



SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

Vision

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4, FALL 2010

In this issue, we focus on:

- Our Jubilarians
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Museum Exhibits
- Alumnae Mementos
- Our Dearly Departed



Photo: Sr. A. Jean Iannone, SC

Here are the Sisters who celebrated their Golden Jubilee this September. From the left, seated, are Sr. Florence Mallon, Sr. Maureen Dunn and Sr. Terese A. McElroy. Standing are Sr. Frances T. Keegan, Sr. Virginia Searing, Sr. Maria Iglesias, Sr. Patricia Noone, Sr. Carol Ann Ruf, Sr. Margaret M. O'Brien, Sr. Nancy Kellar, Sr. Marie Morris, Sr. Eileen Fagan, and Sr. Mary Tommasino.

Golden Jubilarians Honored

by Patrice Athanasidy and Christine M. Haggerty

The late summer of 1960 was notable on several counts. The summer Olympics were held in Rome. Nine countries became independent from European colonial powers. Hurricane Donna battered the eastern US coast. Fidel Castro nationalized all foreign-owned property in Cuba. Four English rockers adopted the name "The Beatles."

For the Sisters of Charity of New York, a major event was the profession of final

vows by the young women in the Mother Seton Circle.

This year, on Saturday, September 18, the Congregation celebrated the Golden Jubilee of these women. The ceremony took place where the vows had been taken in 1960 – in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent. A reception for family and friends followed in Smith Hall.

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Letter From the President

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

In this issue of Vision you will read about the wonderful exhibit, "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America", prepared by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). Through photographs and artifacts, it shows how Sisters played a vital role in shaping American life from the early 1700s through today.

"Women & Spirit" first opened in the Smithsonian and currently is touring the country. The Council and I had the joy of being present at the opening of the exhibit at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum on September 24. Sr. Carol Barnes, SC, chaired the event that day and was a member of the Local Committee who planned the project here in New York.

We were welcomed by David Luchsinger, Superintendent of the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island, who said it was a wonderful experience for him to be working with the Sisters on this historic undertaking.

In her remarks at the opening of the exhibit, Sr. Mary Hughes, OP, LCWR President, spoke about the Sisters who:

...moved by the sufferings of those who went to war, went into battlefields to minister to the soldiers on both sides. As various immigrants found their children were denied education, the Sisters came to educate them. The Sisters cared for children when their parents died or were too poor to feed them. They founded hospitals and clinics to be places of healing. As seekers of justice, Sisters were active in the Civil Rights movement. They advocated and provided for the education of women. Their intelligence and ingenuity enabled them to develop creative responses to human needs. There seemed to be no end to the ways in which they invested themselves.

The Women & Spirit exhibit surrounds us, the Sisters of today, with the stories of earlier women religious and their courageous response to the needs they saw in their part of the country.

I was most touched by our own New York Foundling display which featured a white curtained bassinet and copies of letters written by mothers explaining why they had to leave their babies to the Sisters' care.

The heroic stories of Catholic Sisters are still told today. Gifted and generous women continue to respond to the needs of the people of God, rooted in the Gospel and following the example of Jesus Christ.

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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Saint Vincent de Paul: Man of History...and Mystery

by Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC

Vincent de Paul was born in the south of France around 1580 and died in Paris in 1660.

As a child, he helped on the family farm, and made use of a pair of stilts to help keep an eye on the sheep that grazed on the hillsides. Later he was able to translate this experience into focusing on the 'big picture' in making decisions about serving others.

Family and relations recognized his intelligence and helped provide him with a good education, unusual for a person of his background.

He decided to put his talents to use as a priest and was ordained at the age of 20, but finding a post which would give him an income and allow him to 'retire' at age 30 proved impossible.

After a mysterious two year period, Vincent made his way to Paris. Where was he during these 'missing years'? Had he been captured by pirates and sold as a slave in Africa? Maybe, maybe not; answers will vary.

He held various posts including almsgiver for the Queen Mother and parish priest in a village church before he went to work as a tutor to the children of the influential de Gondi family.

During his time with this family, several key experiences with poor persons decided him on his future: to spend the rest of his life in service to those caught in the grip of poverty.

He founded a community of men, the Congregation of the Mission (CMs), to help him in his works of charity, preaching to the rural poor and educating clergy willing to be of service to them.



Photo source: <http://famvin.org>

With Louise de Marillac he co-founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633, the first community of women religious who ministered outside the traditional cloister walls.

He was gifted in the art of collaboration, and built bridges of compassion and understanding between rich and poor, men and women, hierarchy and laity.

Despite his grueling schedule of work he gave the first hours of every day to prayer.

St. Vincent, St. Louise and their companions changed the face of France. Their communities eventually circled the globe. Lay organizations they started or inspired now number over one million worldwide. ■

Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick is currently engaged in Retreat and Spiritual Direction programs and Charism Writing Projects for the Congregation. She also teaches ESL to women at Casa de Esperanza, the Sisters of Charity Multi-service Center.



