

# Vision

SISTERS  
of CHARITY  
NEW YORK

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2, Spring 2006

## SCNY Hosts 1st Spirituality Day for Schools

by Patrice E. Athanasidy

Teach a person to fish ... feed that person for a lifetime!

On March 14, 2006, nearly 120 teachers, administrators and clergy celebrated their first Spirituality Conference Day on the grounds of Mount Saint Vincent on - the - Hudson. Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity, the day brought together elementary school personnel from five schools to share in a day meant to renew minds and hearts – to lift spirits.

Father Stephen P. Norton, president of John F. Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers, NY, was the keynote speaker. His focus was “Vocation of the Teacher” – giving encouragement to teachers who face the challenges of today’s society as seen in the faces of the students as they arrive each day.

In an interview with *Vision*, Fr. Steve said, “Once our teachers recognize their individual call to holiness, they can and will pass it along to the students. It seems to me that we are on the Emmaus journey. My prayer for this day is that we will have ‘our eyes opened’ and we will recognize the Master walking with us.”

The day – which included two talks by the dynamic Fr. Steve, meditative walks on the magnificent grounds, Mass and lunch – both fulfilled Diocesan requirements for this type of day and provided support and encouragement for the staff members who were present.

The Sisters of Charity were pleased and proud to continue their long tradition of Catholic Education through hosting this special day.

*(continued on page 5)*

*Sr. Genevieve Wetmore (rear left), an educational mentor at Fordham Graduate School, catches up with staff from Holy Name of Jesus School in Manhattan.*



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- Annual Development Report



## Letter from the President

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

Since Elizabeth Seton left New York for Baltimore in 1808 and set about forming a religious community and a Catholic boarding school for girls, education has continued to be a significant part of the history of the Sisters of Charity of New York as you shall see in this issue of *Vision*. Providing free Catholic education for poor children was Elizabeth's first objective. In order to accomplish this goal, she first opened an academy for boarding students and charged tuition. This money took care of the bills and enabled the Sisters to educate needy children without charge.

In 1817 Mother Seton sent three sisters to her native New York and we have been here ever since, carrying on the tradition of forming hearts and minds through Catholic education. It seems more important now than ever that young people be well informed, as well as formed, in their religion, so they may bear witness to Christ throughout their lives.

All of us, as a result of our baptism, are called to the fullness of holiness. Let us accept the challenge of passing on the knowledge and love of God to others, especially young adults and children.

In the Book of Daniel 12:3 we are told, "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

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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# Seeds of Learning: Mother Seton's Legacy

by Sr. Regina Bechtle

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton would be surprised to find herself called, not quite accurately, "Foundress of the Parochial School System." "All I did," she might say, "was to welcome three of our poor Savior's country children" to the free day school she and the first Sisters of Charity opened in Emmitsburg, MD, February 22, 1810. She had no idea that from this tiny seed, a veritable forest of Catholic schools would cover the nation.

Elizabeth, a born teacher, enthusiastically supported the bishops who saw education, especially of girls, as crucial for the future of the young U.S. church. Wave after wave of immigrants soon underscored that need. The first missions of Elizabeth's Sisters of Charity were orphanages in Philadelphia (1814) and New York (1817). Both began educational programs to serve poor day students. When the bishops at the First Plenary Council of Baltimore (1852) decreed that every parish should begin and support a free school, they built on an existing network largely shaped by the pioneering efforts of Sisters of Charity and other women religious.

Financial realism often led the Sisters to start "pay schools" or academies, on whose income they depended to underwrite the cost of free schools for the poor, who were their first priority.

To anxious parents, Elizabeth wrote regular reports on their child's progress (or lack thereof). Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fox of New York were no doubt relieved to hear her expert assessment of their three daughters at the Academy in 1816: "excellent natural dispositions...very attentive to their improvement in every thing proposed to them." Elizabeth found adolescent girls "more difficult to manage." Many high school teachers will readily agree.

Elizabeth's educational philosophy was simple. Always a mother, she believed that order and discipline were of little effect in the classroom without kindness: "If the heart is lost, all is lost."



*Academy schoolroom, the White House, Emmitsburg, MD*

Photo courtesy, Archives Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, MD

From 1810 until today, generations of Sisters of Charity educators and their dedicated lay colleagues have sown "the seeds of useful knowledge" (Rule of 1812) in the young...and not-so-young. The Sisters led and innovated as education evolved from one-room schoolhouses to ungraded classrooms to long-distance and lifelong learning. In honor of all educators, take a minute to remember that unforgettable teacher who made a difference in your life. If you have more time, please share your memories with 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.*

## **The Rule of 1812:**

The Rule of the Daughters of Charity in France served as a model for Elizabeth's new community in Emmitsburg, MD. It was adapted to accommodate her situation as a mother of five dependent children, and the community's emphasis on education (a major need in America) as well as charitable works. The Sisters discussed and accepted this modified Rule, and Archbishop Carroll formally approved it in January 1812.

**Excerpt from Chapter I, Article I** – "[The Sisters of Charity]... honor the Sacred Infancy of Jesus in the young persons... whose heart they are called upon to form to the love of God, the practice of every virtue, and the knowledge of religion, whilst they sow in their minds the seeds of useful knowledge....

