



SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

Vision

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1, Winter 2008 / 2009

The 2008 Jubilarians Honored

The Sisters of Charity of New York paid tribute to their Diamond and Golden Jubilarians with a Liturgy and reception at Mount Saint Vincent on September 6th. On that day, one Sister celebrated 75 years in vowed religious life; 11 others celebrated 50 years. The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception was filled to capacity with family and friends of the honorees.

The principal celebrant of the Liturgy that sweltering Jubilee Saturday was Fr. Paul Fagan, CP. He was assisted by eleven concelebrants. Sr. Pauline Cinquini, herself a Golden Jubilarian, gave a welcoming address. She recalled how Pope Pius XII had died within two months of her entering, of the changes that came under Pope John XXIII and the many new ministries that the winds of change added to the traditional ones of teaching, nursing and child care. Sister also explained the symbolism of the Congregational pin that the Jubilarians received that day.

The Diamond Jubilarian: 75 years

Sr. Florence Simpson has taught at six schools since beginning her career in

education in 1935.

On Staten Island, at St. Peter's Elementary (1935-46) and High School (1946-57). In Manhattan, at Blessed Sacrament (1957-67). In Yonkers, at Elizabeth Seton College (1967-1973). In the Bronx, at St. Barnabas High School (1975-86) where she chaired the Modern Language Department for 7 years, and at St. Raymond Academy (1986-91).

From 1973-75, Sister was a clinic registrar and interpreter in the emergency room at St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers, where she is remembered as being "...paged as often as the doctors on duty."

In October 2007, Sr. Florence was honored by the American Association of Retired Persons for her service to the people of New Rochelle, where Sister has lived and worked for 17 years. Her many activities in Holy Name Parish include home visiting, teaching ESL at the Adult Learning Center, visiting the Doyle Senior Center, and ministering in the HOPE Community Center. She also enjoys the Senior Book Club.

Sister's favorite ministries have been with the poor, especially with Hispanic immigrants.

The Golden Jubilarians: 50 years

Sr. Pauline Cinquini (Sr. Peter Marie) taught at four parochial schools in Manhattan and the Bronx over 12 years and at Resurrection Academy in Rye for one year. She began her ministry in spirituality in 1973 at the Xavier Center in Convent Station, NJ.

(continued on page 4)

In this issue:

- Jubilees
- Honorees
- Anniversaries
- Reunions
- New Programs
- *Doubt* — the film



Sr. Florence Simpson, SC at her Diamond Jubilee.



Letter From the President

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

As one year ends and another begins, I find myself reflecting on the events that transpired and the blessings received in 2008, and anticipating the challenges and opportunities that face us in 2009. A new beginning is always reason for optimism.

In April 2008, the Archdiocese of New York concluded its yearlong Bicentennial celebration with a visit from Pope Benedict XVI. His words in New York encouraged, challenged and inspired us. He called us to live in peace and harmony; to “forgive the wrongs we have suffered; to be the first to seek inner reconciliation through penance.”

Over the past few months, our Sisters and Associates have been preparing for our own Bicentennial celebration: the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity by Elizabeth Ann Seton. Our celebration began the first weekend of the year with a special Liturgy planned and attended by members of Congregations in the Sisters of Charity Federation in the tri-state area. More events are planned for 2009 and, even if you can’t be with us in person, we hope you will join your prayers to ours.

As each of us strives to live a life inspired by Christ as revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and in prayer, let us also take inspiration from the lives St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, as well as from those holy people we encounter in our daily lives.

Let us resolve to serve as an example to others. Let us show love for others, extend a helping hand to those who are in need, and speak out against injustice. Then we truly will be the “joyful witnesses of the transforming power of the Gospel,” that Our Holy Father encouraged us to be and that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was. That would make 2009 a very special year indeed.

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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NEW YORK**

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Articles without bylines were written by Christine Haggerty.

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

Pilot Program Proves Popular and Pivotal

The Sisters of Charity of New York have been innovative for 191 years. The latest example of this is “Charity in the City,” a mini-Peace Corps that offers young women 18-21 years of age, a chance to live and work with the Sisters in their ministries to the poor.

Three young college-age women were selected to take part in the inaugural program that ran June 6-20. Sabrina had just graduated from the College of Mount Saint Vincent (CMSV). Kim is a junior from Carmel, NY. Lauren is a sophomore from Arkansas.

During the day, they experienced the Sisters’ ministries. At night, they lived at Mount Saint Vincent Convent.

The program gave the volunteers a chance to sample some of the Sisters’ various ministries.



The Mobile Soup Kitchen from St. John’s Bread and Life operates in the poorest sections of Brooklyn & Queens.

- St. Patrick’s School, Mott Street, established in 1822. It is New York’s oldest parochial school and was the Congregation’s first mission.
- John A. Coleman School in White Plains, where Sr. Ellen Rose O’Connell is the Director of Mission Integration and Pastoral Care.
- Sisters Hill Farm in Dutchess County, established by Sr. Mary Ann Garisto in 1998.
- Life Experience and Faith Sharing Assn. (LEFSA), the program that Sr. Dorothy Gallant co-founded 22 years ago to help the homeless reclaim their lives.



At the Convent of Mary the Queen, the volunteers lent a hand on manicure day. That’s Sr. Regina O’Rourke at the front table, and Sr. Cecilia Haley beyond her.



The “Charity in the City” team: from left, Sisters Nora Cunningham, Joy Pellegrino, Donna Dodge and Anne Denise Brennan with Kim, Sabrina and Lauren. Not pictured, Sr. Dominica Rocchio.

- Part of the Solution (POTS), the multi-service organization in central Bronx that evolved out of the soup kitchen co-founded by Sr. Jane Iannucelli in 1982.
 - The Mobile Soup Kitchen from St. John’s Bread and Life, directed by Sr. Kathleen Byrnes.
 - Midnight Run, the program that distributes food and clothing to the homeless poor in Manhattan. Sisters Theresa Capria and Cecilia Harriendorf in Campus Ministry at CMSV coordinate student volunteers.
- It wasn’t all work though. Sisters played tour guides on trips to Chinatown, Little Italy and City Island. The volunteers circumnavigated Manhattan in a Circle Line yacht. They toured Yonkers and the Mount. They visited the farm in Stanfordville. They enjoyed cookouts and dinners with our Sisters. How did Kim, Lauren and Sabrina rate their two-week “Charity in the City” experience?
- “I felt inspired each day.”

- (it was) “...an opportunity to clear my mind and find my calling in life.”
- “I am grateful that I’ve been blessed in knowing each of you (Sisters). Thank you, you’ve helped me more than you know.”

Many Sisters worked hard to make the inaugural year of this program possible. Now, on to year two!

If you know a young woman of college age who might be interested in applying for the 2009 Charity in the City program, contact Sr. Katherine Hamm, Coordinator of Volunteer Programs, at MKHamm@scny.org or 718-549-9200. ■



The Golden Jubilarians at their anniversary celebration: From left, in the front row Sr. Patricia Sullivan, Sr. Margaret M. Kelly, Sr. Margaret Dennehy and Sr. Eileen Gallagher; middle row: Sr. Inez Mela, Sr. Marguerite McGilly and Sr. Kathleen McHugh; back row: Sr. Elaine Owens, Sr. Pauline Cinquini, Sr. Katherine King and Sr. Mary Lou McGrath

Since 1975, Sister has been associated with the Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer in the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) in Scarsdale. There she gives retreats and directs adult education and spiritual programs. For the past eight years, she has been Director of the RCIA program at IHM. As part of her Charismatic Renewal Ministry, Sr. Pauline has visited 30 states and 15 countries to date. Most recently, she was in China.

Sr. Margaret Dennehy (Sr. Mary Teresa) has been an educator for five decades. She taught first grade for four years at St. Peter's in Yonkers, followed by six years at Epiphany School in Manhattan, a borough she has worked in ever since. In 1971, Sister began what would be a 23-year association with St. Brigid School -- as a teacher, librarian and Director of Development. For the last 14 years, Sr. Margaret has been a librarian and media specialist at St. Aloysius School. Sister also serves as a consultant on library issues for the Archdiocese of New York, for NYC's School Library System and for Scholastic Publishers. She is a presenter at library workshops and conferences.

Sr. Eileen Gallagher is a registered nurse with a MS in Gerontology. She began her religious life as a Little Sister of the Poor and served as a gerontological nurse in their nursing

homes in seven states over 21 years. In 1986, Sister transferred to the Sisters of Charity. Since that time, Sr. Eileen was a staff nurse for two years at St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers, followed by 15 years as a nurse with Schervier Long Term Home Health Care Program. Since 2004, she has been caring for the retired Sisters at Mount Saint Vincent Convent.

Sr. Margaret Mary Kelly (Sr. Maureen Patrick) has been a teacher and a nurse. Her longest school / parish association was 14 years total (between 1961 & 1976) with St. Peter in Haverstraw, NY. In the 1970s, Sister also taught at St. Denis in Yonkers and at Our Lady of Angels in the Bronx.

In 1977, Sr. Margaret began training as a nurse. After receiving her RN degree in 1979, Sister spent the next 26 years at St. John's Riverside Hospital in north Yonkers as a primary nurse (19 years), as a nurse educator (two years), and as Manager of Informatics (five years). Her work at St. John's was followed by almost two years as a Wellness Nurse at the Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers, the Congregation's retirement facility.

Sr. Margaret has served on the Congregation's Council since being elected to this leadership position in July 2007.