Sr. Dorothy Metz accepted a Special Tribute Award on behalf of the Congregation at the United Hospital Fund's annual gala at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in October. The Sisters of Charity of New York were recognized for having embraced New York's most vulnerable and for creating an enduring record of charity in action. Three other individuals also were cited for their contributions to improving health care in New York.

St. Joseph's Medical Center of Yonkers, founded by the Sisters in 1888, has bought St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester in Harrison, founded by the Sisters in 1879. This acquisition makes St. Joseph's one of the largest providers of mental health and chemical dependency services in the region. Both facilities are sponsored ministries.

Photo courtesy of United Hospital Fund

Catch the Spirit

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum is hosting a very special show: “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America.” This traveling exhibit recaps the many contributions made by women religious, as well as the many difficulties they faced and overcame since Ursulines first came to New Orleans in 1727.

The many works of the Sisters of Charity of New York are represented in a display highlighting the mission at The New York Foundling.

On Saturday, October 16, approximately 170 Sisters, Associates and friends from four Sisters of Charity Federation congregations serving in the NY metro area, converged to experience this exhibit. Sisters of Charity of New York met up with Sisters of Charity (Halifax), Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth (NJ) and Daughters of Charity (Albany) at the Battery in lower Manhattan and ferried over to Ellis Island in NY harbor.

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum is an appropriate setting for the show because many women religious were immigrants themselves, and/or worked to help newcomers to America. Of this exhibit, a museum curator who stopped by during the Sisters’ visit declared that this Women & Spirit (W&S) show was “the most successful in my 18 years here.”



Sr. Ellen Rose O'Connell is seen here with a replica of The New York Foundling bassinette in which babies were left by mothers who could no longer care for them. There's also a video on the Orphan Train program. The exhibit not only recaps heroic past deeds; it also shows that the story of religious sisters in America is still being written. Sr. Mary Ann Garisto is seen in a photo taken at our Sisters Hill Farm.



Every Sister in this photo has a connection to Sisters of Charity child care. From left, Sisters Mary Sugrue, Jane Hoehn, Katherine King, Eileen P. Walsh and Rita Meany all served either at The New York Foundling or at St. Agatha's Home. On the far right, is Sr. Eileen Boffa, RSM, a Sister of Mercy from Connecticut who was adopted from The Foundling.

Within three weeks of opening, it had surpassed attendance expectations for its entire run.

After several hours on Ellis Island, all ferried back to Manhattan for a late afternoon reception and Liturgy at the Elizabeth Seton Shrine / Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Fr. Peter Meehan was a gracious host and celebrated the Sunday vigil Mass.

Sr. Carol Barnes director of mission integration at The New York Foundling, heads the local W&S committee. During the exhibit's NY run, Sisters from various congregations volunteer there as docents, including our own Sisters Regina Bechtle, Bernadette Brennan and Jean Flannelly.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan, who wielded the scissors at the September 22 ribbon cutting that opened the New York run, remarked that women religious, “...seem to possess an ‘in-built radar’ to find and help people in need.” He said that the W&S exhibit shows, “You have your ear close to the heartbeat of the Church.”

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A Visit to the Orphan Train Museum

by Sr. Claire E. Regan, SC

While on retreat in south central Louisiana, I learned that I was just eight miles away from the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum (LOTM) in Opelousas. I was excited by the chance to hear “our Foundling’s” story from a different perspective than the New York one.

Opelousas is 62 miles west of Baton Rouge. It is the third oldest city in Louisiana and the largest city in St. Landry Parish (county). Within its “Vieux Village” (Old Town) – a restoration of a village square from the 1800s – I found the LOTM, a 2,400-square-foot facility that opened in October 2009. This was an enchanting and heartwarming setting for what would unfold as a story “told from the heart.”

Three wise women guided me through this collection of artifacts gathered over the past 20 years from original orphan train riders (OTRs) and their families. Each woman had an immediate family member who was an OTR. They had just returned from a trip to NYC where they visited The Foundling, its archives and St Vincent Ferrer Church, which recorded Foundling baptisms of that era.

The guides spoke lovingly and proudly of their dear ones who were OTRs and of the commitment of the Sisters to the children’s welfare. The Foundling worked closely over the years with three local priests to find good families for the children. Each family had to supply three references on their application. The Sisters annually sent agents to certify that the youngsters were being well cared for.

I was deeply touched by the guides’ stories and

was very proud to be a Sister of Charity from NY and to be so esteemed by these women.

Each OTR had a numbered ID tag with his/her name and the receiving family’s name. The tag was sewn inside the coats of boys, and into the dress hems of girls. Both the husband and the wife in the receiving family had to sign a receipt in ink and agree to two things: that the children be sent to school and that they be raised Catholic. They were expected to be treated as family.

It was not always smooth sailing though. Sometimes the locals and the children spoke different languages. The children were ostracized in school for being New Yorkers – lingering Southern resentment against all things Northern after the Civil War.

The children’s stories are on display at the museum with their photo (old or recent), personal and arrival data, and the adopting family’s name and town.