...Above all things the Sisters will endeavor to form [the children's] hearts to a solid piety which [is] the chief motive of educating them."

## The Charism Continues

In this modern age there are many new ways to share the charism of the Sisters.

■ There are 92 parishes in the United States named in honor of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. We sent each a copy of our DVD *The Sisters of Charity Today* so they could include it in their celebrations of their namesake's feast day on January 4th.

We also sent copies of the video to the schools where our Sisters are currently teachers or administrators, as well as to schools that we had staffed in the past.



*Visitation School, Bronx, NY:*

*Sr. Constance Brennan works with her 6th grade students as they add exhibits to their hallway display honoring Mother Seton.*

■ Seton Hall University (SHU) in South Orange, NJ, is celebrating its Sesquicentennial Year over 15 months. It was founded in 1856 by Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, Elizabeth Ann Seton's nephew who became the first Bishop of Newark.

On February 24th, SHU celebrated St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Charter Day, the anniversary of the granting of its charter by the State of New Jersey in 1861. The SHU community reflected on its great history, and renewed the commitment to moral education that has been its foundation for 150 years.

The day's festivities included a dramatic presentation of "Dear Remembrances" — Mother Seton's letters and reflections on commitment, courage and charity. The Charter Day ceremonies concluded with a reception to welcome the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Multimedia Traveling Museum for a two month stay at the Walsh Library.

Sr. M. Irene Fugazy, SC, is the Project Creator and Director of the Traveling Museum, which debuted at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal in October 1998. Since then, the Museum has been displayed at area schools, colleges, hospitals, cathedrals and even at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Manhattan. The Museum's permanent home is at the College of Mount St. Vincent in the Bronx.

If you can't see the Museum in person, you can enjoy a virtual visit via its web site at [www.setonmuseum.org](http://www.setonmuseum.org). ■

## Jelly Jam

There were two Boxing Days last December — the traditional one on December 26th and a SCNY-exclusive one on December 1st. The earlier date was when six Sisters from Mount St. Vincent Convent gift-wrapped jellies made by Sr. Mary Liegey and Sr. Margaret Farrara.

The wrap party took place in the Community Room at Le Gras Hall. The work crew included Sisters Dorothy Emanuel, Margaret Aileen Fennell, Mary Elizabeth Kenny, Anna Marian Lascell, Miriam Agatha O'Dea, and Helen Scoltock. They completed 150 packages each containing two jars of jelly ready to go under Christmas trees.

The Jelly Sisters had a great year in 2005. Even though they produced 27% more than in 2004, all jellies were sold out by Christmas! The proceeds from the jelly sales support the Congregation's missions in Guatemala.

For more information on Sisters' Jellies, see the Fall 2005 issue of *Vision*. ■



*Sisters Anna Marian Lascell and Margaret Aileen Fennell carefully prepare packages for shipment.*

## Always in Our Hearts: Sr. Bobbie Ford



May 5th marked the fifth anniversary of Sr. Barbara Ford's death. She was remembered both in the United States and in Guatemala, where she was killed in 2001. In the summer issue of *Vision*, we will cover the memorial services which were in the final planning stages as we went to press with this spring issue.

Sr. Bobbie, as she was fondly known, first went to Guatemala in 1978 to care for those who were devastated by several earthquakes. She spent most of the rest of her life there and was working in the Diocese of Quiche when she died at age 62.

Monsenor Julio Cabrera Ovalle, the Bishop of the Diocese of Quiche, wrote in 2001 to the Sisters at Mount St. Vincent about working with Sr. Bobbie.

*"There are no words to express what Sister Barbara meant to (Quiche)...the most martyred diocese in Latin America.... She saw things clearly; she knew the problems...but never spoke poorly of anyone. She saw the positive in each person and was always ready to work for the good of the people.... Thank you for giving us this Sister who shared her Christian love with all of the Diocese of Quiche. Truly, 'no one has a greater love than the one who gives her life for her friends.' That is what Sister Barbara has done."*

There are five Sisters of Charity of New York on mission in Guatemala these days: Sr. Immaculata Burke, Sr. Eileen Judge, Sr. Mary Meyler, Sr. Virginia Searing and Sr. Marie Tolle. ■

### Spirituality Day... (continued from page 1)

There is hope that even more schools will be interested in this reflective day next year – an annual event may be starting! Sister Helen McGovern, SC, explained that the Sisters have been supporting educational endeavors since 1822 when they opened their first school at Saint Patrick's on Mott Street in Manhattan. Saint Elizabeth Seton, an educator herself, must have rejoiced to see this day honoring educators. Over the years since the 1800's, the Sisters opened many schools and then turned them over to others as they moved to new ventures – always with needs and their Mission in mind.

This Spirituality Day is a new way for the Sisters of Charity to remain connected, concerned about and supportive of Catholic education today. While fewer in number now in schools, the minds and hearts of our Sister educators remain with the staff and youth of today who are facing the unique challenges of this time in history. The Congregation sponsored the Spirituality Day to acknowledge the importance of teaching – of each teacher and administrator.