Sr. Katherine King (Sr. James Miriam) has devoted her religious life to child care. She worked briefly at St. ➡

Joseph Hall in Brooklyn, then for six years at the New York Foundling in Manhattan. In 1967, Sr. Kathryn began what would be a 38-year-ministry at St. Agatha Home in Nanuet, as a child care worker and crisis mediator. She has been doing volunteer work since 2005.

Sr. Marguerite McGilly (Sr. Regina Richard) worked with children for 43 years. Her first ministry was child care, including 6 ½ years at St. Joseph Hall in Brooklyn. That was followed by 36 years teaching at nine schools — mostly on the elementary level — in six counties. Her longest ministries were 11 years at Immaculate Conception on Staten Island (1993-2004) and five years each at Resurrection School in Rye (1979-84) and St. Patrick School (1984-89) in Manhattan. Sister also taught at St. Peter HS on Staten Island (1989-93). For the past four years, Sr. Marguerite has been a volunteer pastoral minister in a Ft. Lauderdale, FL parish.

Sr. Mary Lou McGrath (Sr. Rose Elizabeth) taught primary grades at 4 parochial schools in Manhattan over 17 years. Her longest school association was with St. Brigid (1969-85) where she taught for nine years, then served as administrator for seven years. After that, Sister served the Archdiocese of New York as Mission Education Coordinator for six years. For 11 years, Sr. Mary Lou was Formation Director for her Congregation. Since 2004, she has been assistant administrator at Mount Saint Vincent Convent.

Sr. Kathleen McHugh (Sr. Noreen Marie) has specialized in caring for others. She worked at St. Agatha Home in Nanuet (Rockland County) as a child care worker, unit supervisor and group home supervisor between 1962 and 1974. Then she became a licensed practical nurse and worked in that capacity at The New York Foundling for 28 years. Since 2004, she has been on the staff of the Convent of Mary the Queen.

Sr. Inez Mela (Sr. Marietta Anne) has been affiliated with eight schools and two colleges in her 47 years in education.

She was administrator/principal at four elementary schools: Immaculate Conception (1969-71), St. Joseph Academy (1971-74), and St. Joseph School (1976-77), all in Manhattan, and at Elizabeth Seton Academy (1977-81) in Yonkers. Her longest affiliation was St. Barnabas HS (1983-

2000) in the Bronx where she taught for 15 years and then served as academic dean for two years. In 1998, Sister received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award from the Archdiocese.

Since 2001, Sr. Inez has taught Italian at either the College of Mount Saint Vincent or Manhattan College. She is currently an Adjunct Professor of Modern Foreign Languages at Manhattan College.

Sr. Elaine Owens (Sr. Marie Ella) has been a teacher, social worker, administrator and Congregational leader. Her longest school ministry was at St. Brigid in Manhattan, where she was a teacher and administrator (1967-78). For the Archdiocese of New York, Sister was director of the Parish School Planning Office (1987-91). For The New York Foundling, Sr. Elaine was the director of spiritual development (1996-99). As a counselor and program director, Sister worked for five years with the International Center for the Disabled in Manhattan. She has also served as a women's pastoral counselor. Within the Congregation, Sister has served as director of elementary & secondary education and on its leadership council. She is currently the administrator at Mount Saint Vincent Convent.

Sr. Patricia Sullivan (Sr. Regina Timothy) has been a teacher and a counselor. She taught at parochial schools for 29 years; her longest elementary ministry was at Good Counsel in Manhattan (1967-90). That was followed by six years as a teacher and reading specialist at Cardinal Hayes HS in the Bronx. In 1996, Sister began working as a counselor. For the past eight years, she has been a guidance counselor at All Hallows High School in the Bronx.

During their formation years, these women frequently heard the saying "you give God a blank check — your life — and God will fill it in." Think of all the good works and all the lives that have been touched by these Sisters in their combined total of 625 years of ministry ... and they're still giving God their blank checks.

The Silver Jubilarian

Sr. Maryellen Blumlein celebrated her 25th anniversary as a Sister of Charity on Saturday, October 18th at Mount Saint Vincent. A noon liturgy celebrated by Rev. Kirk Reynolds, SJ, was followed by a celebration attended by Sister's mother, brother and friends. Sister is aunt to seven and grandaunt to two.

Prior to her entrance in 1983, Sr. Maryellen taught in several elementary schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. She continued

(continued on page 6)



Sr. Marguerite McGilly carried the processional cross on Jubilee Saturday.



Sr. Inez Mela with Sr. Dorothy Metz on Jubilee Saturday.



Sr. Maryellen renewing her vows.

Literature, and Study Skills. She also moderates the school's yearbook, literary magazine and choir, and is the sophomore class advisor.

Extra Special Anniversaries

In September, these 16 Sisters also marked significant anniversaries in their religious lives. We are grateful for their combined 1,060 years of dedicated service.

80th Anniversary

Sr. Mary Rosilda Tabacco

70th Anniversary

Sr. Clara Regina Aylward

Sr. Seton Fanning

Sr. Cecilia Haley

Sr. Kathleen Hanrahan (Sr. Miriam Francis)

Sr. Miriam Agatha O'Dea

her education ministry at Our Lady of Refuge School for one more year after entrance and then, upon completion of her novitiate, she taught at Our Lady of Angels School for 13 years. Both of these schools are in the Bronx.

Since 1998, Sr. Maryellen has been on staff at Mother Cabrini High School in northern Manhattan. There she teaches English, American

65th Anniversary

Sr. Marita Regina Bronner

Sr. Marian Jude Byrne

Sr. Mary Christopher Ludden

Sr. Marietta Joseph Mackin

Sr. Elizabeth V. McLoughlin (Sr. Marie Matthew)

Sr. Marie Schutté (Sr. Catherine Maureen)

60th Anniversary

Sr. Gloria Degnan (Sr. Cecilia Miriam)

Sr. Rita King (Sr. Rita Regina)

Sr. Patricia Lawlor (Sr. Mary Philomena)

Sr. Mary T. Linehan (Sr. Marita John)

November 21st marked the 85th anniversary of the entrance of Sr. Mary Perpetua Collins. Education was her ministry and she became known as "a principal's principal."

Her first teaching post was Blessed Sacrament Academy in Manhattan (1926-1942). Then she joined the staff of the newly-opened St. Gabriel's School in Riverdale. Sister taught there for four years, then was principal through 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 organized. After that came service as principal at St. Lawrence Academy in Manhattan (1958-1960), St. Gregory in Harrison (1960-1964), Elizabeth Seton Academy in Yonkers (1964-1966), and the Academy of Mt. St. Vincent in Tuxedo Park (1966-1970).

Then it was back to Manhattan where Sr. Perpetua served as librarian at St. Bernard's for 11 years. That was followed by two years of service as coordinator of Mount Saint Vincent Convent which she found to be the most rewarding ministry of her career. Five years ago, Sister retired to the Convent of Mary the Queen where she especially enjoys bingo. ■

Convent Celebrates Anniversary

The main retirement convent for the Congregation, Mary the Queen in Yonkers, celebrated its Golden Jubilee this year. It was dedicated on October 23, 1958. The anniversary of this special place was observed with a series of monthly events that began in March with a special commencement Mass. That was followed in subsequent months by open house for the staff at the adjacent St. Joseph's Medical Center and Nursing

Home, a dinner for retired priests from the nearby Cardinal O'Connor Residence, a fundraising photo exhibit featuring the works of Nick Maffei Jr. at St. Joseph's Parish in Bronxville, a social and silent auction at a Yonkers restaurant, a cookout for family and friends, and a luncheon for all the Sisters who have served at the Queen over the years. The Jubilee concluded with Liturgies on September 12th, at the Convent's chapel, and on the 13th

at Old St. Mary's Church in Yonkers. Many old friends were in attendance.

Five Sisters oversee the care of their those living at the Convent. Sr. Mary Kay Finneran, is the eighth administrator of the Convent since it opened in 1958. She is ably assisted by Sisters Mary Carmel Craig, Winifred Goddard, Kathleen McHugh and Josephine Rog. They work with a staff of capable and caring lay people. ■

Associate Commitment Ritual

by Sr. Mary Gallagher

At a Congregation meeting, we welcomed three new Associates and witnessed the renewal of commitment of fifteen other Associates.

The prayer service and ritual took place in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent. During the service, Sr. Dorothy Metz, President, signed the commitment statements of each of our new Associates and presented each with an Associate pin, a framed copy of the Sister of Charity Mission statement, and a copy of the New Testament.

During a simple ritual, our new Associates were joined by those renewing their commitments. Sr. Dorothy presided over a hand washing ceremony which symbolized the commissioning of these Associates to service and mission.

In her commitment statement, each set forth her



Our new Associates are Eilene C. Bertsch, Rowena Kemp and Rose C. Meyler (l to r).

seek justice for the poor, for women and children, and for minorities."

Rowena Kemp is a native of The Bahamas and was educated by our Sisters there as well as at the College of Mount Saint Vincent here. She told us, "The Sisters of Charity in one way or another have always been there for me...in part, this commitment is my way to give back and to solidify a relationship with a group of women who have helped shape not only the lady I have become, but also the Christian that I am."

Rose Meyler is a former member of the Congregation and sister of Sr. Mary Meyler who serves in Guatemala. Rose writes, "In focusing on humility, simplicity and charity, I am embracing those ideals which embody the culture and charism of the Company of Charity. I choose to hold myself accountable to live from the grace that is given me. As an Associate of the Sisters of Charity and in communion with this Company, I hope to more truly live the gospel message."