The Museum has records of over 300 of the 2,000 children who were sent to Louisiana from New York between 1873 and 1929. The orphan train program is recognized as the beginning of the modern foster care system.

I was deeply moved by the large painted mural depicting a train’s arrival and Sisters of Charity introducing the children to their eager new families after the 1,400 mile journey.

In reflecting upon my trip to the museum, I could see the impact of the orphan train program on the people of an entire region. Most of the children were adopted by their families who were usually farmers. Many of them become significant in the community, e.g., mayor, justice of the peace, etc. The program contributed to the economic, social and religious fiber of an evolving community and left a lasting impression.

This gem of a museum resonates with personal love and joy. It is operated by the non-profit Louisiana Orphan Train Society, which is dedicated to telling the history of the children who came from The Foundling.

If you’re ever near Opelousas, you must drop in. ■

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



This archival photo shows Foundling children dressed for their trip out west. Their Sister guardians are wearing “coal shuttle” style bonnets over their traditional caps.

Golden Jubilarians Honored

(continued from front cover)

Here are synopses of the Sisters' ministries over five decades.

Sr. Maureen Dunn, SC, formerly Sr. Marita Michael, volunteers at Mary the Queen Convent in Yonkers. After serving as secretary for a year at St. Vincent Hospital in Manhattan, Sister began her ministry in education. Her longest school affiliation was at Incarnation in Manhattan, where she taught, was assistant administrator and later principal over 19 years. Sister also taught reading at St. Joseph School, Yonkers and at Lincoln Hall, Westchester County. Sr. Maureen served as administrator at St. Peter School in Yonkers. Congregational service included three years as mission effectiveness coordinator.

Sr. Eileen Fagan, SC, formerly Sr. Maureen Michael, has been an assistant professor at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx for nine years. Previously, she was the assistant director of Iona College's Bridge Program, New Rochelle, and the director of the High School and College Transition Program at Elizabeth Seton College/Iona College program in Yonkers. On the high school level, Sr. Eileen taught at Archbishop Stepinac, White Plains, Maria Regina, Hartsdale and at Cardinal Spellman, Bronx. Sister's elementary school service included Sacred Heart and St. Mary on Staten Island, and St. Barnabas in the Bronx, where she taught and served in administration over 13 years.

Sr. Maria Iglesias, SC, formerly Sr. Teresita Maria, is the Vocation Director for the Congregation. She has been national coordinator for Las Hermanas and assistant director of the NY Archdiocese Hispanic Apostolate Office. Sr. Maria worked 14 years in the Bronx: as a pastoral worker at St. Athanasius; as director of volunteers at Lincoln Hospital; and as administrator of the, Segundo Ruiz Beluis Family Care Center. During 19 years in New Jersey, Sister was director of ambulatory care at Atlantic City

Photo: Sr. Kathleen T. Sullivan, SC



As she waited to lead her fellow Jubilarians into the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent, Sr. Carol Ruf had her hands on two significant artifacts.

The marble angel is half of a pair that was a gift of Cecile and Catherine McTiernan, alumnae of the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent. The angels, which have graced the chapel since 1940, are in memory of their mother, Mary Madden McTiernan, and their uncle Joseph Madden.

The processional cross was donated by the family of Sr. Mary and Sr. Veronica Liegey. It was first used during Sr. Veronica's Jubilee in 2007. It is in memory of their father Dr. Gabriel Liegey who was an iconic English teacher at the College of Mount Saint Vincent for 37 years.



Medical Center, coordinator of the Hispanic Team at RENEW International, and pastoral associate at Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph Church, Hoboken. Earlier, she taught at St. Brigid, Manhattan; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Staten Island; and Sts. Peter and Paul, Bronx.

Sr. Frances T. Keegan, SC, formerly Sr. Marie Charles, currently teaches at Visitation School, Bronx, where she has been a catechist for 13 years. She is in her 29th year as a youth minister and catechist at St. Joseph's Parish, Yonkers. Sister was the director of academic advisement at the College of Mount Saint Vincent (1991-2007) and dean of students and teacher at St. Barnabas HS (1981-1991). In addition to serving nine schools over 48 years, Sister also was President of the Sisters Council of the Archdiocese of New York, 1987-1989.

Sr. Nancy Kellar, SC, formerly Sr. Miriam Elizabeth, has served in spiritual renewal work for almost 40 years. She was a founding member of the St. Elizabeth Seton House of prayer in Scarsdale in 1975; served as Coordinator of the Charismatic Renewal for the Archdiocese; and was vice-chair of the Ecumenical Charismatic Committee of North America. In 1996, Sr. Nancy became the first woman elected director of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services in Rome. She has visited 62 countries. Her book *There's Always More* is in its fourth printing and is available in four languages. Sister's first ministry was school teacher – at St. Anthony, Bronx; Cathedral HS, Manhattan; and Resurrection, Rye.