The day recognized the great contributions of those present and rejoiced in their commitment to the youth of the five parishes represented:

From Manhattan: Holy Name of Jesus  
From the Bronx: Our Lady of Angels; St. John Chrysostom; Sts. Peter and Paul; Visitation. ■

*Patrice E. Athanasidy has been an Associate since 1997. She served as Director of Public Relations and Publications at the College of Mount Saint Vincent before going freelance in 1998. Patrice now writes grants for Good Counsel Homes and writes for several not-for-profits, while caring for her three children.*

### Spring

by Sr. Jean Miriam Donachie

A bough-borne  
sheaf or leaf.  
A color beauty  
burst of bloom.  
The splendor smell  
of sapling tree.  
And, winter-won,  
death-done  
Spring rises  
from the tomb!

## Bridge Building Self Awareness

by Sr. Joy Pellegrino

°°The life of a high school student can be pretty stressful — pressure to succeed academically, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, relationship issues as well as planning for college.... All can contribute to a sense of over-load. To the rescue: *vision mapping*, an opportunity to center oneself through an experience of guided meditation. Conducted at the Elizabeth Seton Women’s Center in Manhattan, the specific goal of vision mapping is to “move the individual closer to manifesting their dreams.”



*Volunteer Dianne Marino and Sr. Arleen Ketchum, SC, Director of ESWC are flanked by students Maria and Marlene (left) and Diane and Becky (right). The girls discussed their experience after completing their collages.*

Led by volunteer Dianne Marino, students from St. Raymond Academy in the east Bronx were invited to create a personal collage using images and words from magazines. The process began with Dianne reminding the young women of their God-given unique “interests and desires.”

Working to the soothing sounds of Pachelbel’s *Kanon*, each participant began by selecting a symbol for the center of her collage and enhanced the arrangement through placement of graphics which held personal significance. Described as an “extremely private process,” the focus of identifying one’s center was linked to being in touch with God’s plan and the ability to actualize specific skills for themselves and others.

After completing their collages, Dianne and Sr. Arleen Ketchum helped the students process their experience.

The responses of the young women support the benefits of vision mapping:

- “It was unique, because we don’t get to express ourselves that way.”
- “My life is very stressful; it was a way to relax.”
- “A new method to learn about yourself, to organize your thoughts and feelings.”
- “...A chance to think about things you don’t ordinarily think about.”

Marlene, a senior, summed it up well: “Helping others is our mission. A good way to help others is to take care of yourself first.”

As a creative activity, it is suggested that vision mapping be done a number of times. It is a good way to record visions and note how they have evolved or shifted over a period of time. Based on the enthusiastic reactions of the Bridge Building participants, they seem ready for round two. ■

You don’t have to be a high school student to attend a seminar at the Elizabeth Seton Women’s Center in Manhattan. All are welcomed to check out Vision Mapping and other workshops at [www.teswc.org](http://www.teswc.org) or call 212-579-3657.

*Sr. Joy Pellegrino is the Director of Bridge Building, a program of faith formation designed to help high school students experience the spirit of charity through site visits and theological reflection sessions. As a member of the Congregation’s Formation Team, Sr. Joy also serves as Candidate Director.*

## Associate Commitment Day

by Sr. Mary Gallagher

At a gathering of the Congregation, three women became new Associates of the Sisters of Charity on Saturday, March 18, 2006. They join the other 63 men and women who have made this commitment since the program began in 1976.



Associate Ned Murphy, SJ, celebrated the liturgy and Sister Dorothy Metz, SC, President of the Congregation, presented each new Associate with a copy of the Mission Statement, a New Testament, and the Associate pin.

The three new Associates are listed below:

**Mary Barrett Herbst** is a former member of the Congregation and retired teacher who lives with her husband Jerry in Patterson, NY. She writes in her contract, “to be an Associate is not only what I want but also what I feel God wants for me now. I want to be associated because I have always been associated...”

**Nancy Burkley** met the Sisters while she was employed as Director of Communication for the Sisters of Charity. She lives in Briarcliff Manor, NY, with her husband John and daughter Julia and says, “The Sisters have forever influenced the way I think, feel and act as a Christian... I desire to be associated with your Congregation on a continuing basis.”

**Margaret Comaskey** is a former member of the Congregation who lives in the Bronx. With a Ph.D. in Chemistry, she serves as a consultant for scientific textbook publishers. Margaret also volunteers to archive the

Congregation’s photo collection so pictures can be retrieved electronically. She writes, “Membership as an Associate will, I hope, provide me with the support and encouragement of Associates and Sisters in hearing God’s call more clearly and following it where it leads me.”

Earlier that day, during a special prayer service, 12 Associates renewed their commitments to live the mission and charism of the congregation. These Associates are Jean Anthony, Theresa Geraci Bellacosa, Retta Blaney, Linda Considine, Chris Gallagher, Bill Hurley, Raphaela Iletto, Robert Jacklosky, Diane McEntee, Denise Montaruli, Lydia Ocasio, and Concordia Soriano.

As the assembly gathered for prayer, these Associates gathered around a table and were presented with a candle. During the service, a Sister came to each Associate and lit her/his candle to signify the bonding and interdependence existing between Associates and Sisters. This service closed with the music group leading all Sisters and Associates in singing *Go Light Your World*. A celebratory meal followed into which the energy and passion of this ritual overflowed.

Learn more about these new associates and view photos on the web site—[www.scny.org/join\\_associate.html](http://www.scny.org/join_associate.html).

