



Celebrating 775 Years of Service

by Chris Haggerty

The Sisters of Charity of New York held their annual Jubilee commemoration on Saturday, September 8th. Fifteen Sisters celebrated their Golden Jubilee; one, her Silver. All renewed their vows during the Liturgy. The celebration took place at Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, which has been the Congregation's spiritual center since 1857.

The Liturgy of Praise and Thanksgiving was celebrated by Aidan Rooney, CM. Among the dozen concelebrants were Bishop Gerald T. Walsh, the new Rector / President of St. Joseph's Seminary, and Retired Auxiliary

Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan of the Brooklyn Diocese.

The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception was full. Prominent among the family members and friends in attendance were the mothers of Jubilarian Sisters Lorraine Cooper, Jane Iannucelli and Josephine Rog. Deacon Gabriel Liegey, brother of Sr. Veronica, assisted at the Mass.

Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick, herself a Golden Jubilarian, gave the welcoming address. She expressed the deep gratitude the Jubilarians had for their parents, most of whom had gone home to God. Sister spoke of the day's gift –

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The Golden Jubilarians included: From left to right. Seated in front row: Sisters Patricia A. Walsh, Margaret A. Donegan, Teresa Kelly, Mary E. Mc Cormick, and Evyleen T. Larkin. Standing in middle row: Sisters Jane Iannucelli, Veronica Liegey, Lorraine Cooper, and Josephine Rog. Standing in rear row: Sisters Sheila M. Finucane, Genevieve Wetmore, Janet Baxendale, and Mary Kieran Mulligan.



Letter from the President

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

As I read about the plight of immigrants today, I am reminded of the early foundations of the Sisters of Charity. When Elizabeth Seton founded the Congregation in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1809, charity was her chief focus. When she sent three Sisters of Charity to New York in 1817, they looked for ways to help the poor and needy children of immigrants. St. Patrick's Asylum was the first of many outreaches to care for orphans, mainly the children of immigrants. Schools, both free and for pay, soon followed. St. Vincent's Hospital was founded for the sick, who because of their poverty, ended up in almshouses.

When we look at the needs of the many immigrants in our country today, we know that current services are inadequate. Sisters of Charity can be found working with and for immigrants today advocating for family life, working in health clinics and housing, teaching English, providing for their spiritual needs and lobbying for changes in the immigration laws.

Because of my interest in genealogy, I have often pondered how my Irish and German ancestors fared when they came to lower Manhattan in the 1850's. Their lives must have been difficult. They probably had to endure poor health, inadequate housing, low-paying jobs, language and cultural differences, and discrimination. I hope some people extended hospitality to them and made their lives a little easier. Perhaps they even experienced the loving care and concern of the Sisters of Charity of New York.

We are no longer the immigrants, the "strangers." Now it is our privilege to welcome the new "strangers" in our midst, most of whom leave their own lands to provide for their families or to escape persecution. As people led by the Holy Spirit, we know that we are all equal and precious in God's sight. No one is excluded.

Let us ponder those words of Christ in the Gospel of Matthew 25: 40, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me." Then there will be no strangers, only guests and friends.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Dorothy Metz, 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.

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SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

Article contributions to this publication are welcome; however, all submissions are subject to editorial and space constraints. See back page for our mailing address.

A “Hole” Lot of Fun Yielded a Whole Lot of Good!

by Bill Hurley

The 190-year history of the Sisters of Charity in New York has been notable for many firsts. October 15, 2007 marked another one: the first major fundraiser for the Congregation – a golf outing to benefit the retirement needs of our senior Sisters.

The Sisters’ prayers for a successful event were heard. What began as a chilly, slightly overcast day, had changed to a sunny one by the 11:30am tee time.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Peggy and Tom Flynn and Terry Zenobio, we were able to hold our event at the 91-year-old North Hempstead Country Club in Port Washington, LI. Peggy is Sr. Mary Lou McGrath’s sister.

Over 100 golfers had a great time and were impressed with the course. One player even compared it favorably to Winged Foot in Mamaroneck, NY which has hosted USGA events.

Sisters Mary Aquin Flaherty and Margaret Beaudette watched the 13th hole, where one of the prize cars was on display.



Not only was the course great, so was the food! The club provided a spectacular brunch, an on-course lunch, and a generous cocktail hour and buffet in the evening.

Besides friendly competitiveness, there was an extra incentive to do well on the course. DeFeo Motors in Jersey City and DCH Toyota City of Larchmont each provided new cars as hole-in-one prizes. *Golf Digest* puts the odds of achieving this at 12,000 to 1 for an “average player.” New-to-the-sport and bridegroom-to-be Billy Bottiglieri of the Hudson Valley Bank foursome proved he was better than average. He sank his tee shot on the 9th hole and won the Ford Fusion! At dinner that night, Sr. Dorothy Metz joyfully presented Billy with the keys to his new car.

All golfers received a jar of Sisters Mary Liegey and Margaret Farrara’s famous jelly, a sleeve of golf balls, and a travel bag brightly embroidered with the Congregation’s name.

Sr. Jean Iannone (left) and Sr. Florence Speth (right) played with Ellen Homenick and Jeanne Trentacosta, both of St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Yonkers.



Among event organizers were Sisters Mary Lou McGrath, Elaine Owens, and Florence Speth. We also received invaluable help from Peggy Flynn, Terry Zenobio, Lorraine Horgan (Director of Public Relations, Saint Joseph’s Medical Center) and Grace Strazzire (Director of Community and Business Relations, Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers of NY).

Many Sisters and friends volunteered to assist at registration, raffle sales and as hole spotters. Sisters Frances Devine, Constance Kelly, Eileen Martin and Gabriel Obraz helped by mailing invitations to those they felt would enjoy our event. THANK YOU ALL!



Generous friends contributed to the evening raffle at the club. Among 40+ great prizes was a 37” screen LCD HDTV!

The six months of intense planning and hard work by the staff and volunteers paid off that Monday. The compliments, smiles and calls of “see you next year” made it all worth while. Best of all, we were thrilled to find that, after expenses, we had raised \$49,000 to assist with the renovations at Mount Saint Vincent Convent! ■

Bill Hurley has been Director of Development for 11 years and an Associate for nine years. Bill is a “Certified Fundraising Executive” (CFRE), and serves on the Board of the National Catholic Development Conference.