Sr. Florence Mallon, SC, formerly Sr. Dolores Catherine, has been associated with hospitals as both a nurse and a pastoral associate. She has been the associate chaplain at Lawrence Hospital, Bronxville, for a decade. Her longest ministerial association – 35 years total – has been with St. Joseph's Medical Center, Yonkers. There, Sr. Florence has been a

head nurse, staff nurse in various departments, a home health care coordinator, and head of the Pastoral Care Department. Sister also has served as pediatric nurse at Montefiore Hospital, Bronx.



The Chapel was filled with family members and friends of the Jubilarians.

Sr. Terese A. McElroy, SC, formerly Sr. Brendan Maureen, currently is co-director of the Sister of Charity Multi-Service Center, AKA Casa de Esperanza, Yonkers, where she has worked for the past six years. Prior to that, Sister was with Grace Institute Outreach, Bronx, for seven years, first as a GED teacher, and ultimately as Director. Earlier education ministries included teaching at St. Barnabas and St. Dominic T.O.R.C.H., Bronx; Elizabeth Seton Academy and St. Joseph, Yonkers; and Sacred Heart and Incarnation, Manhattan. Sr. Terese also was co-director of S.K.I.P., an after school program, and taught at the Homeless Services Network, both in Yonkers.

Sr. Marie Morris, SC, formerly Sr. Bernadette Maria, was recently appointed executive director of the John Cardinal O'Connor School in Irvington;

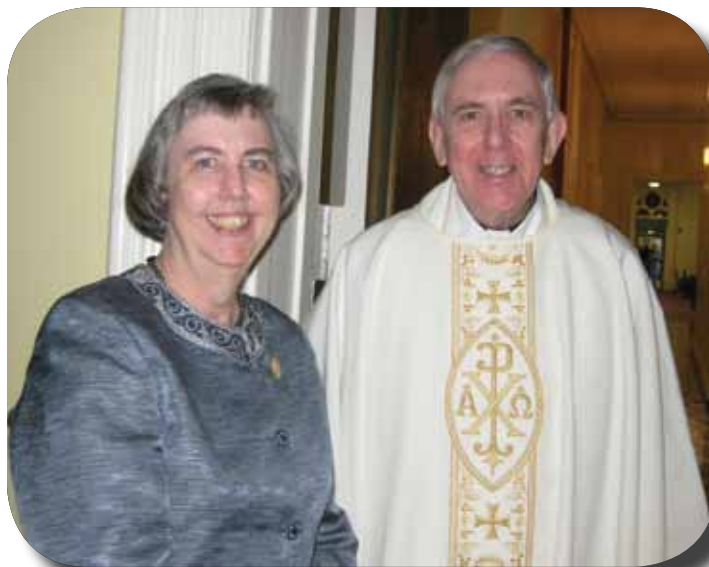
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Golden Jubilarians Honored

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she continues to serve on the board of the John A. Coleman School in White Plains. Sister was principal for 17 years at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Pelham Manor, while an adjunct at Manhattan College. During this time, she received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award. Sister also has taught at the College of Mount Saint Vincent and at six parish schools. She was assistant superintendent of special education for the Archdiocese of New York, 2004-2010.

Sr. Patricia Noone, SC, formerly Sr. Maura Catherine, has been an integral part of the English Department at the College of Mount Saint Vincent for 46 years. In addition to teaching, Sister chaired the department for a total of 10 years. Sr. Patricia began her teaching career at Cardinal Spellman HS. She also served as director of communications for the Congregation for several years and is the author of *Mary for Today* (Thomas More Press, 1977).



Sr. Margaret M. O'Brien with her brother Fr. Thomas J. O'Brien, MM, who celebrated the Jubilee Liturgy.

Sr. Margaret M. O'Brien, SC, formerly Sr. Mary Elizabeth, has been on the Congregation's leadership team since 2003. Prior to that, Sister was Sr. VP of Mission at Sisters of Charity Healthcare on Staten Island. Sr. Margaret's earliest ministry was in education; she was a teacher / administrator / librarian in four NY Archdiocesan elementary schools over 24 years. Theological studies brought Sr. Margaret to California in the late '80s and she was a librarian and teacher in the Oakland Diocese for 11 years.

Sr. Anna Roche, SC, formerly Sr. Dolores John, has been an educator in Orange County, NY since 1981. She taught for eight years at St. Joseph School, Florida, and then founded the Garden of the Child, an early childhood/middle school detection, intervention and prevention program, which she still directs. Sr. Anna also hosts a children's literacy program on WTBQ-AM radio Saturday mornings. Her earliest education ministries were in NYC: at St. Gabriel, St. Barnabas and Nativity of Our Blessed Lady, all in the Bronx. Sister also was a group mother at St. Joseph Hall, Brooklyn.



You are seeing double. That's Sr. Patricia Noone on the left, with her twin sister. Katherine is an educator also and has chaired the English Department at Blessed Sacrament-St. Gabriel HS in New Rochelle for 37 years.