For more information about the Associate Program, please contact Sr. Mary Gallagher at 718-549-9409 or [Mgallagher@scny.org](mailto:Mgallagher@scny.org) ■

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

## Memories of Charity

Readers of *Vision* often reminisce about Sisters of Charity who have touched their lives. Here are a few examples.

“Sr. Margaret Dowling was the principal of St. Augustine’s when I was in the 1st-6th grades. When I was in the first grade, she called me into her office during the time when St. Augustine’s was having a bazaar. She placed 10 shining dimes in my hand and told me to enjoy myself. Sr. Claire Marie (her name then) was always kind and good to me.”

Margaret Hanley, NY

“I am volunteering as a tutor for non-English speaking people in memory of Sr. Miriam Matthew O’Connell who inspired me so much as one of her students.”

Barbara Doyle, FL

These days, Sr. Margaret organizes retreats and is involved in human rights education and advocacy. Sr. Matthew passed away on January 24, 2005. ■

Do you have a memory of charity  
that you’d like to share?  
If so, please send it to us.

# A Century of Excellence

by Chris Haggerty

One of the legendary educators in our Congregation racked up another achievement on November 28th – she celebrated her 100th birthday!

Sr. Mary Perpetua Collins was feted over a two-day period at the Convent of Mary the Queen by relatives, friends and former students. She also received many cards and phone calls from well-wishers.

Edward Cardinal Egan of New York sent a lovely letter of congratulations and appreciation for her 82 years in the Congregation. Philip Amicone, the Mayor of Yonkers, issued a proclamation in her honor. News 12 Westchester sent a crew to cover the festivities and aired the story on her birthday.



*Sr. Mary Perpetua Collins (center) looks on as Sr. Mary Kay Finneran (right), Administrator at Mary the Queen, reads the official proclamation from the Mayor of Yonkers so that all present can appreciate it. Visible behind them (from left) are Sisters Margaret Farrara, Elizabeth Reilly and Constance Horan. Partially hidden behind Sr. Margaret is Sr. Mary Ambrose O'Grady.*

Sr. Perpetua began her teaching career in 1926 at Blessed Sacrament Academy in Manhattan. She joined the staff of the newly-opened St. Gabriel's School in the Bronx in 1942 and served as its principal from 1946 to 1958. Under her guidance, school enrollment grew by 380%, audio-visual equipment was procured, an unusually complete library was built up, and an orchestra and children's choir were established.

After Sr. Perpetua left St. Gabriel's, she served as principal at other schools:

- St. Lawrence Academy in Manhattan (1958-1960)
- St. Gregory in Harrison (1960-1964)
- Elizabeth Seton Academy in Yonkers (1964-1966)
- Academy of Mount St. Vincent in Tuxedo Park (1966-1970)

Even now, she is known as “a principal's principal.”

Sister also served as librarian at St. Bernard's in Manhattan (1971-1982), then was coordinator at Mount St. Vincent Convent (1983-1985). She found overseeing the welfare of her fellow Sisters to be the most rewarding ministry of her career.

These days, Sister takes full advantage of the activities at Mary the Queen, including bingo. She asks her visitors to bring her candy “for her girls” – the attendants at the convent. She enjoys hearing from former students, and had recently received letters from alumnae from St. Lawrence Academy, which closed in 1960.

She always had a good sense of humor and still loves a good joke. She is very prayerful and continues to use “Mother Mary's Prayer Book” which came out in the 1940's. ■

*Chris Haggerty is the Director of External Communications for the Congregation. She is a graduate of the College of Mount St. Vincent.*

## Sisters Hill Farm

At press time, there are still a few shares available for Sisters Hill Farm in Stanfordville, NY, central Dutchess County. To join, **download the application** at <http://www.sistershillfarm.org/html/join.html> or call 845-868-7048. Shareholders get 4-15 lbs. of a variety of vegetables each week, June through November. Produce can be picked up:

- **At the farm:** Tuesdays [4-6pm] or Saturdays [8-11am]
- **In the Bronx:** Tuesdays, at Mount St. Vincent [4-6pm] \*

A share costs \$475 for the season and can be paid all at once or in installments. Please see the website for details. ■

\* Volunteers needed to help distribute shares. If interested, call Sr. Helen Scoltock at 718-549-9200 X260



## Winter Wonders for the Sisters

At the Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers, our retired Sisters enjoy a wide variety of activities. In addition to the events shown here, there's cookie making, walk-a-thons, bingo, book discussions, arts and crafts, and a spa for massages, manicures, and facials. The Sisters also host visiting school students and therapy dogs, too. When it's warm enough, they'll release butterflies into the gardens.



### Zoo to Go

*John Burkitt of Bronx Zoo Outreach introduces Sr. Mary Ambrose O'Grady to the charms of a chinchilla. Sr. Marie Trinita Flood, who was visiting that day, looks on. The Zoo's Outreach program brings tractable animals to those who can't visit there easily.*

### Queens for a Day

*On the 12th day of Christmas, the Sisters and staff at Mary the Queen celebrated Three Kings Day with a Dessert Party. In addition to lots of sweets to eat, there was a sing-a-long, led by Sr. Theresa Gravino, and other activities.*



## You've Only Got One Mother Earth

by Sr. Mary Ann Garisto

April 20th marked the 36th Earth Day. Of special concern this year is global warming. Over the last 30 years, an area of Arctic Sea ice roughly the size of Texas – 400,000 square miles – has melted, reducing the traditional habitat of polar bears and further accelerating the effects of climate change.

