 • Final Vows: 1943
Age at death: 97 (3/18/11)*

Sr. Mary J. touched many lives over her 65 active years in nursing. Her longest association was with St. Joseph’s Hospital, Yonkers, where she served a total of 44 years – as Director of the Nursing Services, Director of the School of Nursing School, and Assistant Administrator. Sister also was a consultant and Director of Education with the National League for Nursing for 14 years.

Sr. Mary retired at age 91. With her untiring and dedicated service, her sense of humor and common sense approach to life, she was an example for all.

You’ll find specifics on each Sister’s ministries at our web site – www.scny.org/memorial.html

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Our web site is the best place to follow our news, review our history, and learn about our ministries, then and now. Depending on the season, you can find reflections by our Sisters on the Scriptures and insights from both our Founders and our contemporary members. You can even find back issues of *Vision* in PDF form. Want the Sisters to pray for your

intentions? Looking for note cards to let others know they're in your (and our) thoughts and prayers? Find all this and more at **www.scny.org** From our web site's home page, you can link off to the two social networking sites to which we belong: Facebook and Twitter. If you're part of these groups, we hope you'll befriend us on one and follow us on the other.

Annual Golf outing
save the date:
Thursday, October 6



Join us at our annual golf outing at the lovely North Hempstead Country Club on Long Island. It's a day of great golf, food and fellowship, all in a good cause. Proceeds of this event go to the support of our Sisters in retirement – former teachers, nurses, child care workers, social workers, catechists, etc.

Play 18 holes or just join us for the awards banquet in the evening. Several levels of sponsorship are available too. Full details – and secure registration – are at our web site: www.scny.org Need more information? Contact Bill Hurley at 718-549-9200 x 234 or bhurley@scny.org