Renewing their Associate commitments at the ceremony were: Alicia Alvarez, Patrice Athanasidy, Retta Blaney, Nancy Burkley, Ana Caro, Margaret Comaskey, Cathryn McCarthy Donahue, Ann Louise Greenfield, Mary Barrett Herbst, Bill Hurley, Mary Jean Orlando, Mary Alice Ross, Kathleen McGrath Skinner, Concordia Soriano, and Connie Velez. ■

Sr. Mary Gallagher is the Director of the Associate Program. If you'd like to answer God's call more deeply while maintaining your current lifestyle, contact Sr. Mary Gallagher, (718) 549-9409 or mgallagher@scny.org



Associates renewed their commitments at Mount Saint Vincent.

motivation for becoming an Associate of the Sisters of Charity of New York.

Eilene Bertsch met the Sisters of Charity in her childhood parish of St. Raymond's in the Bronx. She now lives in Fairfield, CT where she volunteers at a local soup kitchen and is on the Board of a women's literacy program. She writes, "I don't know that I have ever felt disassociated from the Sisters of Charity.... A more formal association at this time comes, primarily, from my own need for a clear and closer association with others with whom I can share and rejoice in a mission to

Another First for the Sisters

Our first Spring Benefit was a great success. It was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Yale Club near Grand Central Terminal on May 8th. Several hundred friends of the Sisters enjoyed good company, delightful music and delicious food – and had fun bidding on a great selection of silent auction items.

The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the six ministries that comprise the Charity Response Team (CRT):

- The Sisters of Charity Multi-Service Center AKA Casa de Esperanza – Sisters Jean Bocian and Terese McElroy
- The Elizabeth Seton Women's Center – Sr. Arleen Ketchum, director
- Fox House – Sr. Florence Speth, director
- Seton House – Sr. Florence Speth chairs and Sr. Claire E. Regan is a member of the board
- LEFSA (Life Experience and Faith Sharing Association), Sr. Dorothy Gallant, director
- POTS (Part of the Solution)

These are ministries where our Sisters and Associates work to improve the lives of the homeless, new immigrants and women in general.

The guest of honor and featured speaker was award-winning playwright and director John Patrick Shanley. Shanley attended St. Anthony Elementary School in the Bronx (Mansion St.), which was staffed by the Sisters of Charity at that time. He modeled the character of Sr. James, the younger nun in his play *Doubt: A Parable*, on Sr. Margaret McEntee, who was known as Sr. James when she was his first-grade teacher.

We are most grateful for the participation, donations and support provided by so many. Special recognition



The event committee assembled at the Sisters of Charity Center at Mount Saint Vincent to wrap gift baskets. From left, in front, Grace Strazzire and Sr. Arleen Ketchum. Behind them, Linda Romita, Bill Hurley, Sr. Florence Speth, Claudette Edwards and Colleen Griffin Wagner.

goes to the hardworking members of the event committee: our friends Kathleen A. Dunn, Rita L. Houlihan, Richard Pluta, Linda Romita, Grace Strazzire, and Colleen Griffin Wagner; Sisters A. Jean Iannone, Margaret M. Kelly, Arleen Ketchum, and Florence Speth; Sisters of Charity Center staffers Bill Hurley, Phil Truglia and Chris Haggerty.

Bill Hurley, Development Director for the Congregation, and Sr. Florence Speth, Director of Fox House, chose the Yale Club as the venue after having visited eight other possible sites – in the heat of last summer.

After expenses, the event netted 51% more than we had hoped for! The proceeds were distributed among the CRT ministries and a small amount was kept as seed money for next year's event.

We've already reserved the Grand Ballroom at the Yale Club for our Second Spring Benefit. We hope you'll be able to join us on Thursday, May 7, 2009. ■



Sr. Peggy McEntee and John Patrick Shanley with SC Associate Kathleen Skinner (at right) her daughter Elizabeth and friend Greg Newman.

Walking with Keshana

by Bill Hurley

We first met Keshana about two years ago. She was attending sessions at Casa de Esperanza, the Sisters of Charity Multi-Service Center in Yonkers – one of the Charity Response Team (CRT) ministries. Keshana was being trained for household employment and Sisters Jean Bocian and Terese McElroy were helping her improve her English. Keshana was born in Nigeria, as was her eldest daughter, now 17. Her three other children were born in the US.

After a few months, our Elizabeth Seton Women's Center (ESWC) learned its office cleaner would be leaving. At a CRT meeting, Sr. Arleen Ketchum, the ESWC's director, asked Sr. Jean if any of her clients at Casa might be interested in the position, which would pay a small stipend. Sr. Jean immediately thought of Keshana, but how would she get to work? Sr. Arleen not only had a job, she had a solution to that possible stumbling block – a car pool.

Sr. Arleen drives between her home in east Westchester and her ministry at the Women's Center on the West Side of Manhattan. By adjusting her route a bit, Sister could pick up Keshana at Casa in the morning, then see that she returned in time to meet her daughter's school bus in the afternoon.

Keshana proved herself to be an excellent worker who showed initiative in going the extra mile. The Women's Center was sparkling clean!

About six months into this job, Sr. Arleen learned that Keshana was pregnant. A sonogram indicated that her baby would be born with one eye. Keshana's family and friends pressured her to have an abortion. She could not; she chose to have her baby.

To support her in this choice, folks at the Women's Center planned a baby shower to provide a crib and other infant necessities. They thought there was plenty of time, but Keshana delivered a boy six weeks early. All the baby's needs had to be provided within three days! The hospital's social worker told Keshana that she could not take her baby home unless the apartment was properly equipped.

The Sisters of Charity have a fund, financed by the Sisters themselves, that provides up to \$500 for emergency needs of the poor. A check was drawn from this fund, and the crib, food, diapers, blankets and other items were purchased. Clients and staffers at the Women's Center provided additional items, too.

Sr. Florence Speth, director of Fox House, another CRT ministry, supplied a brand-new stroller that had just been donated to her ministry. Keshana's older children and the apartment's maintenance staff assembled the crib and put everything in order.

The day before Keshana was to go home, the Social Worker visited the apartment, found that everything needed was in place, and expedited the paperwork. Sr. Arleen brought Keshana from the hospital to Social Services, to verify that both WIC* and Medicaid would be in place. The baby came home the next day – with two beautiful, functioning eyes! So much for *that* sonogram.

Keshana returned to work at the Women's Center after a 3½ month maternity leave. She has a strong determination to succeed. To show her appreciation to all who helped her, Keshana volunteers at various CRT events.

Women continue to donate diapers, clothes, etc. to help Keshana's family. Sr. Arleen is "honorary Grandma" to little Kamil (Nigerian for complete, perfect) and loves seeing him every time she picks his mother up for work in the morning.

Keshana's story is just one example of how our Charity Response Team works together and shares resources to minister to those needing help.

Mother Seton would be proud. ■

Bill Hurley has been Director of Development for 12 years and an Associate for ten years. He is a "Certified Fundraising Executive" (CFRE), and serves on the Board of the National Catholic Development Conference.

** WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children. It is a special supplemental food program that provides nutritious foods, milk, juice, formula, etc. to low income pregnant or breastfeeding women and children up to age 5. WIC has been shown to improve the health of these individuals.*



“Our Charity Response Team works together and shares resources to minister to those needing help.”

Sister Angelica Honored at Angelus Awards

Sr. Angelica Marie Troy was honored at the annual Angelus Award Gala for St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan. Sister received the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award in recognition for her work as an advocate for the sick, the poor and the abandoned.

Sr. Angelica has been on mission at St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan for a total of 60 years – as a pharmacist for 39 years, as coordinator of pharmacy purchasing for 12 years, and as a volunteer in the pharmacy for nine years. She is known for her compassion, wit and selflessness towards others. In the 1960's, when St. Vincent's needed financial support to continue its mission of serving the sick-poor, Sr. Angelica organized grassroots fundraisers, such as selling apples at the door and raffling off Raggedy Ann dolls she had assembled.

The annual Angelus Award Gala is the most prestigious fund-raising event for St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan.



Sr. Angelica Marie Troy
at the Angelus Award Gala.

More than 1,000 guests raised over \$1.6 million for the hospital's mission of providing compassionate medical care regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

The award symbol of the Gala comes from the century-old Angelus Bell, which hung for decades in the courtyard between St. Vincent's Hospital and the adjacent convent. It tolled three times a day to call Sisters of Charity to prayer.

Sr. Mary Angela Hughes, SC, opened St. Vincent's on November 1, 1849 in a rented house on W. 13th Street. This was the beginning of the Congregation's sponsorship of many hospitals in the New York area. Today, the Sisters still sponsor the network of St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Westchester), as well as The New York Foundling, and St. Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers. ■

Irish America Magazine Honors Educator

Sr. Margaret ("Peggy") McEntee was named one of the Top 100 Irish Americans of 2008 by *Irish America* Magazine in its Education category. All of Sister's grandparents immigrated to the United States from Ireland: two from County Cavan and two from County Roscommon.

Sister holds a BA in English and a MA in Religious Education. She has been teaching since 1956. One of her first-grade students at St. Anthony School in the Bronx was John Patrick Shanley, who grew up to be an award-winning writer – the play *Doubt* and the movie *Moonstruck*. She remembers young Shanley as shy and quiet with a keen mind.