Celebrating 775 Years... (continued from page 1)

“to feel again the power of the line written long ago that has made all the difference: You did not choose; you were chosen.” And the day’s blessing – “to feel once more the exultation of the response that the Sisters made again and again over the past 50 and 25 years: YES!”

For the Golden Jubilarians, the anniversary celebration was 50 years to the day of their entrance!

Sr. Janet Baxendale (Sr. Francis Rosaire) has taught at the Institute of Religious Studies – the graduate theological program of St. Joseph’s Seminary, Dunwoodie – for 30 years, and, since 1994, also has been an adjunct professor of Liturgy at the Seminary. She also lectures on liturgical topics, is an educational consultant to two liturgical design firms, and has had articles published in *America*, *Origins* and *Emmanuel*.

Sister directed the Liturgy Office of the Archdiocese of New York for 26 years, and has been a member of the Liturgical Commission for 32 years.

She is currently completing a third term as an Advisor to the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy of the USCCB and has served on two of its task groups, one on *Built of Living Stones*, the USCCB Guidelines for Art, Architecture and Worship, the other on *The Children’s Lectionary*. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the national *Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions* for four terms and served as its chair for one term.

Sister’s earliest ministry was teaching, at Cardinal Spellman H.S. (1962-76), and at St. Gregory the Great in Harrison (1960-62).

Sr. Lorraine Cooper (Sr. Jean Dolores) has been a chaplain at the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center in Manhattan for ten years. Previously, she was a Director of Religious Education, largely in the Black and Hispanic community, for over 20 years: In Manhattan, at St. Paul the Apostle (1993-1995), St. Thomas the Apostle (1990-91), St. Emeric’s (1987-1990), Our Lady of Lourdes (1983-1987); in the Bronx, at St. Augustine’s (1973-82), where she also taught from 1960-1963, her first mission.

Sister spent many years teaching. In Manhattan, at Blessed Sacrament (1990-91); in the Bronx, at St. Simon Stock (1982-83), and Cardinal Spellman H.S. (1971-73); and in Yonkers, at St. Joseph’s (1963-69). Sr. Lorraine also taught at St. Augustine’s College, Nassau, The Bahamas (1969-71).

Sr. Margaret A. Donegan has devoted her ministry to education. She has been teaching English and Religion at St. Raymond Academy in the Bronx for the past six years. She also taught there from 1990-2000 and 1971-81. Other teaching posts included Resurrection Academy in Rye (1981-90); St. Joseph by-the-Sea on Staten Island (1966-71); and at Cathedral High (1961-66) and Holy Cross Academy (1960-61), both in Manhattan.

Sr. Margaret received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Teacher Award in 2006 for her consistent, patient efforts and her compassion for students. In addition to excelling in the classroom, Sr. Margaret has donated her talents to Community Service. She has been a leader on education committees and was elected to the Steering Committee for the Congregation’s Assembly 2007.



Sr. Sheila Finucane led the Jubilarians into the chapel. The processional cross was specially designed for the day. It was dedicated to Dr. Gabriel Liegey, father of Sr. Veronica Liegey.

Sr. Sheila Finucane (Sr. Marie Kathleen) taught for nine years before changing her ministry to social work. She has been Supportive Services Coordinator at the Sisters of Charity Housing Development on Staten Island since 2002. Previously, she had been affiliated with The New York Foundling for 23 years – as Supervisor of the Maternity Shelter (1986-2000), as Administrative Supervisor of the Family Day Care Center (1980-86), and as Supervisor of the Foster Care Department in Brooklyn (1977-80). Before that, Sister was missioned to St. Agatha’s Home in Nanuet as a caseworker/psychiatric social worker (1973-77 & 1969-71). Sr. Sheila’s teaching career included the lower grades at St. Benedict’s on Harbour Island in The Bahamas (1967-69); St. Peter’s in Yonkers (1966-67); Holy Trinity in Mamaroneck (1964-66); and St. Paul’s in Brooklyn (1960-64).



Sr. Jane Iannucelli (Sr. Jane Dolores) was named to the Congregation's new position of Director of Sponsorship Services earlier this year. She also is vice chair of the board of Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers, and, until it closed recently, had served as the acting CEO of St. Vincent's Hospital Midtown (formerly St. Clare's).

For the previous eight years, Sr. Jane had served on the Congregation's Council: from 2003-2007, as the Assistant to the President; from 1999-2003, as a Regional Coordinator.

Sister also has served as Senior VP of Mission at the Sisters of Charity Health Care System on Staten Island (1996-99), and was on staff at The NY Foundling (1988-96). Earlier service to her Congregation included four years as Social Concerns Coordinator and five years as Director of the Formation Team and Novice Director.

Sr. Jane was one of the co-founders of Part Of The Solution (POTS), the soup kitchen / multi-service organization in central Bronx.

Sister'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. Teresa Kelly (Sr. Marilda John) has been on staff at the NY Foundling for 43 years. She began as supervisor of the nursery, and also taught and supervised the Montessori nursery. In 1976, she began her association with Blaine Hall, the program at The Foundling which takes in abused foster-care children and assesses them to best determine their next placement. As Director of Blaine Hall since 1987, Sister is responsible for the care and stabilization of up to 15 four- to ten-year olds at any given time. Sister's only other ministry was St. Mary's in Yonkers, where she taught first grade (1962-66).

In September 2006, the *NY Daily News* profiled Sr. Teresa in its "Big Town, Big Heart" column, which celebrates New Yorkers who make a difference.

Sr. Evyleen Teresa Larkin (Sr. Rose Eugene) has worked for the retired Sisters of her Congregation over the past 12 years – at the Mount Saint Vincent Convent since 2005, and at St. Patrick Villa in Nanuet for the previous ten years.

Sister's earlier ministry was 35 years in primary education. She taught at St. Thomas More in Decatur, GA (1989-90); at Sacred Heart School on Staten Island (1971-

89); at Epiphany Early Training Center in Brooklyn (1969-71); at Visitation in the Bronx (1967-69), and at St. Gabriel's in Queens (1965-67). Sr. Evyleen's teaching ministry began at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarsdale, where she taught 1st grade (1960-65).



Sr. Evyleen T. Larkin, a Golden Jubilarian, gave a recital on the 1874 Roosevelt organ in the chapel before the Liturgy.