Photos: Sr. Kathleen T. Sullivan, SC



Sr. Carol Ann Ruf, SC, is currently a teacher at Sts. Peter and Paul, Bronx, where she has served since 1997. Sister has specialized in elementary education and served at nine schools. In Manhattan, she taught at Holy Name, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Patrick, Sacred Heart, and Blessed Sacrament. Sr. Carol also taught at Visitation in the Bronx, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Shrub Oak and St. Gabriel in Queens.



Photo: Sr. Kathleen T. Sullivan, SC

Sisters Marie Tolle and Immaculata Burke traveled from Guatemala to share co-missionary Sr. Virginia Searing's Jubilee with her.

Sr. Virginia Searing, SC, is the director of the Sister Barbara Ford Peace Building Center commission in Quiche, Guatemala. Sr. Virginia has served in Guatemala since 1995, when she was appointed co-coordinator of the Community Mental Health program in the Diocese of Quiche. She also was co-coordinator of the Peace/Reconciliation commission there. The first 31 years of Sister's ministry were spent teaching in New York: at St. Barnabas, Bronx; at Nativity of Our Blessed Lady, Manhattan; and at St. Joseph in Florida, NY, where Sr. Virginia also coordinated the CCD program.

Sr. Mary Tommasino, SC, formerly Sr. Marie Raphael, is currently ministering fulltime at the St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer. Last December, she completed 40 years in child care ministry when she resigned as Deputy Director for Education for the Archdiocese of New York Head Start Program. Sr. Mary was principal of Ark and the Dove Preschool in Hopewell Junction and taught Pre-K at Sacred Heart, Hartsdale. She also was assistant to the housemother at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, assistant to the superior at St. Joseph by-the-Sea, Staten Island; and a child care worker at the New York Foundling Hospital in Manhattan.

Think of all the lives that these Sisters have touched in their 650 cumulative years of service. Many have benefited from their dedication. ■

Patrice Athanasidy has been an Associate of the Sisters of Charity of New York since 1997. She is a wife, a mother of three children and a writer and public relations professional.

Christine M. Haggerty is the Director of External Communications for the Congregation.

Catch the Spirit

(continued from page 4)

The "Women & Spirit" show is sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center, where it opened in May 2009. Subsequent stops have included the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Cleveland, OH. The NY run is the longest one so far – four months. Stops in four other cities are scheduled through June 2012.

If you can't get to "Women & Spirit" in person before January 22, you can enjoy the next best thing – a virtual visit at www.womenandspirit.org ■

Other Fall 2010 Jubilarians

Our congratulations and thanks also go to these 31 Sisters who celebrated Diamond Anniversaries of their entrance to the Congregation in September. Regrettably, we don't have room here for details of their combined 1,950 years of service. For that, you'll have to go to our web site (www.scny.org) and look for the Jubilee link under News / Recent Events.

70th Jubilee

- Sr. Thomas Marie Callahan
- Sr. Agnes Connolly (Sr. Agnes Miriam)
- Sr. Helen R. Jarczyński (Sr. Maria Francis)
- Sr. Regina Regan (Sr. Regina de Lourdes)
- Sr. Maria Thérèse Ruckel
- Sr. Angelica Marie Troy

65th Jubilee

- Sr. Rose Maureen Dormer
- Sr. Margaret Farrara (Sr. Marguerite Marie)
- Sr. Eileen Regina Leonard
- Sr. Ellen Quirke (Sr. Ellen Marie)
- Sr. Mary Richard Rowley
- Sr. Joanne Ward (Sr. Mary Joanne)

60th Jubilee

- Sr. Jean Atkinson (Sr. Maria Jeanne)
- Sr. Mildred Azevedo (Sr. Maria Assumpta)
- Sr. Jeanne Delaney (Sr. Maureen James)
- Sr. Mary Donagher (Sr. Peter Mary)
- Sr. Miriam Eugene Fenton
- Sr. Mary Therese Hannaway (Sr. Marian John)
- Sr. Mary A. Jordan (Sr. Mary Alexander)



The spotlight was on the Golden Jubilarians, but every Sister who entered in September celebrates the anniversary of her entrance on Jubilee Saturday. Sr. Kathleen Hanrahan and Sr. Agnes Connolly observed 72 years and 70 years of service respectively.

- Sr. Aileen Kelly (Sr. Mary Eileen)
- Sr. Marion Kelly
- Sr. Mary M. Kilmartin (Sr. Grace Michael)
- Sr. Anita Miriam Lavelle
- Sr. M. Patrice Murphy (Sr. Maria Patrice)
- Sr. Rita Nowatzki (Sr. Miriam Rita)
- Sr. Mary O'Brien (Sr. Maria Bernard)
- Sr. Rosemary Petrucelli (Sr. Marietta)
- Sr. Margaret Taylor (Sr. Edwin Regina)
- Sr. T. Marie Tolle (Sr. Marie Eucharist)
- Sr. Kathleen Tracey (Sr. Kathleen Marie)
- Sr. Alice Ward (Sr. Maria Alice)



Sr. Eleanor M. Gunn passed away 3 ½ months before her Golden Jubilee, but she was very much on the minds of the other Jubilarians. During the offertory procession, Sr. Nancy Kellar carried a bouquet with Sr. Eleanor's photo to the altar.