"A teacher's job is to educate—to lead the pupil into the land of knowledge. A good teacher does her job, then lets the pupil pass on. So I had my time with John Patrick as a pupil and now it's his time. And he seems to have done very well with it," said Sr. Peggy.

When asked by the magazine's



Sr. Peggy McEntee and John Patrick Shanley chatting in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent during the filming of *Doubt*

reporter what inspired her to become a teacher, Sister quickly replied, "My own teachers. I dearly loved the Sisters of Charity ... at St. Margaret's (of Cortona School) in Riverdale." Sister still lives in St. Margaret's Parish, at Mount Saint Vincent. The Sisters of Charity of New York have been based in the northwest corner of the Bronx since 1857.

In her 52 years as a teacher, Sr. Peggy has found most rewarding, "The relational aspect that I have with young children. I love working with

youth. It keeps me young.... I'm very caught up in the Holocaust. I teach religion and the culture of peace."

For the past nine years, Sr. Peggy has been a high school campus minister, religion teacher and coordinator of the Service Volunteer Program at the Notre Dame School in Greenwich Village, Manhattan. Of her position, she said, "I feel honored to be part of Notre Dame's faculty. My students inspire me and I hope it's mutual."

Sister's earlier high school ministries included Cardinal Spellman, St. Raymond Academy, St. Catharine Academy, and St. Barnabas, all in the Bronx, as well as Trinity High School in Shiremanstown, PA. She also served for 11 years at St. Augustine's College in Nassau, the Bahamas.

You can read the full interview at *Irish America's* web site (under Education) at <http://www.irishabroad.com/irishworld/irishamericamag/aprmay08/top100/> ■

Sister Honored by Notre Dame

Sr. Katherine Seibert was named Person of the Year by the Notre Dame Club of New York. She received the Rev. Michael J. Shea Award for being a Notre Dame alum who has exhibited outstanding leadership in the New York community.

Sister studied at this famous Catholic university in Indiana for five summers under a grant from the National Science Foundation. She received her Masters in Biology and a PhD in Microbiology, under the direction of the famous virologist Dr. Morris Pollard. She published numerous articles based on her cancer research at Notre Dame's prestigious Lobund Laboratory and subsequent clinical studies.

After deciding to specialize in Oncology, Sister completed Creighton Medical School (Omaha, NB). She was an Oncology Fellow for three years at the National Cancer Institute, with special studies in the field of breast cancer, heart tumors and pediatric cancers, and also trained in Adolescent Oncology at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis.

After serving as Chief of Oncology in several hospitals in New York City, Sr. Katherine started and developed an Oncology Program in upstate Sullivan County where she was the only Oncologist. Over the course of a decade, Sister brought this cancer program to full accreditation with commendation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.

Sr. Katherine currently is an internist for Hudson River Healthcare in Monticello, NY, where all patients are given primary and preventive health care regardless of their ability to pay. Many are immigrants, and over 65% of the patients are uninsured. She is also:

- a Surveyor for the Commission on Cancer, which accredits hospital cancer programs nationally
- a member of the Heart, Lung and Cancer Committee of the NYS Medical Society which recommends changes in these areas to the state legislature.
- a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at New York Medical College (Valhalla, NY) where she just completed 10 years in the Bioethics Institute as instructor for their second year medical students.

The Shea Award is just the latest recognition of Sr.

Katherine's abilities and dedication. In 2005, she was named a "Local Legend" as part of the Celebration of America's Physicians which highlights women who have made an extraordinary commitment to better health locally. In 2000, she received the American Cancer Society's Lane Adams Award for "Excellence in Caring."

In the spirit of the Gospel and with the help of God, Sr. Katherine brings hope and healing with much energy and enthusiasm to the people she serves. ■



Sr. Katherine Seibert holding the Shea Award.



School Honors Sister

Sr. Rita King was inducted into the Hall of Fame at St. Barnabas HS in the Bronx. The ceremony took place at the Annual Alumnae Luncheon on October 18th. Sr. Rita is both an alumna (class of 1948) and a former assistant principal (1973-87) at St. Barnabas. She was honored for "her time spent learning, teaching, assisting the principal and volunteering at St. Barnabas...(and for) demonstrating her dedication to our mission and for living her life the

Barnabas way – with charity, grace and spirit." Sister celebrated her 60th anniversary in the Congregation in September.

Sr. Rita served as Archivist for our Congregation for 17 years until her retirement last year; she is currently mentoring her successor, Sr. Constance Brennan. Sister also is a past president of the Archivists of Congregations of Women Religious and served on the board of the Archivists of Religious Institutions. ■

Honors & Happenings

Annual Golf Outing

Our second golf outing to benefit the retirement needs of our senior Sisters was another successful, fun-filled day. Thanks to the sponsorship of Peggy and Tom Flynn, we were able to again hold our fundraiser at the 92-year-old North Hempstead Country Club in Port Washington, LI. Peggy Flynn is Sr. Mary Lou McGrath's sister.



Michael J. Spicer, the president and CEO of St. Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers, shows off the golf accessories he won in the evening's raffle to Sr. Mary Lou McGrath.

Once again, Sr. Florence Speth worked closely with Bill Hurley and his Development staff to coordinate every aspect of the event. As they were last year, the golf course and service at the club were wonderful; our prayers for beautiful weather were answered.

No one sank a hole-in-one this year, so the new car went back to the dealer. But there were plenty of great gifts distributed as raffle prizes after dinner.

Many Sisters, relatives, friends, and staffers from our sponsored ministries helped organize and staff the day. We are grateful to them and to all who attended the event or made a donation to offset the expense of renovating Mount Saint Vincent Convent.

Broadway Blessing

Since 1997, the annual Broadway Blessing has brought the theatre community together to ask God's blessing on the new season. SC Associate Retta Blaney once again directed this evening service of song, story and dance. Among the

performing artists who appeared September 8th at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan was actress Lynn Redgrave who offered a theatre reflection. An estimated 450-500 people attended this year's Blessing.

Annual Memorial Mass

On November 2nd, the Congregation remembered and honored the Sisters, former members, and an Associate who had died since November 2007. Family members and friends attended the special liturgy and reception that were held at Mount Saint Vincent in memory of:

- Sisters Margareta Maria Brock, Geraldine Carey, Mary Josepha De Barbieri, Marie Thomas Donachie, Margaret Dowdell, Mary Duane, Maria Dominic Hanly, Marie Liguori Leyer, Joseph Rosaire McKeivitt, Madeleine Regina Nash, Marita Rose O'Brien, Winifred Reilly, Katherine Marie Talbot, Jude Marie Walsh, Marie Aimee Walsh, Marie Julia Whalen and Margaret Mary Whalen.
- Former members Barbara Condon Connolly, Mary Epes, Donna Holmes Chambers, Kathleen Hunt Stinson, Kathleen Kling-Surgett, Marcella Rolandelli, and Marie Storey.
- Associate Martin P. McCarthy.



The Congregation's web site has a new look! If you have access to a computer, we hope you'll pay it a visit and add it to your Favorites folder. The best way to keep up with developments in the lives and ministries of our Sisters is to regularly visit www.scny.org

We've also collaborated on a web site for the 2009 Bicentennial of the founding of the Sisters of Charity by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. This special site focuses on the ministries of the four Congregations serving the NY metropolitan area that trace their roots back to Mother Seton. That's at <http://setonbicentennial.org>

Then there's the web site *WOMEN & SPIRIT: Catholic Sisters in America*. It's the online counterpart of a traveling exhibit that honors the 220,000 women religious who helped shape our nation's social and cultural landscape over the course of 281 years. This project is sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Learn more at www.womenandspirit.org

Living History

From May 16 through Dec 31, the Museum of the City of New York featured "Catholics in New York, 1808-1946." This special exhibit showed how the Catholic community grew over 150 years: facing and overcoming prejudice, gaining a political voice, and creating a set of institutions that reshaped New York. It made a good bridge between the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese of New York and the bicentennial of the establishment of the Sisters of Charity by St. Elizabeth Seton in 1809.

The Sisters of Charity of New York were represented in this museum exhibit by seven significant artifacts that Sisters Rita King and Constance Brennan selected from the Congregation Archives. Among them were a replica of the iconic bonnet that was worn with the traditional habit, as well as items relating to the Sisters' ministries in childcare, such as a portrait miniature of Sr. Mary Irene Fitzgibbon who began The Foundling. The Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum was represented by the ledger listing boys admitted 1817-1897, and a wool tapestry worked by a girl from the same institution. A copy of *The Manual of the Children of Mary: for the Use of all Establishments, Schools, and Orphan Asylums of the Sisters of Charity* (New York, 1868) also was lent to the museum. The Children of Mary was a sodality, a club dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was common in schools well into the 20th century. ■



The Sisters' mission of The NY Foundling was represented by the wicker bassinet in which mothers left babies they couldn't care for anymore. Within three months of establishing this ministry in October 1869, the Sisters had taken in 123 babies.



In connection with this exhibit, Sr. Rita Nowatzki (at right above) was part of a panel discussion on September 6th at the museum about the historical, contemporary, and future role of women religious. She was joined by Sr. Camille D'Arienzo, RSM, and authors Maureen Fitzgerald and Bernadette McCauley who wrote books about the contributions of Catholic nuns to hospitals and welfare in NYC.



From left, Sisters Rita King and Constance Brennan left their precious artifacts with Aditi Halbe, Assistant Registrar for Exhibitions at the museum.