Sr. Veronica Liegey (Sr. Maria Veronica) has been ministering to the sick and to senior citizens at Our Lady of the Assumption in the Bronx for the past 11 years. The prior 36 years of her ministry were devoted to teaching.

Sister's first three schools were all in Manhattan: Holy Name (1960-63), Xavier School (1963-64), and Immaculate Conception (1964-70). Then she moved into high school education at St. Gabriel's in New Rochelle (1970-71). That was followed by 25 years teaching English at Cardinal Spellman H.S. in the Bronx.

Sr. Theresa Luciano (Sr. Richard Mary) has been teaching for 47 years. She has been a computer science instructor at St. Mary's School in Yonkers for the past 18 years; she also had taught there from 1971 to 1976.

Other elementary school missions included Christ the King in Yonkers (1986-89); Sacred Heart in Dobbs Ferry (1982-86); Blessed Sacrament in the Bronx (1977-82); Holy Name in New Rochelle (1976-77); St. John Evangelist in White Plains (1970-71); and Holy Trinity in Manhattan (1964-70).

Sister's first ministry was at the Congregation's child care facility St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet, where she was a teacher (1960-62), Assistant Principal at the lower school (1962-63), and a group mother (1963-64).

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Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick (Sr. Thomas de Lourdes) is currently involved in charism writing projects and spiritual direction/retreat programs. From 1989-2005 she served in Congregational ministries – as Regional Coordinator and Councilor and as Vocation and Candidate Director.

For twelve years Sister was missioned outside of New York: on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona (1971-72), where she taught in the Tuba City Public School System, and in Nassau, The Bahamas (1976-81 & 83-89) where she taught at St. Augustine College and at Her Majesty's Prison, Fox Hill.

Sr. Mary also had taught at St. Gabriel H.S. in New Rochelle (1972-76); at St. Joseph by-the-Sea on Staten Island (1967-71); at Sts. Peter & Paul (1964-67) and at St. Athanasius in the Bronx (1960-64). She had served as a pastoral associate in Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Pelham Manor (1981-83), and at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, in Nassau, The Bahamas (1983-89).

Sr. Mary Kieran Mulligan has dedicated her entire ministry to education. Since 2000, she has been teaching at St. Anthony School in Yonkers. That was preceded by 30 years at St. Mary's in Wappinger Falls. From 1960-70, she taught first grade at St. Joseph School in Yonkers. She was honored in October for her 50 years of service to Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New York at the annual Teachers Institutes ceremony.

Sr. Josephine Maria Rog has served at Mary the Queen, the Congregation's retirement convent in Yonkers, for 24 years. She has been the Director of Housekeeping/Purchasing there since 1988. Her second longest ministry was at St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet (1963-77), where she was a child care worker and purchasing agent, while earning a MA as a Reading Specialist. Sister also worked at the rectory of St. Gabriel's in New Rochelle (1982-83) and taught 3rd grade at St. Anthony School in Nanuet (1977-82) and 1st grade at Sacred Heart School in Manhattan (1960-63).

Sr. Patricia A. Walsh (Sr. Agnes Marita) has been volunteering in recent years. She put her degrees in business education to good use at the Leviticus Fund in Yonkers (1996-2000); served as business manager at Our Lady of Lourdes in Manhattan (1992-96); and was Coordinator of Computer Implementation at St. Vincent's Hospital in Westchester (1983-91). Sister served her Congregation as Secretary General (1976-83) and chaired the Business Dept. and taught business education at St. Gabriel H.S. in New Rochelle (1969-76). Sr. Patricia's first ministries

were middle school education: in Manhattan, at St. Paul (1964-69) and at St. Joseph (1960-62); in Brooklyn, she taught at St. Mary Star of the Sea (1962-64).

Sr. Genevieve Wetmore has been teaching for 47 years. She currently is a librarian at Holy Name of Jesus School in Manhattan. From 2002-2006, Sister was an educational mentor at Fordham University. From 1997-2002, she was Assistant Principal at Our Lady of the Angelus School in Queens, where she also had taught 2nd grade, 1974-84. Other elementary school ministries included, in Manhattan, Our Lady Queen of Angels (1994-97), St. Ignatius Loyola (1989-94), St. Brigid (1973-74), St. Bernard (1969-73), St. Joseph Academy (1965-69) and Incarnation (1961-65). Sr. Genevieve also taught in the Bronx at St. Margaret of Cortona (1960-61) and on Staten Island at Sacred Heart (1984-89). She also has been part of CCD throughout the Diocese for many years and has participated in RCIA programs for almost four decades.

The Silver Jubilarian

Sr. Claire E. Regan has been the Congregation's Coordinator of Justice Effectiveness & Corporate Responsibility since 1999. The prior year, she was a program assistant at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.



That was preceded by five years as Director of the Elizabeth Seton Housing Project in Manhattan. Earlier ministries included five and a half years as a client advocate with the Little Sisters of the Assumption in Manhattan, and two years as assistant administrator at St. Joseph Medical Center in Yonkers.

Sr. Claire has served on the boards of Bayley-Seton Hospital (1990-95), the NYC Coalition Against Hunger (1988-92), and, for the past seven years, has been on the board of Seton House and Casa Cecilia, permanent housing programs for homeless families sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York.

To date, these Jubilarian Sisters have earned 34 degrees and 23 certifications in their fields. They have achieved much and touched many lives during their years of selfless service. The Congregation is blessed to include such women among its ranks. ■

Diamond Jubilarians

September also marked significant anniversaries in the religious lives of these 26 Sisters. Imagine all the good they've done in their combined 1,720 years of service!