What can you do about one of the most urgent threats facing humanity today? One easy first step would be to join the virtual march at [www.stopglobalwarming.org](http://www.stopglobalwarming.org). ■

*Sr. Mary Ann Garisto is the Director of Ecological/Global Concerns for the Sisters of Charity of New York.*

## A Safe Place to Call Home

by Chris Haggerty

In our last issue, we reported on housing projects sponsored directly by the Congregation. In this one, we'll start to look at housing that we sponsor *indirectly* – developments sponsored by institutions that we sponsor.

St. Joseph's Medical Center was founded in 1888 by the Sisters of Charity of New York to meet the health care needs of Yonkers, NY, and surrounding communities. It has grown dramatically over the years in response to new developments in medicine and the needs of the area.



*Griffin House is on South Broadway in Yonkers, directly across the street from St. Joseph's Medical Center.*

One of its expanded roles is to provide safe, affordable housing for frail, low-income elderly.

Its first foray into this ministry, Griffin House, opened on April 29, 2005. It is named in honor of William and Margaret Griffin, of Yonkers, in recognition of their dedication, commitment and generosity to St. Joseph's and the Yonkers community.

Residents in this 81-unit building have easy access to the full resources of St. Joseph's Medical Center, including diagnostic testing, emergency room and home health care. They also enjoy amenities that

include a community room, library and beauty parlor. A Service Coordinator is available to assist residents in accessing needed health and social services.

Griffin House was subsidized by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This project went so well that St. Joseph's was asked to oversee the construction of another house a few blocks away. Ludlow House will offer 81 one- and two-bedroom apartments and can accommodate up to 160 persons. It is tentatively scheduled to open for occupancy in early 2007.

Both senior housing units are an extension of St. Joseph's already comprehensive services for older adults, including St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Sister Mary Linehan Pavilion; Long Term Home Health Care; an Adult Day Care and an inpatient geriatric unit.

Sr. Mary Linehan, former President and CEO of St. Joseph's, and Sr. Margaret Brick are both members of the Board of St. Joseph's Medical Center Senior Housing Development Fund Corporation. ■



*Ludlow House is rising on Riverdale Avenue in Yonkers, approximately halfway between St. Joseph's Medical Center and St. Peter's Church.*

## Happenings and Honors

### A March to Remember

In recognition of Black History Month, the February issue of *Catholic Digest* featured women who made a difference in America's civil rights struggle. It included the Sisters of Charity of New York who on March 14, 1965 flocked to Harlem to take part in a march against racial inequality. This was an unprecedented act for the Congregation, but one urged by Mother Loretto Bernard who was then Mother General.

The Sisters had been teaching at St. Paul's School on E. 117th St. since 1872, so they were no strangers to the area. But it was unusual to see 700 Sisters in full traditional habits arriving by bus, subway and train to march, hold protest signs and sing *We Shall Overcome* with others protesting racial discrimination.

### Environmental Victory

For over ten years, the Sisters of Charity of New York (SCNY) have worked with other religious organizations to hold General Electric accountable for cleaning up waterways into which it had discharged toxic PCBs – including the Hudson River, which flows by Mount St. Vincent. On January 10th, the TRI-State Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) finally got GE to acknowledge that it had spent \$800 million over 15 years to *delay* the cleanup. CRI is an alliance of Roman Catholic institutional investors primarily located throughout the NY metropolitan area. Its members utilize their power as shareholders to hold corporations accountable to social and environmental concerns.

Sr. Claire Regan is the current corporate responsibility coordinator for SCNY. Other Sisters in our congregation who worked towards this day over the years included Sr. Regina Murphy, Sr. Kathleen Gilbride, and the late Sr. Virginia Unsworth.

### Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Sr. Eileen Storey, who died last December, was remembered at a memorial service hosted by Pax Christi Metro New York on January 26 at the NYU Catholic Center Chapel. She was honored as a peace activist who also led houses of prayer in the archdiocese. Several people shared personal stories of how Sr. Eileen had touched their lives.

### No Woman is an Island

Sr. Mary Martin Meehan was honored on December 7th at the 50th anniversary of the Soroptimist International Society of Women of Staten Island. This chapter placed their former president on the international roster of "Women of Achievement." Soroptimist is comprised of business and professional women who volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls in their community; it operates

in 120 countries. Sister Mary Martin was Director of the School of Nursing of St. Vincent's Hospital on Staten Island and worked with Soroptimist for 30 years.

### The Play Was Just the Thing

The Charity Response Team Ministries were the beneficiary of a special December performance in Manhattan of *Missionaries*. This choral drama by award-winning composer Elizabeth Swados was produced by theater writer Retta Blaney, who is an Associate of the Congregation. After the performance, five of our Sisters who have ministered in Guatemala led a discussion of the missionary experience. This production honored the 25th anniversary of the murder of three sisters and one lay woman in El Salvador in 1980.

### Art for More Than Art's Sake

Sr. Margaret Beaudette received a Mother Teresa Award "for her role as American Artist — especially in the fields of sacred art and sculpture." These awards were founded to recognize the achievements of those who beautify the world, especially in the fields of religion, social justice and the arts. A total of 33 individuals were honored, including Pope John Paul II.