Own a Piece of History

If you'd like a copy of Msgr. Thomas Shelley's magnum opus *The Bicentennial History of the Archdiocese of New York, 1808-2008*, but your parish is out of stock or you live in another diocese, you can order directly from the publisher.

Barbara De Jean / Editions du Signe / PO Box 1602 / Sunset, LA 70584

1-866-379-2352 (toll free) The book costs \$33, which includes a \$3 postage fee. ■



Things Are Better in The Bahamas

Almost two dozen Sisters who had served in the Bahamian missions turned out for a reunion at the Convent of Mary the Queen one Saturday. Sr. Margaret McEntee served as the day's Mistress of Ceremonies and passed the microphone around so Sisters could share their vivid memories that go back as far as 1941.

There was knowing laughter hearing how some had arrived in the islands to learn that they'd be teaching a subject other than their major specialty.

One Sister recalled how startled she was to find the kitchen floor at the convent covered with palmetto bugs her first evening. The more experienced hands informed her "that after 8pm, the kitchen is theirs."

Sr. Agnes Connolly was visiting from New York when a group of 100 Haitian refugees came ashore. Her nursing skills were especially appreciated by the teaching Sisters who were caring for children while their parents were being processed by the authorities.

Then there was Gibson, who was raised by the Sisters after his mother died. As a baby, he safely slept in a bassinet under the teacher's desk in the classroom during school hours.

Many recalled the colorful, direct language of the people. Sr. Loretta Josepha, tall and slim, remembered one young boy who critiqued her as "one long bone, Sister."

Those who had experienced life in the islands both before and after the Bahamians gained independence from Great Britain spoke of the change in people's spirit after that milestone was achieved.

At one point, the Sisters sang "March On Bahamaland." The Bahamian national anthem closes with the line "Lift up your head to the rising sun, Bahamaland, / 'Til the road you've trod lead unto your God..." Our Sisters helped build that road over the 84 years between their arrival on October 28, 1889 and Bahamian independence on July 10, 1973.

The Main Event

The highlight of the day was the tribute to Sr. Joan Anderson, who was honored for her recently-concluded 42 years of ministry in Nassau.

Sr. Joan's arrival in The Bahamas in 1963 was rather inauspicious. She facetiously spoke of expecting to be greeted by a long line of Sisters in white habits waving handkerchiefs as her flight landed at noon...but no one was there. The Sisters already on the island had been told that Sr. Joan would arrive around dinnertime. They were at the beach at lunchtime.

Sister's first 11 years in The Bahamas were devoted to teaching and social work at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Elementary School and Parish. In August 1977, she became principal of Our Lady's School. Under her leadership, Our Lady's grew to be the

largest parochial school on the main island and was noted for programs in many areas, especially Junior Junkanoo – a Mardi Gras-like street parade. The students and teachers won so many competitions that eventually an entire room had to be set aside for all the awards.

Sister worked with parishioners to raise funds for a much-needed extension that doubled the size of Our Lady's School. Miraculously, this new facility was built and paid for within three years! Sr. Joan joked that, had she been a priest, she would have been named a Monsignor for that feat. After 22 years at our Lady's, Sr. Joan retired...but not for long.



Clockwise from left: Sisters Loretta Josepha Conran, Helen Jarczynski, her sister Virginia Catherine Jarczynski, Regina Michael Lowe, Lorraine Cooper, and Margaret Rose Curry exchanging memories.

The Bahamian government was partnering with the Archdiocese of Nassau to open a safe haven for at-risk children. While the project was still in the planning stage on paper, Archbishop Lawrence A. Burke, S.J. named the facility Nazareth Centre and appointed Sr. Joan as its first administrator. In addition to her devotion to the community and her love for children, the Archbishop knew that Sr. Joan "was an excellent manager who gets the most out of every dollar." It took a lot of work, but Nazareth Center opened in April 2001 with 25 children up to age 12. When Sr. Joan left, it was harboring over 40 abused, abandoned or neglected children. In ➡



Sr. Joan Anderson in Nassau

2004, Kerzner International, which runs Atlantis Hotel on Paradise Island, bestowed their \$20,000 Outstanding Community Service Award on Nazareth Centre for its work.

Sr. Joan's arrival in August 1963 might have been underwhelming, but her departure in November 2007 was anything but. The people of The Bahamas



From left, in front, Sisters Eileen (Regina Francis) Maher and Margaret Rose Curry. Standing, Sr. Maureen Dunn and Sr. Vincent Marie Wilson, FHM. Sr. Eileen first went down in 1941.

had become her family and they turned out to see her off. "Sister Joans," as she is affectionately known, has godchildren all over the country. She now may be back in the city of her birth, but her heart will always be in The Bahamas.

Leonard

Sr. Joan Anderson's recollections included the poignant story of Leonard. The 2nd grader wanted to become a Catholic, but his parents never came to see the parish priest, as was required. Fr. Brendan didn't want to disappoint the little boy, so he told Leonard that if he attended Catholic Information Class twice a week, he would baptize him when he was ready. Leonard came faithfully,

until one night....

As Fr. Brendan was closing up the sacristy after the instruction class was over, he heard a knock on the door. It was Leonard. He hadn't been at class that night because someone had taken all his clothes! That delayed but didn't discourage the child. Better late than never he came, wearing the only clothing he could find – his mother's coat.

Of course, Leonard ultimately was baptized. His devotion to the faith has remained strong through the years. He grew to be a wonderful person and volunteers with the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Roll Call

Almost all of the two dozen Bahamian veterans alive today attended the reunion. In addition to those mentioned or shown in this article, Sisters Joan Burbage, Rita Dermody, Mary Donagher, Sheila Finucane, Margaret Smith and Grace Anne Troisi were there.

Conflicting commitments kept Sisters Mary Eucharia Carrigan, Mary Regina Caulfield, A. Jean Iannone, and Mary E. Mc Cormick from attending. Regrettably, three who had served the Bahamian missions died just months shy of reunion day: Sisters Marie Liguori Leyer, Marie Julia Whalen, and her sister Margaret Mary (William Marie) Whalen.



Sr. Agnes Connolly with Sr. Andrea Dixon, who was born in The Bahamas.

Several Bahamian-born women whose lives had been touched by our Sisters, mainly through the education system, attended.

- Sr. Vincent Marie Wilson, a Francis can Handmaid of Mary here in New York, chose her religious name in honor of Sr. Miriam Vincetta Donachie, SC, whom she loved and admired.
- Mrs. Blanche Davis Butler, mother

of six, happily was up from the islands on a visit to her younger daughter. Both her girls graduated from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, and son Jerry graduated from Manhattan College. Three generations of the Davis family have been well-loved by our Sisters.

- Rowena Kemp received her secondary education from the Sisters at St. Augustine's College, then took her undergraduate degree at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. She lives in the US and became a SC Associate this year. (See page 7.)



Sr. Margaret McEntee (center), who MC'd the day, enjoys listening to Sr. Joan's memories with Sr. Helen (Michael Marian) McTaggart and Mrs. Blanche Butler.

Plans Well Laid

The planning for this special day spanned five months. The committee was comprised of Sisters who had served in the mission: Sisters Joan Burbage, Elizabeth Judge, Eileen Kelly, Mary E. Mc Cormick, Margaret McEntee and Mary O'Brien. Sr. Margaret Kelly, Regional for The Bahamas, chaired the group.

Many Sisters contributed sea shells for table place settings and wonderful photographs that Sr. Mary O'Brien posted on display boards. Sisters Connie Brennan and Rita King lent newspapers and school programs from the Archives. Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick wrote the beautiful prayer service and blessing ceremony for Sr.

(continued on page 16)

Joan. Sr. Josephine Rog, Director of Housekeeping at Mary the Queen, captured the day in pictures. The kitchen staff at the convent prepared a delicious meal of island-inspired dishes. Also contributing to the day's success was Sr. Maureen Dunn, who never actually served in the Islands, but supported the mission in many ways over the years.

Mission Accomplished

Since 1889, Sisters of Charity of New York opened or staffed 14 schools, plus day nurseries and clinics on the most populated islands of The Bahamas. They visited prisoners and lepers and also trained the native women interested in a religious life. In the early 1980s, from their convent in Nassau, the Sisters' led the battle against

the devastation of illicit drugs.

The "last of the Mohicans," as Sr. Joan called herself, was in the mold of the other 211 Sisters who served the people on seven Bahamian Islands over 118 years.

Our Sisters always had been impressed by the deep faith and gentle courtesy of the Bahamian people. They were proud to turn over administration of their ministries to those they had educated. Prominent among the Sisters' former students is the Most Reverend Patrick Christopher Pinder, S.T.D; C.M.G., the second Archbishop of Nassau.

The names of all the Sisters who served this mission are immortalized on a plaque that was unveiled at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on January 4th in 2007. On that feast day of Elizabeth Ann

Seton, the clergy and lay people of The Bahamas honored the Congregation for developing the local Catholic community and the country as a whole.

The *Nassau Daily Tribune* reprised the Sisters' contributions to the island country and concluded that "The Sisters prepared the Bahamian people for the day when they would be in charge of their own destiny.... Their mission has been accomplished."

As they have done since 1817, the Sisters are moving on to other ministries in response "to the signs of the times" in accordance with their mission statement. ■

Sad Postscript: Two of the attendees at the reunion died recently: Sr. Eileen Maher and Mrs. Blanche Butler.