75 Years

Sr. Kathleen Curtin
Sr. Constance Horan
Sr. Regina Kraft (Sr. Maria Celestia)
Sr. Bernadette Sheridan (Sr. Bernadette de Lourdes)

70 Years

Sr. Margaret Rose Curry (Sr. Elizabeth Marietta)
Sr. Margaret Mary Hannon (Sr. Marie Daniel)
Sr. Rosalie Kaley
Sr. Elizabeth Quinn (Sr. Marie Cornelius)
Sr. Maria Rhoda Reed
Sr. Catherine Smith (Sr. Miriam Magdalen)
Sr. Mary J. Walsh (Sr. Maria Rosaire)

65 Years

Sr. Yolanda De Mola (Sr. Marita Carmel)
Sr. Mary Aquin Flaherty
Sr. Marie Paula Holdman
Sr. Regina Michael Lowe
Sr. Elizabeth Reilly (Sr. Marita Elizabeth)
Sr. Patrick Regina Sullivan

60 Years

Sr. Georgette Dircks (Sr. Marie Campion)
Sr. Therese Marie Donnelly (Sr. James de Lourdes)
Sr. Margaret Aileen Fennell (Sr. Miriam Brendan)
Sr. Mary Louise Fernandez
Sr. Theresa Gravino (Sr. Dominica Maria)
Sr. Muriel Long (Sr. Maria Daniel)
Sr. Marie T. Murphy (Sr. Therese Miriam)
Sr. Theresa Mary O'Connor (Sr. Miriam Patrick)
Sr. Katherine M. Talbot (Sr. Anne Rosaire)

Seton Manor Opens

by Chris Haggerty

A new affordable housing complex for senior adults opened 1 mile north of Mount Saint Vincent in late September. The 83-unit Seton Manor is sponsored by Saint Joseph's Medical Center's Senior Housing Development Fund Corporation (SJMCSHDFC).



Sr. Jean Iannone (center) prepares to cut the ribbon as Sr. Dorothy Metz and other dignitaries celebrate the opening of the new senior residence.

At the opening ceremony, Sr. Dorothy Metz gave the blessing and Sr. Jean Iannone cut the ribbon. They were but two of many dignitaries present. The hospital board was represented by Michael J. Spicer, the President & CEO of SJMC, James J. Landy, chair of the board of trustees of SJMC, and Richard O'Neill, president of the real estate services corporation that manages SJMC's senior housing units. Other notables at the ceremony included Yonkers' Mayor Philip A. Amicone, and NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

Seton Manor is the second senior housing unit sponsored by SJMC. The first, Griffin House, opened two years ago, across the street from the hospital's entrance.

Sr. Mary Linehan, after whom the nursing home at Saint Joseph's is named, and Sr. Margaret Brick represent the Congregation on the SJMCSHDFC board.

The Sisters of Charity directly sponsor other housing units for the elderly and those with low income. You can learn more about this contemporary ministry at our web site: http://www.scny.org/howWeServe_housing.html ■

Elizabeth Seton in Times of Darkness

by Sr. Regina Bechtle

The recently published letters of Blessed Mother Teresa reveal that she endured long periods of spiritual darkness. In her journey of seeking and finding God, our own St. Elizabeth Ann Seton also knew times of intense spiritual suffering and darkness.

Dry, boring, painful times in relationships, even in our life with God, belong to the rhythm of human experience. A contemporary spiritual writer, Gerald May, notes that this “dark night of the soul” is familiar in one form or another to everyone who is serious about developing a relationship with God in prayer. He describes its effect as a “transition from personal effort to spiritual receptivity” – in other words, we learn to let go and let God.

In 1804, Elizabeth wrestled with uncertainty about leaving the Episcopalian faith of her youth and becoming a Catholic. As she “read with an agonizing heart” a sermon on the feast of the Epiphany, she cried out, “Alas where is *my star*?” Light eventually broke through, and Elizabeth peacefully made her profession as a Catholic on March 14, 1805.

After her conversion, even as she struggled to support her family and dealt with disapproving, even hostile, relatives, Elizabeth seemed to enjoy several years of interior peace at the hands of a God who was “rich in Mercy.” To her friend Antonio Filicchi she described herself in October 1805 as “a creature ... forlorn in *externals*.” But she gave eloquent witness to the God who strengthened her spirit:

“With all the accumulated difficulties that surround me for the present and in prospect, *He* who lives in my Heart never suffers me to forget that the seed I am now sowing in tears shall *certainly* be reaped in joy, and this certainty is so ever present with me and bears me up so lightly over the briars and thorns that I often stop in the midst of hurry and beg my dear Saviour to assure me that it is not temptation He always answers do not fear, while your Peace is in *Me* alone it cannot be false.”

Spiritual guides tell us that such unrestricted readiness to embrace what one had previously resisted is a sure sign of openness to the movements of grace.

Attentiveness to the Spirit’s working in her made Elizabeth a wise spiritual guide for others. She advised her sister-in-law Cecilia Seton, who was sad as she waited to follow Elizabeth into the Catholic Church, “... when your dear, wearied heart sinks and does not feel the immediate influence, then, though hidden, He is nearest.” The lesson is important: Not feeling the presence of God does not mean that God is absent. Indeed, at such times, God is even closer than we can imagine.

“Learn to
let go and
let God.”

During a difficult time in 1809, when she had barely begun her new community of Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, MD, Elizabeth noted that God had “withdraw[n] from me all comfort in devotion and deprive[d] me in a manner of the light of his countenance.” Her response? “Now I am going straight on by Faith I abandon myself to God continually, and invite all my dear companions to do the same.”

As her community grew, Elizabeth experienced many outward trials and contradictions, including the death of two of her daughters. During them all, she continued to undergo spiritual sufferings. Later she gave a glimpse of this difficult time by contrasting “my present willingness to live, so different from the past nine years dragging, and the tranquil dispositions my continual feast, instead of the war of Nature which was so long my daily Bread.”

By the end of her life, she had found peace in “trying to turn every little action on His will, and to praise and love through cloud or sunshine.”

Amid the shifts of our own interior weather, through bright days or stormy, may the faith and trust of St. Elizabeth Seton continue to encourage us. ■

As Charism Resource Director, Sr. Regina Bechtle researches, writes about, and offers retreats and programs on Charity spirituality, especially for groups in the Sisters of Charity Federation and the wider Vincentian family. She has co-edited a multi-volume collection of St. Elizabeth Seton’s writings.

Associate News

Intentional Community Formed

by Sr. Mary Gallagher

During a simple ritual, three women who are Associates of the Sisters of Charity and have been friends for many years, committed themselves to forming an intentional community.



Sr. Dorothy Metz witnesses Associates Marlene Jean-Baptiste, Imogene Regan and Sandy Figueroa at their simple commitment ritual.

They believe that they can deepen their spirituality and their relationship through the process of building community. After discussing this with Congregation leadership, they established as their goals:

- meeting twice a month for communal prayer and meals
- attending Congregation meetings, retreats, and other activities whenever possible
- arranging days of recollection for themselves
- pledging themselves to charitable projects that assist the poor of Haiti
- committing themselves to the direction set by Assembly 2007

These goals will be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis with Congregation leadership. ■

Sr. Mary Gallagher is the Director of the Associate Program.