Sister's sculptures grace churches, hospitals, shrines and universities across the U.S. They are also found in Bermuda, Canada, Haiti, Korea and at Lourdes, France.

### 121 Years of Service Remembered

The Sisters of Charity of New York were one of three congregations of nuns honored on November 11th for their long service in Rockland County. SCNY opened St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet in 1884 and also started schools in Haverstraw and Stony Point. The tribute was organized by County Legislator John Murphy to honor the Irish and Irish-American nuns who looked after the needs of Irish immigrants. Ireland's Consul General participated in the ceremony which was held at the county's new Great Hunger Memorial in Orangetown. Also honored that day were the Dominican Sisters at Blauvelt and Sparkill. Sr. Rita King, archivist for the Congregation, gave a short address about the Congregation's history in Rockland County, NY.

### Author! Author!

In October, the fifth edition of *Henke's Med-Math: Dosage Calculation, Preparation & Administration* was issued. Sr. Grace Henke, RN, MSN, EdD, wrote this guide for health professionals on safe and effective drug administration. To date, over 151,000 copies have been sold. Susan Buchholz, RN, MSN, authored the CD-ROM which was added to the book for the 4th edition. ■

**BOOK REVIEW**

## The Yellow Brick Road: A Storyteller's Approach to the Spiritual Journey

by William J. Bausch

© 1999, Twenty-Third Publications, 311 pages

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by Sr. Theresa Gravino

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When my pastor suggested this book for spiritual reading, I wondered how a fairy tale could help me on my faith journey. Could the characters of Oz actually deal with things spiritual?

Father Bausch is a master storyteller and the author of over 20 books. He is a retired priest of the Diocese of Trenton, NJ, who still works at a local parish and is a lecturer, consultant and retreat director.

In this book, he has us walking down the Yellow Brick Road and discovering that the challenges that faced Dorothy, the Tin Man, Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion are much like the ones we encounter on our spiritual journey.

With the Tin Man, he speaks of “heart hurts” that can be healed by following the “7 C’s”: control, care, career, consolidation, ceremony, contemplation and Christ.

He reminds us that we all have a Glinda (the good witch) in our lives who is always ready to help and encourage us on our way. Interesting life stories are recounted connecting with the author’s themes. His questions at the end of each chapter invite us to reflect on our own lives and perhaps find new insights that will be helpful on our own spiritual journey. His book was delightful to read, informative and inspirational as well. ■

*Sr. Theresa Gravino currently is a volunteer at the Convent of Mary the Queen and at St. Joseph’s School for the Deaf.*

**MOVIE REVIEW**

## The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

**RATINGS:** The USCCB = A-II, adults & adolescents. The MPAA = PG, parental guidance suggested; for battle sequences and frightening moments. **RUNTIME:** 140 minutes

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by Patrice E. Athanasidy

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*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, released by Disney this past winter, brought C.S. Lewis’ tale to life and introduced the story (with an incredible amount of Christian imagery) to a whole new generation. The movie has caused copies of the book to fly off bookshelves worldwide.

My first introduction to this story about four bored children who discover an entire world in an old wardrobe was in my Christian Humanism class in high school. All the usual good story elements are used in this book, which is filled with mystical creatures, sibling rivalry, coming of age moments, and heroes and villains.

Since I have not read the book lately, the movie seems to hold very true to the story I remember. When discussing it with those who have read the book more recently, I have heard that the main themes are there, but some poetic license has definitely been taken. This does not harm the story, however.

Children of all ages will be fascinated as they follow Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter on their adventure. My children are still acting out the story weeks later—the sign of a story that has totally captured their imaginations. (In fact, I was informed by my oldest that it would really help to have one more baby—preferably a boy, so that they would have all four children for their pretend time.)

*(continued on page 13)*

# Slavery Today: Human Trafficking

by Sr. Claire E. Regan

In May 2001, the members of the International Union of Superiors General, including Sr. Dorothy Metz, President of the Congregation, declared their commitment to address the trafficking of women. The following August, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious here in the U.S. reaffirmed its concern about this lucrative multi-national business. Women religious here and abroad are gathering to take action against this heinous crime.

“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of force...or the giving or receiving of payments...for the purpose of exploitation.” (Article 3, UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons) Victims of trafficking are predominantly women and children who are forced into unpaid labor, debt bondage, coerced prostitution or sexual servitude. It is estimated that 800,000 to 900,000 people worldwide are trafficked each year and that close to 20,000 are trafficked into the United States.

The Sisters of Charity of New York have joined together with 23 local religious communities to educate people on this crime and to foster comprehensive legislative responses to it in New York State. Workshops have been held in New Rochelle and in Queens. Testimony has been given to a committee of State Senators on the merits and shortcomings of proposed legislation. Meetings with legislators and phone calls with their aides have brought to the fore such issues

as punishment of the “johns,” supportive services for victims, and the right of victims to sue their traffickers.

Our Congregation has also sent letters to the State Assembly Codes Committee to support specific measures which are being debated during this session of the State legislature. Bills in both chambers will be voted on in June and we will conduct a phone campaign urging their passage.

Women religious hope to work with local police departments to offer sensitivity training to these first responders. We also are assessing our translation capabilities. Congregations are exploring the establishment of safe houses where victims of trafficking could find shelter and be supported as they work with police and immigration, social and legal services workers in the adjudication of their cases.