Sr. Eleanor (formerly Sr. Marie David) was a devoted educator; who patiently gave many hours to individual students, persisting with them even when they would have given up. She taught for 13 years on the grade school level, then 27 years on the high school level. Since 2003, Sister had been Adjunct Professor of Mathematics at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Full details of her ministries are on our In Memoriam web page.

General Assembly, 2011

by Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC

An event happens in the life of the Sisters of Charity that determines the direction its members will take in the coming months and years. Called a General Assembly, it is convened every four years, and is divided into two parts, a 'Chapter of Affairs' and a 'Chapter of Elections.'

A year or so before a General Assembly is convened, Sisters choose delegates who will be able to attend both the pre-Assembly work meetings and the five-day Chapter of Affairs. Sisters who are not delegates and SC Associates are invited to participate in pre-Assembly work. They also support the efforts of the delegates by prayer.

Our next Assembly, scheduled for March 16–20, 2011, will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown, NY. A Steering Committee, elected by the delegates, sets the agenda of the meeting from among the topics put forward by the members of the Congregation.

The theme chosen by the Steering Committee – “Crossing the Threshold: Igniting Charity Anew” – describes attempts to situate the Congregation in its present reality: at the place of decision where outcomes will determine how we meet the challenges of the next four years.

A second phase of the Assembly, the Chapter of Elections, will be held April 30 – May 1, 2011. Delegates will reassemble to vote for the President and members of her Council. Those elected (the President's Assistant

is affirmed by the delegates) will serve as our leadership team for four years.

A General Assembly is always an important and grace-filled event in the life of a congregation. Sisters of Charity look forward to the ways, sometimes surprising, that our provident God will lead us across the threshold into a new era of charity. ■



Sisters Mary Donagher, Cecilia Harriendorf and Patricia O'Brien were among the delegates at Assembly 2007.

Graduates of the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent held their annual reunion on October 16. Alumnae president Laure Clancy organized the affair which was held at the Tuxedo Club and was enthusiastically attended. There was wonderful representation of graduates from the classes of 1960 through 1972, when the Academy closed.

Also in attendance were Sr. Constance Brennan, who had taught at the Academy during the 1960s, and Sisters Theresa Gravino and Maria Goretti Wieser.

This year's reunion featured a special memento – a gold-tone Christmas ornament of Chastellux, the chateau that housed the Academy. The proceeds of ornament sales will be a part of the yearly donation which the Academy Alumnae present to the Sisters of Charity of New York. If you'd like to order one, call 718-549-9200 x 245.

Chastellux is the largest residence in Tuxedo Park, NY. The house was donated to the Congregation in the 1940s and housed the Academy. Since 1977, the house has been privately owned, and is often the site of community musical and theatrical events.



A Special Place for Special People

by Sr. Constance Brennan, SC

The Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers was Mother Mary Fuller's dream for Sisters of Charity as they made the transition from active ministry to a life of prayer, service, and witness. Often referred to as "The House That Love Built," the Queen also temporarily hosts Sisters recuperating from surgery, injury or short-term illnesses.

Over the years, the Convent of Mary the Queen has evolved into a center of nursing, therapy, dietary, and relational excellence nurtured by the dedicated Sisters and lay people who comprise its administration and staff.

Sr. Mary Kay Finneran is the Convent's Administrator. She is ably assisted by Sisters Linda Giuli and Ellen Rose O'Connell, among others.

Sisters who have spent their life helping others are still ministering at the Convent, but in a different way. Former teachers, nurses, child care workers and administrators now nurture all whom they encounter during the day, even though there are fewer children among them. A staff member might ask a Sister for her opinion, knowing it is derived from long years of experience.

The Sisters' days are filled with Mass, prayer services for various occasions, occupational, physical and recreational therapy, and entertainment



Mother Mary Fuller

activities. Spa and Massage days are especially popular.

The Sisters participate in the life of their home by writing letters, creating computer handouts, and helping at clothing and jewelry sales for the benefit of Haiti. Holiday preparations include creating desserts and decorations.

The staff at the Queen arranges discussion groups, trips, and special programs such as a Holocaust Exhibit.

During the baseball season, enthusiastic Yankee and hopeful Met fans gathered

around the television screen in the Convent's community room to root for the home teams.

A recently-arrived Sister remarked, "I came here to retire, and now I am wondering when there is time to do that!"

Those who participate in our annual golf outing or donate to our development fund enable the Congregation to give back to the Sisters who gave "every service in their power" to those they met in their ministries. We are grateful for such support. ■

Sr. Constance Brennan is the Archivist for the Congregation. She experienced firsthand the warm, caring community at Mary the Queen while she recuperated from knee replacement surgery.

October Honorees

Sr. Margaret Donegan and Sr. Eileen T. Kelly were honored for their contributions to Saint Raymond Academy for Girls at the high school's 50th Anniversary Gala. Sister Margaret is in her 29th year teaching at the school; Sr. Eileen taught there for 12 years.