Theatrical Associate

This has been a busy year for SC Associate Retta Blaney. She started an online blog to which she posts thoughts and reflections on her main interests – theater and spirituality. She often refers to St. Vincent de Paul and St. Elizabeth Seton in her Internet journal which is at http://uponthe_sacredstage.blogspot.com

As usual, Retta produced *Broadway Blessing*. This inter-faith service of song, story and dance brings the theatre community together every September to ask God's blessing on the new season. Nearly 400 people heard Tony Award-winning actresses Marian Seldes and Frances Sternhagen give readings. Dancers, singers, musicians,

Annual Retreat

by Kathleen McGrath Skinner

On a beautiful October weekend, a group of Associates gathered at St. Mary's Villa in Standfordville for their annual retreat.

Once again, Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick was our retreat director. Using the theme "A Spirituality Named Compassion," we looked at the stories of two women from the Old Testament – Tamar and Hagar – and analyzed how God showed them compassion. Many valuable insights came from sharing ideas and thoughts about these women and their experiences. We also explored the role of women in the New Testament. Much food for thought!

During the retreat, there was plenty of time for long walks, reflection and rest. Late Saturday afternoon, we went to the nearby town of Bangall for Mass. It was truly an uplifting experience to be in a small, country church and feel the welcoming spirit there.

Our mealtimes were a wonderful opportunity to enjoy each other's company. As usual, the food was delicious and plentiful.

By the time Sunday afternoon arrived, we couldn't believe that our retreat was over. Plans were made to return next year and we left feeling blessed to be associated with the Sisters of Charity and with each other. ■

Kathleen Skinner, a former member of the Congregation, has been an Associate since 2004. She is currently training as a Hospice volunteer. One of her two children works for the College of Mount Saint Vincent as Director of Annual Giving.

and clergy from area churches also participated. Retta founded *Broadway Blessing* in 1996.

Retta also produced the October 1st world premiere of *Atonement*. In this concert, with liturgical foundations by acclaimed composer Elizabeth Swados, liturgical extracts were juxtaposed against poems from all races and religions to take the audience from a sense of darkness, through forgiveness, to renewal. Another SC Associate who attended felt that "*Atonement* provided a profound message for people of all faiths. The music spoke a million words."

Both theatrical events took place in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. The Sisters of Charity provided ministry grants to Retta for these works. ■

Honors and Happenings

SCNY Sweeps Lumen Awards!

The two entries we submitted to the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC) Lumen Award competition won BIG.

The major gift appeal “Where Charity and Love Prevail,” by Bill Hurley in Development, was voted “2007 Best in Show” at the 2007 NCDC Annual Conference and Exposition. Several weeks earlier, when divisional winners were named, our appeal campaign won first place, and *Vision*, edited by Chris Haggerty in Communications, was named Best Publication. Lumen Awards recognize excellence in the ministry of fundraising.

The parishioners at Saint Athanasius closed out their centennial year celebration in October by presenting a beautiful plaque to the Sisters in gratitude for 94 years of faithful and loving service to the parish and school. **Sisters**



Jeanne Atkinson and Trudé

Collins have lived and worked in this south Bronx parish for over four decades.

At the October 21st celebration of the 75th anniversary of Visitation School in the Bronx, the Sisters of Charity were cited for their many contributions. In his homily, pastor Msgr. Robert Larkin said, “The Sisters of Charity of Mount Saint Vincent have played a most significant role in the excellent education the young people of Visitation have received over the years. What a blessing they have been for our parish and school!”

He especially praised Sr. Rosemarie Connell, Visitation’s principal for 28 years, for her “great expertise, untiring dedication and tremendous enthusiasm.”

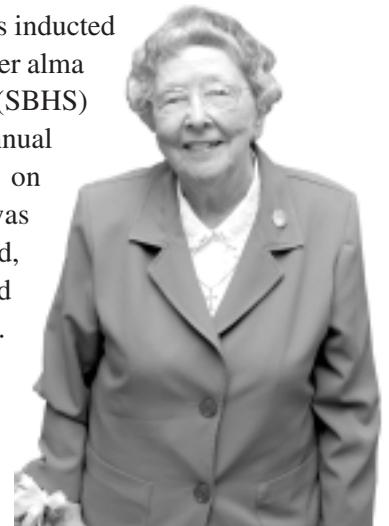


During her tenure at Visitation, the school has participated, and excelled, in academic and athletic competitions. In addition to receiving citations from various parish groups, Sister also received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition signed by US Representative Eliot Engel.

Several of our Sisters were honored for years of service to Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New York at the annual fall Teachers Institutes:

- **Sr. Gabriel Miriam Obraz**, principal at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Shrub Oak, was presented with the Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award. Sister has served in that school for 40 years!
- **Sr. Mary Kieran Mulligan**, presently at St. Anthony School in Yonkers, was honored for her 50 years of service.
- **Sr. Mary Ellen Blumlein**, currently on staff at Mother Cabrini H.S. in Manhattan, was honored for her 25 years.

Sr. Georgette Dircks was inducted into the Hall of Fame at her alma mater, St. Barnabas H.S. (SBHS) in the Bronx, at their Annual Alumnae Luncheon on October 13th. Sister was honored for her unequalled, selfless commitment and service to the school. Her gentle and positive approach to life and living has benefited many.



Sister taught at St. Barnabas for 30 years and touched the lives of thousands of girls, both as a teacher and through co-curricular activities such as the newspaper, athletics and several religious organizations. Although retired from the classroom, Sister continues her service to SBHS by volunteering in the Development / Advancement office.

Sr. Florence Simpson was honored on October 17th by the American Association of Retired Persons in New Rochelle, where she has been a steady, caring and creative presence for 26 years. Her many activities include parish home-visiting, adult ESL, ministry at a senior and at a community center ... and just enjoying the senior book club.





New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson was among those who praised Sr. Florence for her many contributions to his city.

In her acceptance remarks, Sr. Florence gave total credit to the Sisters of Charity, on whose behalf she accepted the award. She said the charism, *Living Lives of Love*, inspires her to show kindness to all she meets daily. “If you give kindness, it comes back.”

Sister, whose ready wit and twinkling eyes belie her 91 years, was a teacher for many of her 74 years in the Congregation. Her favored ministries, though, have been with the poor, especially with Hispanic immigrants. She is fluent in Spanish.