Our Sister of Charity constitution calls us to be “women of healing, sensitive to the wounds of persons.” This issue of trafficking evokes from us a compassionate and committed response to link legal, enforcement, and social services to prosecute the criminals and protect the victims. ■

*Sr. Claire E. Regan has been the Justice Effectiveness & Corporate Responsibility Coordinator for SCNY for seven years. Before that, she spent many years working with the poor and homeless of East Harlem. Sister served on the Board of the NYC Coalition Against Hunger for five years, and is a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.*

## Movie Review... (continued from page 12)

Disney spared no expense creating a believable imaginary land with memorable creatures. The battle scenes, which truly pit good against evil, filled the theater with sights and sounds that made me hold my breath for long periods of time.

I don't want to give too much away here, but you will find yourself drawing comparisons to Biblical figures as you watch the movie. Lewis has a way of leaving no doubt

about the messages he is trying to share, yet in one interview he said that this was not his original intent. He was surprised by peoples' reactions — he was just trying to tell a good story.

*Chronicles* is now out on DVD. I highly recommend it and I look forward to seeing the next segment of the story when it comes out for Christmas 2007. ■

# Accountability is Job One

by Bill Hurley

Accountability is the “new” word being spoken in the boardrooms of both corporate and not-for-profit organizations. We can all understand why. During the late nineties and well into this decade we have read the stories of broken trust, about corporations “cooking the books.”

At the administrative offices of the Sisters of Charity of New York, we continue to strive to maintain a sense of transparency coupled with a strong commitment to accountability. As a religiously affiliated organization we enjoy the privilege of being exempt from filing various state and federal reports. We view this exemption as a privilege, granted because we hold ourselves to an even greater authority. However, this exemption does not mean we are exempt from maintaining best governance practices. As a religious congregation of women, we are governed both civilly and canonically and adhere to the rules of both authorities.

Our commitment to best financial and governance practices is strong. Our operations are audited annually by an independent certified public accounting firm. In addition to a total organization audit, they review our fundraising systems and practices, income and expenses. The firm of O’Connor Davies Munns and Dobbins, LLP report their findings directly to our Board of Trustees.

As Director of Development, I sign two Codes of Ethical Conduct annually. One is for the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the second is for the National Catholic Development Conference. As a “Certified Fundraising Executive,” I also agree to perform my responsibilities in accordance with a series of prescribed best practices among Catholic organizations.

As a member of the Accountability Taskforce of the National Catholic Development Conference, I assisted in developing the following Call to Accountability, which will shortly be incorporated into our “*Precepts of Stewardship*,” our guide for ethical fundraising practices.

*“As Catholic development professionals, our ministry is to promote the mission of our organizations. As stewards of this outreach, we hold ourselves personally responsible for the viability, growth and integrity of our organization’s capacity to further its respective sense of mission.*”

*How clearly and authentically do we proclaim this mission?  
How do we excite, invite and engage others in our mission?  
What do we do to nurture and enrich the relationships we build with others through their participation in our mission?  
Do we believe in fiscal transparency, consistency and sound business performance? Do we seek best practices as a standard? Do we educate others to this responsibility?*

*To be true to our mission, it must be protected. Accountability is a step toward assuring such protection. Through accountability we assure those we serve - clients, benefactors, employees, volunteers and board members - of our organization’s integrity, commitment to ethical values, effective self-governance and adherence to our mission.”*

We, at the Sisters of Charity of New York, feel it is important to share this information with you. It is also important that we share the results of our fundraising efforts with you each year.

## Vision 2000

Impelled by the love of Christ, and yearning to live our Eucharistic Heritage more passionately in this time of Charity, we, Sisters of Charity of New York, joyfully bonded in mission celebrate our corporate vision. As ecclesial women in collaboration with our associates and with all who seek to renew the face of the earth, we focus our energies to embody this vision:

- to be visible, effective risk takers standing with and for the poor
- to respond to the needs of women and value women’s experience
- as sisters, weaving our gifts into the fabric of contemporary society
- to reverence creation in a spirit of interconnectedness with all that is, living responsibly.

We claim the power of our charism, clothing ourselves in humility, simplicity and charity so that the power of God may do through us more than we can ask or imagine.

These virtues of humility, simplicity and charity have been qualities we have actively pursued since our community was founded. Today, we continue to try to live these virtues as 21st century women, who strive to witness to the love of Christ in our world.

## Report on the 2004-2005 Development Fund

The Sisters of Charity of New York established their Development Fund in 1989. Through this account passes all donations raised from the public in support of the mission of the Congregation.

As we began our 2005 fiscal year on October 1, 2004, the fund held a balance of \$1,445,707. Of this amount, \$677,807 was restricted by either our benefactors or our Board for specific reasons. Improvements at our three retirement homes accounted for about two thirds of these funds. Funding of special projects in Guatemala was approved by the Board in the amount of \$44,402. We have set aside \$7,025 for the needs of our farm project. We also provided \$117,500 to direct ministry services.

An additional \$677,807 was held for disbursement during our fiscal year. By year's end, the Board had allocated \$407,916 for retirement funding, \$81,061 for foreign mission needs and \$79,729 in educational, health and welfare grants to schools and ministries having an active relationship to the Congregation.