Sr. Mary Edward Zipf received the Ad Laudem Dei award from the College of Mount Saint Vincent. This honor is bestowed upon alumnae/i who have made lasting contributions to their fields and who embody the spirit of charity synonymous with the College's philosophy of giving back. Sister holds a Ph.D. in microbiology and is a professor of biology at the College where she has taught for 41 of her 54 years as an educator.



In Memoriam

Denise A. Montaruli, SC Associate

Denise became an Associate of the Congregation in December 2000, but her association with the Sisters began earlier. She graduated from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, taught for many years at St. Barnabas HS, and had worked in the Congregation's Office of New Membership.

Denise faithfully joined the Congregation at both its joyful and its solemn events. She generously served on the SC Worship Committee and on the advisory board

for Casa de Esperanza, and was especially close to the Sisters at Holy Name Convent, Manhattan.

In her home parish, St. Joseph's in Bronxville, Denise was very active. She was a Eucharistic Minister, coordinated the weekly family Mass and organized seasonal pageants and activities. Where there was a need, there was Denise.

Denise was the beloved wife of Tony and loving mother of Anthony, Mark and Amy Rose. She is survived also by her parents, Ann and Frank Caruso, and brother John Caruso. She entered eternal life on August 16, 2010.

Annual Memorial Mass

The Congregation remembered their Sisters, Associates and Former Members who had died since October 2009 at its annual Memorial Mass, held this year on Sunday, November 7.

The Liturgy was held in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent. It was celebrated by Fr. Joseph Tierney, a longtime friend of the Sisters who currently is president of Cardinal Hayes High School. Sr. Dorothy Metz, president of the Congregation, gave welcoming remarks.

As each decedent's name was read aloud, a chime was struck and a family member or friend carried a photo of the dearly departed up the center aisle of the church and placed it on St. Joseph's altar.

This year's Liturgy celebrated the lives of:

- Sisters Clara Regina Aylward, Mary de Sales Collins, Mary Perpetua Collins, Jeanne de Lourdes Potocek, Rita Dermody, Eleanor Gunn, Patricia Humphrey, Geraldine Little, Mary McCorken, Mary Martin Meehan, Eleanor O'Doherty, Dorothy Marie O'Brien and Elizabeth Reilly.
- Associate Denise Montaruli
- Former Members Elizabeth Finn, Barbara Fitzgerald, Mary Healy, and Mary Christine La Montagne.

After the service, brunch was served in Smith Hall for family members and friends. ■



After the service was completed, many of the guests came to St. Joseph's altar to review the portraits which were prepared by Sr. A. Jean Iannone.

In Memoriam



Sr. Mary Martin Meehan, SC **Nurse/Administrator**

Entered: 1945 • Final Vows: 1949

Age at death: 90 (7/22/10)

Of Sr. Martin, it was said that she was a nurse “to her fingertips.”

Twenty nine of her 53 years in active ministry were spent on Staten Island. As the Director of the School of Nursing at St. Vincent’s Medical Center, she became a strong advocate of nursing as a second career.

Sister also served on many committees within the Medical Center and in the wider civic community. She was a Board Member of Bayley Seton Hospital, and served on the Advisory Committee of Seaview Home and Hospital.

In her later years at Mary the Queen, Sister was an active, generous presence to all she encountered.

Sr. Martin is survived by two sisters, including Sr. Loretta John, SC (Josie), and several nieces & nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother John and her twin Catherine.

Ministries

Yonkers:

- St. Joseph’s Hospital, 1946-57
- Convent of Mary the Queen, 1967-70

Manhattan:

- St. Vincent’s Hospital, 1957-67

Staten Island:

- St. Vincent’s Medical Center, 1970-99
 - Director, School of Nursing, 1973-94
 - Volunteer, 1994-99

Sister received many honors for her work on Staten Island. When accepting the Dr. Richard Bayley Humanitarian Award, Sr. Martin said, “The award is not so much about me, but it is for all those who have helped me and supported me over the years”—a typical sentiment for Sister.



Sr. Elizabeth Reilly, SC **Educator**

Religious Name: Sr. Marita Elizabeth, SC

Entered: 1942 • Final Vows: 1948

Age at death: 86 (7/30/10)

Sr. Elizabeth was a devoted educator. She spent 32 years in elementary education, then, in 1976, began what would be 20 years teaching Religion and Social Studies on the high school level. In all, Sister taught at 10 schools in seven counties across three dioceses.

At age 72, Sister began what would be seven years volunteering at the Sisters of Charity Administrative Center at Mount Saint Vincent. There she served as the receptionist and cheerfully greeted all visitors and callers.

Though petite in stature, Sr. Elizabeth was a big presence wherever she worked. She was affectionately called “PJ” by those closest to her who remembered her birthplace in Port Jervis, NY.