BOOK REVIEW



Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God

By Elizabeth A. Johnson / © 2007, Continuum / 234 pages in hardcover

by Sr. Jean Flannelly

Who is God? Is today's God different than the one of millennia ago? And if it seems that way, is it really God who has changed – or our perception of a Supreme Being?

As I read this book, I was reminded of the quip, "God created us in his (sic) image and likeness and we have returned the favor." It wasn't because author Johnson "has returned the favor" but because she ceaselessly keeps us focused on the mystery of God.

Beth Johnson is one of American Catholicism's most highly regarded theologians and the author of many books. She is a Sister of St. Joseph and Distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University, where I also am on staff.

Beth's starting point in this wonderful quest is modern theism which has been alive and permeating our culture, both

secular and religious.

In her own words she says:

"Inherited from recent centuries, this view envisions God on the model of a monarch at the very peak of the pyramid of being. Without regard for Christ or the Spirit, it focuses on what trinitarian theology would call the "first person," a single powerful individual who dwells on high, ruling the cosmos and judging human conduct. Even when this Supreme Being is portrayed with a benevolent attitude ... He ... is essentially remote And always this distant lordly lawgiver stands at the summit of hierarchical power, reinforcing structures of authority in society, church and family."

At the end of each of the ten chapters, Johnson includes a section called "For further reading." These annotated gems of bibliography allow you to pursue insights that have touched you. Some of the chapter headings are:

- "Gracious Mystery, Ever Greater, Ever Nearer"
- "The Crucified God of Compassion"
- "Liberating God of Life"
- "God Acting Womanish"
- "Creator Spirit in an Evolving World."

If you plan to read only a few books this year, I encourage you to put this one at the top of your list. Beth's style is engaging and refreshing. Her book would be a wonderful choice for a book club, discussion group or any other group or individual interested in entering into the mystery of the living God. ■

Sr. Jean Flannelly is Director of Faith Formation at St. Andrew Avellino parish in Flushing, NY. She is also an adjunct at Fordham University Graduate School of Religion and Religious Studies. Sr. Jean has over 25 years experience in seminary and lay ministry education and formation.

Catholics Campaigned for the Common Good

by Sr. Claire E. Regan

In this election year when Catholics were aggressively courted by both political parties as key swing voters, national Catholic social justice organizations launched a new campaign – Faith Can Move Mountains: Vote the Common Good – that encouraged the faithful to put the common good before narrow partisan agendas.

The Vote the Common Good campaign highlighted Catholic teaching about economic justice, humane immigration reform, universal health care, peace and building a consistent culture of life that honors human dignity at all stages.

More than a dozen organizations, including NETWORK, a national Catholic social justice lobby; Pax Christi USA; Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns; and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, joined the movement.

The Campaign was launched at an unprecedented Convention for the Common Good that was held July 11-13 in Philadelphia. It was attended by over 800 Catholics and addressed key moral and political issues. Among the participants were:

- Current Senators Bob Casey Jr. and Arlen Specter, as well as former Rep. Charles Dougherty, all of Pennsylvania
- Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio
- E.J. Dionne, Jr. of the *The Washington Post*
- Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*
- John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO.



Sisters Margaret Murphy, Mary Ellen O'Boyle and Claire Regan represented the Sisters of Charity of New York.

They attended panel discussions on immigration, war and peace, health care and the global economy and pledged to disseminate the Common Good message.

Our Sisters were among the delegates that affirmed a Platform for the Common Good. Over 2,500 Catholics in more than 40 states contributed to this Platform over several months through conversations at the grassroots level. Sr. Claire Regan organized two such discussion groups in her neighborhood of East Harlem.

The Platform, organized in segments corresponding to the Preamble of the US Constitution, described what is seen at the local level, and proposed action responses from both government

and citizens. The Platform and the signatures collected by August 15th were sent to both presidential campaigns prior to their conventions.

The election frenzy is over now, but the materials at the Common Good campaign's web site are still available at www.votethecommongood.com. They include voter education resources, opportunities for media training, and tools for disseminating the Common Good message. ■

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

Stopping Traffic

Human trafficking, a modern-day form of slavery, can be found right here in the US. Its victims are both sexes, all ages, and most come from developing countries. They are coerced or defrauded into sexual exploitation or forced labor. Sr. Claire helped organize two symposiums on how to stop this trade.

On November 1st in White Plains there was a six-hour workshop

sponsored by the New York Coalition of Religious Congregations-Stop Trafficking of Persons (NY-CRC-STOP). Attendees examined the demand for human trafficking and brainstormed how to eliminate it. NY-CRC-STOP, formed in 2005, is comprised of 27 religious Congregations of women and men representing over 7,000 members and associates. Sr. Claire co-chairs its

Legislative Committee.

On November 6th at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, Sr. Claire was on a three-person panel that specifically addressed the trafficking in women. It was well attended by students, staff and neighborhood residents.

At both events, Sr. Claire was joined by experts in the field who have worked for many years to end this practice. ■

School Ties

Our Sisters were well-represented at the annual Teachers' Institutes that were held in October for Archdiocesan educators. The first one, on October 9th at Cardinal Spellman HS in the Bronx, was attended by representatives from Catholic schools in the lower half of the Archdiocese. The second one was held a week later, at John F. Kennedy HS in Somers, for teachers and administrators from the northern counties.

In the Bronx, Sisters Dorothy Metz and Irene Fugazy presented the Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award to five recipients, including Sr. Gertrude Simpson, OP, of St. Raymond Academy for Girls, where Sr. Mary Ann D'Antonio, SC, is principal. Sr. Irene developed this award 15 years ago. In Somers, Sr. Marie Morris and Sr. Irene did the honors.

The Congregation had two display tables in the exhibit areas at both Institutes, one on New Membership and another on Ecological Concerns. They were staffed by Sisters Constance Brennan, Theresa Capria, Bernadette Marie Del Frate, Margaret Dennehy, Mary Ann Garisto, Maria Iglesias, Mary Ellen McGovern, Patricia O'Brien, Carol Ann Ruf and Kathleen Sullivan.



Sr. Theresa Capria distributes materials at Spellman HS.

Several schools with Charity roots were honored for anniversaries, including St. Patrick's Old Cathedral School on Mott St. in Manhattan (175 years) and Cardinal Spellman HS (50 years).

Cardinal Egan was the main celebrant and homilist at morning Mass on both days. A photo in the October 23rd issue of *Catholic New York* showed Sisters Irene Fugazy, Dorothy Metz, and Marie Morris among those enjoying the humorous remarks by Fr. James Martin, SJ, the noted author and associate editor of *America* magazine, who was the keynote speaker at Spellman. ■



On a visit to St. Peter's in Haverstraw, Sr. A. Jean Iannone enjoyed a reunion with former student Francine McKiernan Ronga who now teaches at the Rockland County parochial school. Sr. Jean taught there 1958-63.

The parish of St. Anthony in the Stratton Park (Parkchester) section of the Bronx celebrated its centennial in 2008. Between 1931, when the parish school opened, and 1997, a total of 94 Sisters of Charity were on staff there. Sr. Dorothy Metz, now President of the Congregation, taught there in the mid-1960s, when students knew her as Sr. Thomas Loretta.

Sr. Margaret McEntee, then Sr. Marita James, had the satisfaction of seeing one of her students become a noted writer and film director – John Patrick Shanley. Another St. Anthony graduate who “made good” is Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Both were honorary committee members for the parish reunion and Bishop Sullivan was on the altar for the Mass at which Cardinal Edward Egan was the principal celebrant and homilist.

SC Associate Margaret Comaskey, another St. Anthony alum, was very active on committees. She did a wonderful job on the souvenir centennial journal which included a history of the parish. Margaret wrote how the first Sisters lived in two attached frame houses in the parish. In the beginning, household furnishings were so scant that Sisters had to carry chairs from room to room as needed. They lived in this joined house for 33 years, until a new convent was built in 1964.

There are four online albums of photos from the reunion, which took place the last weekend of May. They're at www.strattonpark.com/stanthonys100.htm ■

It's Our Bicentennial Year!

This will be an extra special year. That's because we'll be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity by Elizabeth Ann Seton in St. Joseph's Valley, Emmitsburg, MD. Mother Seton's burgeoning community officially adopted the rule of Saints Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac on July 31, 1809.

In addition to working together in various ministries, the four Congregations in the tri-state area that trace their charism to Mother Seton also will be collaborating on special events throughout the year. Here's a sampling:

January 3rd:

Sisters and their Associates opened the Bicentennial Celebration at Convent Station, NJ, with a Mass in the Holy Family Chapel.

January 4th:

- The feast day of St. Elizabeth Seton was observed at the 11am Mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary / St. Elizabeth Seton Shrine*. Regina Bechtle, SC-NY, was the featured speaker. This is also the parish's 125th anniversary year.
- There was a 7pm prayer service commemorating the feast day at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Staten Island, where Elizabeth Seton's maternal grandfather, the Rev. Richard Charlton, was pastor (1747-1777).

January 14th:

Sisters Margaret McEntee and Constance Brennan will talk about "Elizabeth Seton as Educator." This is the fourth presentation in the Seton Spirituality Series that began in October. The program will be held after the 12:15pm Mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary / St. Elizabeth Seton Shrine* and will run approximately 20 minutes. Free admission. No advance registration necessary. All are welcome.

March 17th:

The Sisters will march in – and be honored at – New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade. See page 21.

March 25th:

The first of four Bicentennial Lectures at Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale, NY will feature Msgr. Thomas Shelley, professor of history at Fordham University and author of *The Archdiocese of New York: The Bicentennial History, 1808-2008*. Msgr. Shelley will speak on "Sisters of Charity in Education." All are welcome.