Luckily for “the Queen City of the Sound,” Sister will be continuing with her ministry there.

Sisters Nora Cunningham and Muriel Long were among those recognized on November 3rd for contributing to the growth of the Hispanic Catholic community in the NYC area. They were cited for their work at the South Bronx Pastoral Center at Our Lady of Victory. The recognition took place at Cardinal Spellman H.S. in the east Bronx, where over 1,200 parish and diocesan leaders of the Spanish Apostolate gathered to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of NY.

The Sisters of Charity information table was visited by Oscar Cruz, the Archdiocesan Director for Adult Catechesis/Catechumenate, who voiced gratitude to all his teachers at St. Athanasius School, where our Sisters have been since 1913.

Sr. Mary Ann D’Antonio, Principal of Saint Raymond Academy for Girls in the Bronx, proudly welcomed present and former students, faculty and friends to the school’s September 14th rededication ceremony and proclaimed the newly refurbished facility as “wonderful!” Until this project, the secondary school shared space with the elementary school and was divided between two buildings. Now, the Academy is exclusively in “The Annex,” and features 20 classrooms, a library-media center, 2 science labs, an art room, a physical fitness center, and an open-space area that will double as an eating area and gathering place for assemblies and meetings.

Many of our Sisters who had taught at St. Raymond’s attended the event. They witnessed the blessing of statues, crucifixes and sacred images, many of which they had donated to represent their missions in New York and Guatemala. Sr. Mary Ann will use these throughout the new building, with explanatory plaques, to connect the students to the Congregation’s history.

The Sisters of Charity have been associated with St. Raymond’s for 139 years. The Academy opened its doors in 1960 and currently educates 375 young ladies. Its motto “Commitment to Excellence” is as valid now as it was then.

There will be an open house on January 4th and a blessing of the school building on April 27th. For more information, phone (718) 824-4220.



Sr. Mary Ann beams proudly at the rededication ceremony.

Sr. Eileen Martin was feted in June as she retired as principal at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School in Center Moriches, LI. During her 25-year tenure at the school, Sister started the pre-K program and expanded the kindergarten; she introduced computers and software training programs that enable students to create the school paper and build web sites. On June 7th, the school’s students and parents saluted Sister with musical numbers, skits about Sr. Eileen taking care of children, and a slide show of Sister with students over the years. June 23rd was declared “Sr. Eileen Martin Day” in the Town of Brookhaven and across Suffolk County. A reception honoring Sister and her many accomplishments was held at a local club. It was attended by family, friends, school alumae/i, parishioners and elected officials from the area. The school’s faculty presented their retiring principal with a trip to Ireland. Sister is enjoying a Sabbatical before her next ministry.

(continued on page 14)

Sisters Attend UN Conference on Climate Change

by Sr. Claire E. Regan

When the United Nations Department of Public Information convened a discussion on the topic “Climate Change: How It Affects Us All,” representatives of the Sisters of Charity Federation (US and Canadian congregations) were there.

These Sisters were among 2,500+ representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from over 90 countries.

Experts and grass roots leaders, including women, indigenous people and youth, spoke of global climate trends, their effects in different parts of the world and possible steps toward resolution, from both a *developed* and a *developing* world perspective.

Our planet faces a “triple crisis”: climate change, the extinction of species and Peak Oil. (That last term, also known as Hubbert’s peak, refers to the maximum rate of the production of oil in any area under consideration, recognizing that it is a finite natural resource, subject to depletion.)

Solutions to these crises require interlocking approaches rooted in sustainability. Pope Benedict XVI recently beseeched Catholics to make “courageous decisions” to spare the earth from destruction and irresponsible development trends. Economist Tariq Banuri, when speaking of sustainability and ethics, said “major investment in renewable energy is essential to reverse the world’s grotesque inequality.”

This was a busy fall for Sr. Claire. She chaired a panel of Sisters who discussed the Iraq War with US Congressman Eliot Engel, the representative in Mount St. Vincent’s district. Sisters Mary Ann Donovan, Anne Marie Falloon, Mary Kay Finneran, Winifred Goddard, Marion Hunt, Mary E. Mc Cormick and Noreen Sugrue joined Sr. Claire in urging Congressman Engel to work for troop withdrawal.

Conference participants approved a declaration affirming that climate change caused by human beings poses “one of the most serious threats humanity and our environment has ever faced.” Delegates committed themselves over the next year to a Framework for Action that will propose NGO solutions to these threats before they become irreversible.

Fast Fact
One person could be fed for an entire year by the amount of corn needed to produce enough ethanol to fill an SUV tank just once.

As Sisters of Charity, we agreed to raise awareness among our Congregations about our individual and collective responsibility to reduce climate change. In the light of faith and Catholic social teaching, we also agreed to connect climate change with ongoing efforts to address poverty, human trafficking and economic globalization in our work at the UN.

Here are some ways we all can help:

- Use the most efficient car possible
- Walk or bike rather than drive
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent ones
- Use Energy Star rated appliances
- Use a programmable thermostat
- Buy less and buy local

You’ll find more useful tips at:

- Catholics and Climate Change
www.catholicsandclimatechange.org
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops
www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/climate

Sr. Claire E. Regan has been the Justice Effectiveness & Corporate Responsibility Coordinator for the Congregation for eight years.

Sister also worked to have baseball team caps with street gang motifs removed from stores. She and other local religious leaders visited shops in East Harlem and asked owners not to sell these hats. Wearing the wrong cap in the wrong neighborhood could get one killed. Coverage of the protest by local media publicized the issue. As a result, the manufacturer recalled the caps after receiving complaints from Major League Baseball officials. ■

Farm Report

by Chris Haggerty

Sisters Hill Farm had a very good year in 2007. Here's a recap of developments at the Congregation's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project in central Dutchess County, NY.