Ministries

Bronx:

- Sts. Peter & Paul, 1944-50
- Sisters of Charity Center, 1996-2003

Manhattan

- Epiphany, 1967-70
- Our Lady of Good Counsel, 1970-74
- St. Ignatius Loyola, 1974-75

Brooklyn:

- St. John Baptist, 1950-59

Staten Island:

- St. Peter’s Elementary, 1975-76
- St. Peter’s HS for Girls, 1976-96

Outside New York City:

- Southampton: Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary, 1959-61
- Wappinger Falls: St. Mary, 1961-62
- Yonkers: St. Joseph, 1962-67

In Memoriam



Sr. Jeanne De Lourdes Potocek, SC **Educator/Administrator**

Entered: 1940 • Final Vows: 1946

Age at death: 97 (8/16/10)

Sr. Jeanne taught almost every grade on the elementary level over 52 years. She had deep devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes all her life and instilled this piety in the many children she met in her ministries of teaching, administration and religious education.

In her retirement, Sister continued as a substitute teacher and delighted in stories of her children. In her years at the Convent of Mary the Queen, she greeted all with a smile, a wink and a laugh. There was a special twinkle for those who gave her candy.

Sr. Jeanne was predeceased by her sister Sr. Anna Carmita, SC, who preceded her into the Congregation, and by her brother Msgr. Cyril Potocek, who was Assistant Chancellor of the Archdiocese in the 1950s. She had three other siblings.

Ministries

Bronx:

- St. Augustine, 1940-42
- Blessed Sacrament, 1942-59
- St. Raymond, 1959-66 & 1986-89
- St. Anthony, 1970-78 & 1979-80
(Administrative Assistant)
- Cardinal Spellman HS, 1990-91
(Alumni Office)
- Mount Saint Vincent Convent, 1991-92

Manhattan:

- Epiphany, 1978-79 & 1980-84 (Religious Education Coordinator)

Westchester

- Yonkers: St. Peter, 1966-69
- White Plains: St. John, 1969-70



Sr. Florence Simpson, SC **Educator/Administrator**

Entered: 1933 • Final Vows: 1939

Age at death: 94 (10/2/10)

Sr. Florence was a devoted educator for the 77 years of her religious ministry. Most of her service was in the field of teaching Spanish and her favorite ministries were with the poor, especially with Hispanic immigrants.

As a clinic registrar and interpreter in the ER at St. Joseph's Hospital, Sister is remembered as being "...paged as often as the doctors on duty."

After serving in six schools over 56 years, Sister had time to volunteer in her parish of Holy Name in New Rochelle. Over 19 years, Sr. Florence's activities included home visiting, teaching ESL at the Adult Learning Center, visiting the Doyle Senior Center, and ministering in the HOPE Community Center. She also enjoyed the Senior Book Club and was a Lector at Mass.

Sr. Florence was active until just recently, when she suffered a stroke.

Ministries

Bronx:

- St. Barnabas HS, 1975-86 (chaired the Modern Language Department)
- St. Raymond Academy, 1986-91

Manhattan:

- Blessed Sacrament, 1957-67

Staten Island:

- St. Peter's Elementary, 1935-46
- St. Peter's HS for Girls, 1946-57

Yonkers:

- Elizabeth Seton College, 1967-1973
- St. Joseph's Hospital, 1973-75

In October 2007, the AARP honored Sr. Florence for her volunteer service to the people of New Rochelle.

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The Fruits of Their Labor

Sr. Regina Bechtle is one of 14 contributors to the new book *Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Pathways Toward the Future*. Sister wrote an essay on "Saints as Models for Lay Ecclesial Ministers."

SC Associate Zeni Fox edited the book and also wrote a chapter. In her forward, Fox thanks Sr. Patricia Noone (one of our Jubilarians) for her "invaluable editorial expertise, as well as most welcome personal encouragement...."

Zeni is professor of pastoral theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University. She was an advisor to the US Bishops' Subcommittee which developed the document "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord." Lay ecclesial ministers are un-ordained coworkers with prelates and theologians.

The book is available in hardcover, paperback and Kindle formats from Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

SC Associate Retta Blaney contributed to *Taste of Broadway: Restaurant Recipes from NYC's Theater District*. This photo-filled paperback by food writer Carliss Retif Pond contains signature recipes from 31 eateries in the Times Square area and full-page quotes from 14 theater district professionals, including Retta.

She wrote about Broadway Blessing, the interfaith service that brings the theatre community together every September to ask God's blessing on the new season. Retta has produced this evening of song, dance and story since founding it in 1997. This year's Blessing celebrated the 50th anniversary of the publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the debut of "The Fantasticks," the longest-running musical in the world.

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



Sr. Margaret Beaudette, at left in photo, was present as her latest work was unveiled at its permanent home in the library plaza at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. The sculpture features two Assumption College students deep in conversation with Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption (Assumptionists).

This French order established Assumption College in 1904 and still sponsor it. The dedication ceremony was held during homecoming weekend in October and culminated the year-long international celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of Fr. d'Alzon. The unveiling was attended by 300 members of the College family. Sr. Margaret's studio is at Mount Saint Vincent. Her sculptures grace three continents.