May 7th:

Our second Spring Benefit for Charity Response Team ministries. See page 8.

* *The Church / Shrine* is at 7 State Street, in lower Manhattan.

Role Model

Sr. Margaret (Peggy) McEntee has been an educator for 52 years. Usually, she teaches children through high school, but for several weeks last winter, Sister was teaching actresses Meryl Streep and Amy Adams how to dress properly as Sisters of Charity in the mid 1960s. That's because she was a technical advisor during the filming of John Patrick Shanley's drama *Doubt*.

Shanley dedicated his film to Sr. Peggy. He based the character of Sr. James, the younger nun in his drama, loosely on Sister, who was known by her religious name of Sr. Marita James when she was his first grade teacher.

In connection with the movie's release, Sr. Peggy has been interviewed by CBS-2 NY News, *USA Today*, and The Catholic Channel on SIRIUS Satellite Radio...so far.

Doubt opened in movie theaters in December 2008 and has been praised for the screenplay and direction by Shanley, and for the performances of the four principals.

Much of the movie was filmed at Mount Saint Vincent during the College's winter break last year. Proceeds from the location fees will go towards restorations in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception in which the church scenes were filmed. ■



Actress Amy Adams, who plays Sr. James in the film, with Sr. Peggy McEntee, the inspiration for the role.

Farm Report

Our Sisters Hill Farm (SHF) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, a series of special events were held through the fall.

- The winning art in a design contest graced T-shirts, aprons and tote bags.
- Potluck Picnics gave shareholders a chance to meet and eat at the farm on two evenings.
- A handcrafted dollhouse was raffled off.

Dollhouse Raffle

Sr. Sandra Trifiro built and donated this beautiful dollhouse with a farm house motif. The vintage kit that Sr. Sandra enhanced is much sturdier than dollhouse kits purchased new today. It measures 36" W x 31" H x 21 ½" D.

The inside was completely furnished thanks to the generosity of Margaret Mullooly, proprietor of My Miniature Manor in Garden City, NY. Margaret is an alumna of the College of Mount Saint Vincent. She has a web site at www.myminiaturemanor.com

A farm shareholder who lives in Dutchess County was selected as winner on October 7th. He's an artist and will appreciate the workmanship of the house and furnishings.

A Brief History of the Farm

Sisters Hill Farm is in Stanfordville, NY (central Dutchess County) on property that was willed to our Congregation in 1916. The land was worked until the 1940s; then it was

allowed to lay fallow, except for hay production, until the Sisters established this organic farm in 1998. Our farm usually limits itself to vegetables but, this year, one of the interns foster-mothered several sheep and chickens that she borrowed from another farm to gain livestock experience.

Only 210 farm shares are available. They sell out earlier each year, and there is a long waiting list. So even though several restaurants and a nursing home have expressed interest in buying the farm's superior produce, we can't oblige them. We can accommodate Cornell Cooperative

Extension, which grows experimental crops on some of our land.

A very important part of the SHF's mission is to share our harvest with those in need. Each week, we donate a portion of our fresh, organic produce to individual families, to soup kitchens, and to organizations serving the materially disadvantaged in six New York State counties. These food offerings are a natural extension of the Sisters of Charity's service to

the poor.

Forty-four shareholders picked up their produce in the Bronx, at Mount Saint Vincent. The others retrieved their shares right from the farm. Twenty shares were taken by the First Unitarian Society of Westchester in Hastings. ■



Among the cheerful faces greeting shareholders at Mount Saint Vincent this season were Sisters Theresa Rybarik, Eleanor Fitzgerald, Mary Ann Garisto, Agnes Connolly, Anne Marie Falloon, and SC Associate Amanda Sarmiento.

Other volunteers for Bronx pickups included Sisters Margaret Beaudette, Alberta Carey, Gloria Degnan, Carol Finegan, Mary Aquin Flaherty, Maggie Kelly, Patricia Morgan, Nancy McNamara, Rosemary Petrucelli and Patricia A. Walsh. Jane Mwambu, who works at the Sisters of Charity Center, and Riverdadians Nancy & Cordelia Lustering and Joan Cashway also helped with distributions this fall.

Globetrotting Sister Finds God Everywhere

by Sr. Mary Aquin Flaherty

One of my fellow Sisters of Charity asked me to write about my travel experiences. I'm known as the "well-traveled nun." Rather than focusing on where I went per se, I decided to write about the depth of faith I witnessed in my journeys over many years. I'm glad to report that our God is alive and well in the hearts of so many people.

In Lourdes, France, the summer of 2007, I was among thousands of pilgrims from around the world at an international Mass in the Pius X Basilica. Among the faithful were innumerable clergy: cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, plus seminarians. Whether vowed or lay person, all worshipped and gave glory to the One God. To be part of this reverence and devotion for the most sublime gift of the Eucharist affects the most sacred feelings of one's being.

Another day at Lourdes, I attended a Youth Mass for international volunteers and saw proof that God is alive and working wonders in the young.

I've sought out churches in Edinburgh, Scotland and in Dalkey, a coastal village southeast of Dublin City. In County



Bringing in the sheaves? Well, not quite. Here, a youthful Sr. Aquin helped her Uncle Pat turn hay on the Island of Inishbofin, off the coast of Galway.

“Our God is alive and well.”

Mayo, I attended Mass at Ballintubber Abbey, the only church in Ireland founded by an Irish king that is still in daily use. In each of these places of worship, I found the faithful silently adoring Christ before the exposed Eucharist. Their reverence convinced me they believed in living an interior Eucharistic life.

Ecclesiastes tells us that there is a time for everything. So we must take each day and live it as a precious gift. In my many travels – to Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Europe and, above all, Ireland – I found time to enjoy and be silent in many shrines, oratories, and small country wayside chapels.

In schools where I'm a substitute teacher, I entertain the students with tales of my journeys. I like to call them "spreading the Good News by travel story" parables.

I am most grateful to God for the countless faith-filled experiences I have been fortunate enough to witness on my travels. These souvenirs of the soul are the mementoes that mean the most. ■

Sr. Mary Aquin Flaherty has been an educator for 62 years. She has taught at Cathedral HS and Bishop McDonnell HS and spent over 30 years with first graders. Sister still is a substitute teacher at several Catholic schools. This past summer, she visited Ireland and Scotland again.



Sisters to March in March

Our Sisters have marched up New York's Fifth Avenue in many a St. Patrick's Day Parade, but always as part of a delegation representing a school, a ministry or an Irish county. That will change for the 2009 parade: the Sisters will be marching in their own Congregational contingent and the parade will be dedicated to them!

Besides our own Sisters, our group will include representatives from the three other Congregations

that trace their roots to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and serve in the tri-state area:

- The Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth (New Jersey)
- The Sisters of Charity – Halifax
- The Daughters of Charity, Northeast Province, Albany

We hope that family members, friends, school alums and ministry colleagues will march with us in the 247th annual parade on Tuesday, March 17th. The parade starts at 44th St. and ends just past the American Irish Historical

Society at 83rd St. The Cardinal will review the parade from the steps of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

It will be very special to march in the largest parade in the world during the bicentennial of the founding of the Sisters of Charity by Elizabeth Seton in 1809. It gives us a unique chance to share our story of service to immigrants, Irish and otherwise, with those who might not be familiar with it. If you'd like to join our line of march, call us at 718-549-9200. ■

In Memoriam

Sr. Geraldine Carey • Educator

Religious Name: Mary Gerald • Entered: 1933 • Final vows: 1940 • Age at death: 91

The Carey family moved from Milford, CT to the northwest Bronx before Geraldine was of school age. Her association with our Sisters began in first grade, at St. Margaret of Cortona School, and continued through high school, at Elizabeth Seton Academy.

Sister Geraldine specialized in elementary education for 54 years. When asked once about the significance of her work Sister wrote, “To serve Christ in the person of each little one I teach and to bring Him to families and communities.” She taught at six elementary schools in four counties over 37 years. Then in 1972, she began her longest parish association – with St. Theresa’s in Briarcliff Manor, where she taught for 17 of the 30 years she lived there.

Sr. Geri lived a joyful life. Even in her retirement, she enjoyed making rosaries for those who needed them and in chauffeuring others to appointments.

Sr. Maria Dominic Hanly • Educator

Entered: 1940 • Final vows: 1946 • Age at death: 86

She was born in Ireland (County Cork), raised in Queens with her two siblings, went to high school in Brooklyn (Bishop McDonnell), and taught at 12 parochial schools in five counties over 59 years.

Sr. Dominic’s longest ministry was St. Margaret of Cortona School in the Bronx, where she taught the 7th & 8th grades for 25 years then was a substitute teacher for two more years until retiring at age 80 in 2001. Sr. Dominic was a legend at St. Margaret’s, renowned as a grammar teacher, as a producer of peerless Christmas pageants, and as the school “handy ma’am” with her own tool box. Her second longest ministry was St. Peter’s on Staten Island (1943-53). Former pupils recalled, “She got the most out of me,” and, “I gave 100% because of her.” Yet, she was gentle and understanding to those dealing with loss or problems.

