



February 2  
marks the  
153rd  
anniversary  
of the  
Sisters of Charity  
at  
Mount  
Saint Vincent



*NYC's Mayor Michael Bloomberg joined us for dinner and addressed the assemblage. At one point, he seemed to be sharing his vision for the future with Sr. Dorothy Metz.*

**In this issue:**

- Partners in Ministry Saluted
- Bicentennial Events Recapped
- Jubilarians Remembered
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## A Celebration of Collaboration

by **Retta Blaney**

Saluting the past and looking to the future, 600 Sisters of Charity, SC Associates, supporters and friends gathered September 29th for an elegant candlelit dinner at Chelsea Piers in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the order by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The evening was meant as a reflection on the growth of Mother Seton's mission of charity as well as recognition of the support of lay workers in the hundreds of sponsored works begun by the Sisters.

"You are an essential part of our celebration

today," SC president, Sr. Dorothy Metz said. "We never could have served the poor so well without you."

Since 1847 when 33 Sisters formally became the Sisters of Charity of New York, the order has been a strong part of the core of New York City. "Ordinary women doing extraordinary work for New York," Sr. Dorothy said, "always with the help of others."

Chelsea Piers was a fitting place to celebrate, with its floor-to-ceiling windows offering glorious views of the Hudson River, complete with a spectacular water display thanks to the New York Fire Department's water boat.

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# Letter From the President

As this issue of *Vision* goes to press, I am reminded of what a wonderful year this has been for the Sisters of Charity. It was a year of celebration of the 200th anniversary of our founding by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland. As you will read in the following articles, the celebration took many forms. We are so grateful to God for the many blessings we have received.

At the same time as I write this letter, I feel an overwhelming sadness over the large number of people killed or seriously injured in Haiti, while the number of homeless is estimated to be two million. One can't help but feel helpless in the face of such widespread devastation. (I am reminded of the feelings that lingered and permanently changed me on September 11, 2001, when terrorist attacks on this country claimed 2,973 victims.) We do what we can to alleviate the pain, usually by making financial contributions, and somehow we continue with our daily lives.

Yet in the midst of all that death and destruction in Haiti, there was cause for rejoicing when a team of specially trained personnel from the New York City Police and Fire Departments rescued a young boy, Kiki, and his sister, Sabrina, from the ruins of a collapsed building where they had been buried for seven days. The boy raised his arms to heaven and a broad smile beamed from his small face.

Images like that have the ability to transform us to a place of hope. The photo of this young boy being freed from the rubble of stones reminded me that Christ's life did not end in the tomb. Rather, he passed through his death on the cross to the freedom of new, resurrected life. Suffering seems to be inescapable, but it is not an end in itself. Suffering can indeed be overcome by enduring it, as Christ showed us.

This is a time to remember that God is with us in times of joy as well as sorrow. We can let our lives be ruled by so many concerns, among them material possessions, prestige or power, our good name. With the Psalmist, let us pray, "I have the Lord before my eyes constantly. God stands at my right hand and nothing can shake me." (Psalm 16:8) With the Risen Christ among us, Resurrection can take place within our everyday lives.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Dorothy Metz, SC  
President

Our Sisters, Associates, members of our staff and friends in our local community have donated \$24,850 (so far) to the relief effort in Haiti. These donations are being distributed to the Daughters of Charity who have Sisters working in Haiti; to the Daughters of Wisdom who are giving direct service there; to Catholic Relief Services, to Partners in Health, to the Catholic Medical Mission Board, and to Klinik Sen Michel, the clinic project of Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit.

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

# Bicentennial Year Ends, but Spirit Continues

The Sisters and Daughters of Mother Seton closed out the yearlong observance of the Bicentennial of their founding with a gathering at St. John's University in Queens on Sunday, January 3, 2010.



*Sr. Margaret Beaudette, SC.  
Theme: Hazard Yet Forward;  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

Sisters of Charity of New York, New Jersey and Halifax, along with Daughters of Charity, and priests and brothers of the Congregation of the Mission came together for a prayer service and a panel discussion at St. Thomas More Church on the grounds of the Vincentian campus. They were joined by family members, colleagues and friends for a contingent of approximately 175.