- The 206 available shares sold out unusually early in the season.
- Over 70,000 lbs. of organically-grown vegetables were harvested – a record! There were bumper crops of onions (over 5,000 lbs. harvested!) and of winter squash.
- Sr. Anne Marie Falloon oversaw the weekly produce distribution at Mount Saint Vincent.
- Two new apprentices had the opportunity to learn how to be good organic farmers.
- The solar panels installed in 2006 produced 2,900 kwh – approximately 34% of the electric needs of the farm. That offsets almost 1.6 tons of CO2 emissions. Good for our budget; good for the earth.
- Farmer Dave started a blog (web log) about the farm. You can read the notes and view the photos he posts about the farm at www.sistershillfarm.blogspot.com
- Sturdy canvas bags large enough to hold each week's share were made available to shareholders for the first time, eliminating the need for environmentally-unfriendly plastic grocery bags.
- All the recipes from the weekly newsletter were compiled into a handy booklet at the end of the season by shareholders Robert and Joan Cohen.
- Sr. Mary Ann Garisto, the farm's director, was featured in the book *Green Sisters: A Spiritual Ecology* which was written by Sarah McFarland Taylor and published in April by Harvard University Press.
- Sister was also featured in an article in the August 22nd *NY Times* about how the way food goes from farm to plate has become a religious issue.



From left, farm director Sr. Mary Ann Garisto and Sr. Anne Marie Falloon pack up produce that will go to soup kitchens.

As is the custom, the farm welcomed several groups of visitors. The Sisters of Charity Federation held its 3rd annual picnic at the farm in June. Our Sisters were joined by Sisters of Charity and some of their Associates from Convent Station, NJ, as well as Daughters of Charity from Connecticut and Brooklyn. All enjoyed seeing our Sisters Hill Farm and picking strawberries there. Also, the young women from St. Raymond Academy and St. Barnabas H.S. in the Bronx who are part of the Bridge Building program, spent a day harvesting hundreds of pounds of potatoes. Even though the work was hard on their manicures, they enjoyed it.

Another thing that didn't change – a portion of every week's harvest still went to individual families in need and to soup kitchens and food pantries serving the hungry.

You can learn more about the farm at www.scny.org/ecological_farm.html ■

Chris Haggerty is the Director of External Communications for the Congregation.

BOOK REVIEW



The World Is Flat A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century

By Thomas L. Friedman / © 2007, Picador / 672 pages in paperback

by Sr. Donna Dodge

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Friedman gives a fascinating, though sometimes technical, account of the transforming role that technology and communication have had on every aspect of life in the 21st Century. It would be

exciting to discuss this book, especially chapter two (“The Ten Forces that Flattened the World”), in light of the simultaneous changes in religious life and the possible implications these trends and forces suggest for our future. ■

Sr. Donna Dodge is the Assistant to the President of the Congregation.

Honors and Happenings *(continued from page 11)*

Seventy Sisters of Charity of New York were among the 300 representatives of 72 congregations at the October 20th bicentennial celebration of religious women and the contribution of immigrants to the Church of New York.

The Archdiocesan Council of Women Religious (ACWR) held the prayer service at St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in lower Manhattan to celebrate the history of sisters in the Archdiocese. They did so by focusing on immigration because, beginning with Mother Seton, Catholic religious women have worked with immigrant populations. NY's first cathedral was built by, and still serves, immigrants. After the prayer and ritual concluded with an action for humane immigrant legislation, Sisters walked silently around the block carrying signs supporting immigrant issues.

Sisters Nora Cunningham and Helen McGovern were on the organizing committee for this event. Sr. Claire E. Regan made sure that signed petition cards in support of immigration reform got to NY's Sen. Charles Schumer.

Several Sisters who had once taught there attended the annual alumnae luncheon for the Academy of Mt. St. Vincent, formerly of Tuxedo Park in Orange County. At this Oct. 20th event, AMSV graduate Laurie Clancy expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Sisters of Charity. A statue of Elizabeth Seton by sculptress Sr. Margaret



AMSV alumna Laurie Clancy poses with the statue Hazard Yet Forward and Sisters Regina Regan, Maria Goretti Wieser, Maria Thérèse Ruckel, Marie Paula Holdman and Constance Brennan (l to r).

Beaudette, SC, was presented to the Alumnae for their raffle, but the reunion team decided to keep Hazard Yet Forward so it could be displayed at subsequent reunions as a tribute to the Congregation.

Sr. Pauline Cinquini, co-liason and representative of the renewal on the Council of Ecclesial Movements, served as general chairperson and leader of workshops for the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in the Archdiocese. The occasion was celebrated with a day of prayer on November 10th. **Sr. Nancy Kellar**, who has been a leader of the CCR for the past 4 decades, described the origin and growth of the prayer movement in the Church in her opening talk to 500+ participants from around the US. Sisters Bernadette Brennan, Mary Benedict, Mary Tommasino, Marguerite Mahony, Marie Paula Holdman and Anna Roche also took part in the day.

Sr. Kathleen Byrnes was named director of St. John's Bread and Life Mobile Soup Kitchen (MSK) program that serves families and individuals in impoverished communities in Brooklyn and Queens. In her new position, Sister Kathleen supervises the daily operations of the Mobile Soup Kitchen and Social Services to assure good nutrition and quality services. The MSK goes out to two sites daily.

Sr. Sandra Trifiro renewed her temporary vows for one year on October 30th. She is spending two months in Ethiopia teaching basic computer, internet and software skills to those who, in turn, will teach kindergarten children in rural towns and villages throughout this poor eastern African country.

The Sisters at the Mount Saint Vincent Convent had something extra to be thankful for at Thanksgiving — their new, state-of-the-art dining room. During the long renovation of their home, the retired Sisters haven't been able to invite guests to join them in the small, temporary dining area. But on November 22nd, they once again were able to exercise their charism of hospitality to visitors. ■

MOVIE REVIEW



Amazing Grace

by Chris Haggerty

Ratings: A-II (adults & adolescents)
by the USCCB; PG by the MPAA.
Runtime: 117 minutes
Released on DVD: November 2007

This historical drama tells the true story of 18th-century British abolitionist William Wilberforce who worked for 20 years to pass an anti-slave trade bill in Parliament. Wilberforce is played by Welch actor Ioan Gruffudd who

also starred in TV's *Hornblower* series. The title comes from the famous hymn by John Newton, the reformed slave trader who also figures in the story. *Amazing Grace* is a rare contemporary film that shows a man of religious conviction working tirelessly to eliminate an accepted evil of his time.