Sr. Marie Aimee Walsh • Educator / Administrator

Entered: 1933 • Final vows: 1938 • Age at death: 98

Sr. Aimee was affiliated with 11 different elementary schools during her 56 years in education; 35 of those years were spent in Westchester County. After teaching every grade but the 1st over 22 years, Sister began a 15-year ministry in 1956 as school principal. She served in this administrative capacity at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarsdale (1956-62), then at Resurrection School in Rye (1962-68) and finally at St. Gregory the Great in Harrison (1968-71). As principal, Sr. Aimee was noted for her warmth and humor and her dedication to the quality of education at the schools in her care.

Sister spent 12 years at Sacred Heart parish in Hartsdale, teaching in the grade school and serving at the Congregation’s House of Prayer. She certainly put her BA in English and MSED in Educational Psychology to good use; Sr. Aimee didn’t retire from teaching until she was 80.

Sr. Marie Thomas Donachie • Educator / Administrator

Entered: 1944 • Final vows: 1949 • Age at death: 84


The Donachie’s emigrated from Scotland and raised their 11 children in Mount Vernon. Eight of them were called to religious life – three boys became priests and Jean was one of the five girls who became Sisters of Charity. She had the Sisters at St. Barnabas in the Bronx from grades 1-12 and told CNY in an interview, “There was a natural tendency to look up to them, to see how happy they were...I can’t remember not wanting to be a sister.” So she did, and took Marie Thomas as her religious name.

Sr. Thomas specialized in elementary education for 59 years; 33 of them at SS. Peter and Paul School in the Bronx, where she taught mathematics (1970-94), then remedial reading until her retirement in 2003 at age 80. Sister also served as principal of Visitation School in the Bronx (1962-68). Additionally, she taught at Blessed Sacrament, Staten Island; St. John the Evangelist, White Plains; St. Joachim’s, Beacon; Incarnation in Manhattan; and St. Agatha’s Home, Nanuet. She was predeceased by all her siblings and is survived by nieces and nephews.

Sr. Jude Marie Walsh • Administrator

Entered: 1946 • Final vows: 1951 • Age at death: 93

Mary Elizabeth grew up in Shamonkin, PA, the youngest of five children. She worked for 13 years before entering the Congregation. Known for her organizational skills, she once commented about her service, “I try to do my work well and thoroughly, believing myself called to it by God through my assignment here.”

For 36 of her 44 years in ministry, Sister served at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Manhattan. There, she was assistant to the controller (1948-52), X-ray supervisor (1952-56), administrator liaison at Reiss Bldg (1956-62), supervisor of 

medical records (1970-74), and tumor registrar in medical records (1974-92). Sister Jude also was business manager and group mother at St. Agatha's Home, Nanuet (1962-66) and food manager at the Academy of Mount St. Vincent, Tuxedo Park (1966-70).

Sr. Margaret Mary Dowdell • Teacher / Guidance Counselor

Religious Name: Mary Isabel • Entered: 1936 • Final vows: 1941 • Age at death: 93

Margaret Mary was born in Pennsylvania, but grew up in Manhattan where she had our Sisters as teachers in grades 1-12. Sr. Margaret was known throughout her life as a dedicated teacher and guidance counselor. She taught elementary school for 10 years, then, in 1947, began her 25-year affiliation with high schools, during which she began her ministry as guidance counselor: seven years at her alma mater Cathedral; 12 years at Bishop McDonnell in Brooklyn; four years at St. Gabriel in New Rochelle; one year at Immaculata in Manhattan. Then for four years, Sr. Margaret worked as a counselor in the public sector – with the NYS Dept. of Labor and the NYC Board of Education.

Sister's single longest association was 22 years with Grace Institute in Manhattan, where she taught and was a guidance counselor for 13 years, a clerical assistant for five years and a volunteer for four years. She retired at age 84.

Sr. Madeleine Regina Nash • Teacher / Administrator

Entered: 1931 • Final vows: 1937 • Age at death: 95

Mary Madeleine was born and raised in Manhattan. She graduated from St. John Evangelist elementary school and Cathedral HS, both Sisters of Charity schools.

As Sr. Madeleine Regina, her religious life was dedicated to children's welfare. Her first ministry in the Congregation was St. Joseph Hall in Brooklyn where she would devote a total of 28 years. She began as a teacher (1932-43), was a Group Mother (1947-54), served as Coordinator of Services to Children (1954-58) and then as Administrator / Superior (1958-1964). Under her direction, many innovations were introduced and St. Joseph's took the first steps toward becoming a full social service agency. Sister also taught at St. Mary of the Snow, Saugerties (1943-47).

At age 51, Sister began a new ministry at The New York Foundling Hospital's facilities on Staten Island. During her 22 years of service there, she served as Administrative Supervisor of the Boarding Department, Supervisor of out-of-state adoptions and Director of volunteer services.

In 1986, Sr. Madeleine began service as a Eucharistic Minister and care-giver to the elderly at Our Lady of the Angelus in Rego Park. She lived in that Queens parish ten years and retired at age 83.

Sr. Margaretta Maria Brock • Nurse / Administrator

Entered: 1931 • Final vows: 1937 • Age at death: 95

Mary Margaret was one of seven children. She graduated from two Sisters of Charity schools: St. Margaret of Cortona in the Bronx and the nearby Seton Academy in Yonkers. As Sr. Margaretta Maria, she earned degrees in nursing and nursing administration from the Catholic University of America. She was missioned for a total of 53 years at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Manhattan, where she served as a nurse, pediatric nurse and patient representative in the ER. Sr. Margaretta also served as director of nursing at St. Joseph Hospital in Yonkers where she established a school to train licensed practical nurses (1946-52) and at St. Vincent's Hospital in Harrison (1952-60). She retired at age 88.

Sr. Margaretta was not the only vowed religious in her family. She was predeceased by her brother Fr. Frank Brock, SJ (NY Province), and is survived by grandnephew Fr. Terry Brock who ministers in Canada.

Sr. Katherine Marie Talbot • Educator / Administrator

Religious Name: Sr. Anne Rosaire • Entered: 1947 • Final vows: 1953 • Age at death: 81

New York City born & bred Katherine Marie was the oldest of four. She earned a BA in math from the College of Mount Saint Vincent and a MBA in management from New York University. She began her educational ministry in 1950 and taught at three grade schools over the next 11 years. In 1961, Sister became Registrar / Director of Admissions at the newly-opened Elizabeth Seton College in Yonkers; she served a total of 12 years there by 1979. Sr. Katherine also taught for one year at St. Joseph-by-the-Sea on Staten Island and two years each at Cardinal Spellman HS in the Bronx and at Grace Institute Outreach in Manhattan. Sister's Congregational service included three years as director of placement and research, eight years on the Council as a Regional Superior, and nine years as administrator of the Convent of Mary the Queen. That was followed by volunteering for nine years in the finance office at Mount Saint Vincent Convent and for two years at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

(concludes on back cover)

In Memoriam *(continued from page 23)*

Sr. Marita Rose O'Brien • Nurse

Entered: 1948 • Final vows: 1953 • Age at death: 82

Theresa Eileen grew up in Manhattan with her seven siblings. She was taught by Sisters of Charity at St. Joseph Academy, Holy Cross Academy and St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing. As Sr. Marita Rose, she would add BS and MSN degrees to her RN in nursing.

For a total of 43 years, Sister served at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, starting in 1950 as a medical/surgical nurse. She also was a clinical specialist and spent 20 years in community health education. Her final position put her in touch with some of the neediest residents of the lower west side. She loved the city and its people.

In the 1960s, Sr. Rose was a home care coordinator and an administrative assistant at St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers. She also was a medical coordinator at The New York Foundling and a coronary care nurse at the Veteran's Hospital, both in Manhattan.

Sr. Joseph Rosaire McKeivitt • Educator / Administrator

Entered: 1945 • Final vows: 1950 • Age at death: 87

Helen Theresa's association with the Sisters of Charity began at Cathedral HS. When she entered five years after graduation, she received the religious name Joseph Rosaire and kept it throughout her life. Sister earned a BA in English and a MA and PhD in classics.

Sr. Joseph's entire ministry was spent in Riverdale. She dedicated 42 years to the College of Mount Saint Vincent where she was a professor of classical languages for 26 years (1966-92), worked in the registrar's office (1992-2004), served as sacristan at the Chapel (1995-2004) and then volunteered in the registrar's office until 2008, officially retiring only a few months before her death.

Sister began her teaching career at Elizabeth Seton Academy in Yonkers (1947-60). Then, she was secretary to Mother General Loretto Bernard for six years. Known as "Little Joe," Sister always affected people in a big way.

Sr. Eileen Maher • Educator / Administrator / Counselor

Religious Name: Regina Francis • Entered: 1935 • Final vows: 1940 • Age at death: 91

Eileen grew up in Manhattan with three siblings. She graduated from Cathedral HS and Grace Institute which both were staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

Sr. Eileen was a devoted educator for 52 years. She served for a total of 28 years at Congregation missions in The Bahamas, where she taught, worked in parishes, served as headmistress at St. Benedict on Harbour Island and as deputy head mistress at St. Augustine College in Nassau. She was loved and respected by Bahamians from different religious traditions and all walks of life.

Stateside, Sister was principal at St. John the Baptist School in Brooklyn (1966-67) and administrator at St. Gabriel HS in New Rochelle (1983-85). Her MA in Counseling was put to good use at St. Joseph by-the-Sea HS on Staten Island (1977-83), at St. Barnabas HS in the Bronx (1985-88) and at St. Clare Hospital in Manhattan where she was a patient representative for a year. Sr. Eileen also worked in pastoral care at the Congregation's Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers. She was predeceased by her brother Fr. John Maher.

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