Congregation celebrations such as the annual Memorial Mass for deceased Sisters and outreaches to former members amounted to \$5,250. The remainder was held for additional allocations during the year.

Our fundraising costs, inclusive of campaign expenses amounted to \$237,423. It is always our desire to hold this amount to less than 25% of funds raised. We are pleased that, this year, it amounts to only 12.5 %. This is our attempt to be good stewards of our benefactors' gifts.

Beginning on October 1, 2004 and ending on September 30, 2005, we raised the following:

Bequests, Annuities and Planned Gifts	\$1,315,518
Direct Mail Appeals	123,637
Direct Appeals and Memorial Gifts	300,284
Mount St. Vincent Convent Campaign	103,166
Grants, Corporate and Event Support	48,500
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$1,891,105</b>

Thus, the Development Fund held \$1,653,682 at year's end. Of this amount, \$535,472 is newly restricted by benefactors for special use. The Board of Trustees has also allocated:

- \$250,000 to the renovations at Mount St. Vincent Convent
- \$110,000 to the Sisters of Charity Multi-Service Center, (AKA Casa de Esperanza) in southwest Yonkers
- \$100,000 to the funding of the Elizabeth Seton Women's Center

These last two are both ministries that the Congregation began as part of its Vision 2000 commitment to serve today's poor. During the year we made a number of Ministry Grants in your name. These grants provide us a means to be supportive of Sisters whether they receive direct support from our congregation or minister at an independent site.

One such grant was made to the Life Experience and Faith Sharing Association where Sisters Dorothy Gallant and Rosemary O'Donnell minister. This organization forms faith communities among people who are homeless through its work in shelters, drop-in centers, drug rehabilitation programs and an HIV/AIDS residence. Our \$5,000 grant enabled them to continue their efforts without eliminating any of their team positions. With the exception of the two Sisters, team members themselves experienced the supportive prayer and services of the Association. Through them, the weekly sessions at various locations continue. Team members share their own experiences and help participants search for direction and solutions.

A second \$5,000 grant went to Caritas de El Quiché: Casa Nueva Vida. Sr. Mary Meyler developed this program which provides rehabilitation and recuperation services for chemically dependent persons and their families in Santa Cruz, Guatemala. It recently began to serve women as well as men. Sister Mary now needs to introduce a greater variety of programs. Our funds allowed her to build sheltered outdoor space for these activities. ■

*Bill Hurley has been Director of Development for nine years and an Associate for six years. He is a "Certified Fund Raising Executive" (CFRE), and serves on the Board of the National Catholic Development Conference.*

## *In Memoriam*

### **Sr. Miriam Martin Dixon, Educator / Administrator, 5/13/1919 - 12/11/2005**

Sr. Miriam Martin was a dedicated teacher who taught on all grade levels. She grew up in Brooklyn and entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1940. Sister taught at St. Peter's, Staten Island, (1943-1953), St. Peter's, Poughkeepsie (1953-1959) and at St. Ignatius Loyola School, Manhattan (1959-1967). In 1967, she was missioned to Blessed Sacrament School in Manhattan where she would work for almost 40 years. When Sister retired from education, she remained in the parish and served where needed. In her retirement, she visited parishioners and took an active role in the parish soup kitchen. Sr. Martin served faithfully for over 65 years.

### **Sr. Mary Nazaretta Shayne, Educator, 1/6/1914 - 1/8/2006**

Sr. Mary Nazaretta Shayne entered the Sisters of Charity on February 2, 1934. Her entire ministry was in education. She taught for 20 years at St. Barnabas Elementary School in the Bronx, then at St. Brigid's (1954-1956) and at Our Lady of Good Counsel (1965-1968), both in Manhattan. She was assigned to the Congregation's mission in The Bahamas (1956-1962), and then was missioned to Our Lady Star of the Sea on Staten Island (1962-1965). She also was a teacher and assistant principal at St. John the Evangelist in Center Moriches, LI. Sister is fondly remembered at St. Margaret of Cortona School in the Bronx where she both taught and assisted in the office (1972-1986). She continued as an office worker there until retiring to the Convent of Mary the Queen in 1995. She shared her expertise with good humor and compassionate understanding. Sr. Nazaretta died in the 72nd year of her religious life.

### **Sr. Mary Thaddeus Stadler, Educator, 10/28/1919 - 1/10/2006**

Sr. Thaddeus's entire ministry was devoted to education. She entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1942. In the Bronx, Sister taught at the Academy of Mount St. Vincent (1942-1943), St. Barnabas High School (1944-1945), Our Lady of Angels (1949-1950) and Visitation (1960-1966). In Manhattan, she enriched students at these parish schools: Holy Cross (1945-1946), Blessed Sacrament (1946-1949), Sacred Heart (1950-1954), Epiphany (1966-1971), and St. Patrick's Old Cathedral (1971-1975). Sister also taught adults in the Outreach Program at Grace Institute (1975-1988). In Yonkers, Sister was on staff at St. Joseph's (1954-1960). Even after "retiring," she tutored students at St. Agatha's Home, Nanuet (1989-1999). Sister Thaddeus often spoke of her gratitude to God for His love, for her family and friends, and for all those who worked with and for her. We are grateful for her 64 years of service.

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