In Memoriam

Sr. Marion Savadel • Educator / Administrator

Religious Name: Marian Josepha • Entered: 1953 • Final vows: 1961

Over 80% of Sr. Marion's life was spent on Staten Island. That is where she was born, raised with her four siblings, and spent 40 years in educational ministry at St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School, which was opened by the Sisters of Charity in September 1963. There she applied her NYU Masters in Business Education, first as a teacher, then as Chair of the Business Department for 24 years, and finally as secretary and library assistant. Sr. Marion began teaching business classes in 1965, at St. Gabriel's High School in New Rochelle. Before that, she taught elementary grades for nine years at Epiphany School in Manhattan. Over the years, Sister launched students' careers via work study programs. She had a quiet sense of humor, enjoyed a good story, and contributed much to the lives of all she met. We are grateful that for 53 of her 77 years, Sr. Marion was a vital part of the Congregation.

Sr. Xavier Miriam Folser • Educator / Administrator

Baptismal Name: Mildred • Entered: 1928 • Final vows: 1934

Sr. Xavier first encountered the Sisters of Charity as a student at St. Francis Xavier School in Manhattan. Her first ministry in the Congregation was 12 years in elementary education: two years at Seton Academy in Yonkers, followed by five years at St. John the Evangelist in Manhattan, then five years at St. Barnabas in the Bronx. After earning a BS in Home Economics and an MA in Institutional Management, Sister began a 22-year ministry at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan. Beginning as a dietician, she became Director of Nutrition and, finally, Assistant Administrator of the entire hospital. Sister then transferred to St. Vincent's Hospital on Staten Island, where she served as Assistant Administrator for three years. In 1970, Sister returned to the classroom and taught 5th grade at St. Patrick's in Bedford Village and at Resurrection School in Rye for a total of 11 years. Her last active ministry was at Mary the Queen Convent, where she was Personnel Director and Supervisor of Housekeeping. Sister was predeceased by her older brother, Fr. Harold Folser, SJ, whom she always credited with having the greatest influence on her vocation. Sr. Xavier died at age 96 after having served faithfully as a Sister of Charity of New York for 78 years.

Sr. Miriam Leonard Howeler • Educator / Administrator

Baptismal Name: Aileen • Entered: 1927 • Final vows: 1933

Aileen Howeler grew up in New York City with her parents and her older sister Kathryn, to whom she was close her entire life. She was taught by the Sisters of Charity at St. Monica's School and Blessed Sacrament H.S. Education was Sr. Leonard's first ministry. She taught at Holy Trinity, St. Paul, and St. John the Evangelist, all in Manhattan, and at Holy Trinity in Mamaroneck. In 1948, she moved into school administration. After serving in Manhattan as principals of Our Lady of Good Counsel School and St. Ignatius Loyola, Sister was elected to the Congregation's council in 1958. She served for five years, then became principal of St. Mary's in Yonkers. Nine years there were followed by nine years as administrator of Mary the Queen Convent in Yonkers. After that, Sr. Leonard returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher for two years. That was followed by 13 years as receptionist for the Jesuit Community at Fordham in the Bronx. After volunteering for four years at the Sisters of Charity Multi-Service Center in Yonkers, Sister retired at age 91. Sr. Leonard will be remembered for her great integrity, warmth, compassion, love of the poor, and sense of humor. We are grateful for her 96 years of life and 79 years of devoted service.

Sr. Cecilia Schneider • Educator / Administrator

Baptismal Name: Eugenia • Entered: 1935 • Final vows: 1940

Sr. Cecilia was a Staten Island native who first met the Sisters of Charity in school: at St. Peter's elementary and high schools. Her first ministry was education; in Manhattan, she taught at Holy Name for 11 years, then at Cathedral H.S. for one. In 1949, after earning a MSW in Social Work from Catholic University in Washington, DC, Sister embarked upon her life's work in the field of child welfare. At the New York Foundling Hospital in Manhattan, Sr. Cecilia spent six years as a social worker and 22 years as Executive Director. Sister also served as Administrator for nine years at St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet and for two years at St. Joseph Hall in Brooklyn. In her "retirement," Sr. Cecilia was a volunteer patient representative for five years at St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan; then, at age 79, she returned to The Foundling where she volunteered in the adoption department for 13 years. In her 93 years of life and 72 years as a Sister of Charity, Sr. Cecilia was a visionary and mentor to many in the child welfare field. She was predeceased by her four sisters, including Sr. Evelyn Schneider, SC, who was chief executive at St. Vincent's Hospital and Superior General of the Congregation.

SEASONALITIES

Our annual Memorial Mass took place on November 4th in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent. Family and friends came to remember Sisters and former members who had died over the past year.



Members of the Congregation who were remembered that day included:

Sr. Mary Ellen Butler
Sr. Marian Helen Collins
Sr. Marie Kieran Devery
Sr. Margaret Dowling
Sr. Eileen Theresa Feore
Sr. Marguerite M. Fleming

Sr. Xavier Miriam Folser
Sr. Regina Eileen Hance
Sr. Miriam Laboure Hart
Sr. Catherine Herlihy
Sr. Miriam Leonard Howeler
Sr. Mary Landy

Sr. Catherine McCabe
Sr. Miriam Ambrose O'Connell
Sr. Maria Michaela Pisacana
Sr. Marion Savadel
Sr. Marian Cecilia Schneider

Former members Dorothy Allen, Mary Connolly, Ann Farrelly Quigg, and Marcella Donnelly Siriano were honored, too.

The Liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Ned Murphy, SJ, who is a SC Associate and brother of Sr. Margaret Murphy, SC. Fr. Murphy reflected on Zacchaeus, who figured in that day's gospel. He then called forth Sr. Mary Kay Finneran, Administrator of one of our Retirement Houses, who introduced a ritual acknowledging each Deceased Sister and Former Member. As each name was called, a cymbal sounded and a relative or friend of the deceased, escorted by Sr. Kathleen Aucoin, carried a rose to the altar.

In her reflection, Sr. Mary Kay referenced the lyrics from the song Standing on the Shoulders, composed by Joyce Johnson Rouse.

*We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us.
We are stronger for their courage. We are wiser for their words.
We are lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future.
We are grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this Earth.*

The Mass was followed by a light brunch. The day gave all present an opportunity for reflection, pride and gratitude.



January 19: Sisters and Daughters of Charity have been invited to prepare a retreat/conference day on Elizabeth Seton at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church on Staten Island, where Elizabeth Seton's grandfather served as rector. The Church is celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2008.

Reflection

"Let your chief study be to acquaint yourself with God because there is nothing greater than God, and because it is the only knowledge which can fill the heart with a peace and joy, which nothing can disturb ... Tenderness ... is the language children best understand."

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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