Sr. Claire E. Regan, our Justice Effectiveness Coordinator, represented the Sisters of Charity of New York on the panel discussing the theme "Hazard Yet Forward into the Third Century." Sisters from the three other Federation congregations

serving the NYC area completed the four-woman panel. They reminded attendees that Elizabeth Seton was a woman of her and our times; a pioneer and prophet. Remembering the difficulties that she faced and overcame can encourage us when things get tough. The Sisters spoke of moving the Charity Charism into the future, an era of hope. There was also time for audience reflection. The afternoon closed out with a dinner reception.

The next day, January 4, Vespers at the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton / Church of Our Lady of the Rosary (at

the Battery in lower Manhattan) celebrated the actual feast day of Elizabeth Ann Seton. Fr. Peter Meehan, the pastor, was the featured speaker.

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Throughout the Bicentennial year, which opened with a Liturgy at Convent Station on January 3, 2009, ties between the four congregations serving in the NYC metro area were strengthened with each event.

For the actual Bicentennial weekend in Emmitsburg, MD, 11 Sisters of Charity of New York and two of their Associates traveled to the site where Elizabeth Seton formally founded the Sisters of Charity in the Americas on July 31, 1809. They served as lectors and Eucharistic ministers at various services.

Sisters from the different Federation congregations dressed in their traditional habits. Sr. Regina Bechtle portrayed Mother Elizabeth Boyle, the first Mother General in NY, in the timeline that symbolically showed how the charism of Charity spread from the time of Vincent and Louise down through the present throughout the US and Canada.

In the photo below, taken in the newly-dedicated Seton Legacy Garden in Emmitsburg are, from the left, Sisters Charlotte Raftery, Kathleen Byrnes, Regina Bechtle, Margaret O'Brien, Mary E. Mc Cormick, Sheila Finucane, Mary Ann Daly, Helen Maureen Wade, Eileen McGrory, SC Associate Margaret Comaskey, Sr. Katherine King, SC Associate Roberta Lener and Sr. Nora Cunningham. Behind them is a statue of Mother Seton teaching children by Sr. Margaret Beaudette, SCNY. It holds a place of honor in the

*(continued on next page)*



*The Spirit Continues* (continued from previous page)

center of the garden, which also features stone monuments to each of the Federation congregations.



To celebrate the 235th anniversary of Elizabeth Seton’s birth (August 28, 1774), 150 Sisters and their friends sailed around lower Manhattan on Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises. As the ship rounded the Battery and the Shrine Church came into view, cheers went up from the passengers.



Photo by: Elena Miranda

Seen waiting for the call to board are, from left in front, Sisters Winifred Goddard, Mary Ann Garisto, Grace Henke, Eileen McGrory and Eleanor Fitzgerald.



Fall was busy time for Bicentennial events. On September 13, there was an afternoon walking tour that began at the Shrine Church and ended with Vespers and a reception at St. Peter’s, Barclay Street, the church where St. Elizabeth was received into the Catholic Church. Then, there was a day of prayer, reflection and celebration on October 24 at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Staten Island, where Elizabeth’s maternal grandfather was the rector for 30 years. The theme

was “Elizabeth Seton’s Legacy: Alive in Us Today.”

The Bicentennial Lecture series at the College of Mount Saint Vincent featured authors who had written books based on the Sisters’ works. Bernadette McCauley, Ph.D., professor of history at Hunter College and author of *Who Shall Take Care of our Sick?: Roman Catholic Sisters and the Development of Catholic Hospitals in New York City*, spoke on October 7 of the Sisters’ contributions to Healthcare. The next month, Maureen Fitzgerald, Ph.D., associate professor and program director at the College of William & Mary and author of *Habits of Compassion: Irish Catholic Nuns and the Origins of New York’s Welfare System, 1830-1920*, covered the Sisters’ pioneering work in social welfare. The series opened in March with Msgr. Thomas J. Shelley, Ph.D., author of numerous books, including *The Archdiocese of New York: the Bicentennial History, 1808-2008*, talking about the Sisters’ contributions to education. At each lecture, a panel of professionals relevant to the evening’s theme took questions from the audience. It was a most instructive series and kudos goes to Sr. Regina Bechtle for chairing the committee that made it possible.

Although the formal observance of the Seton Bicentennial may be concluded, the spirit of Charity that compelled St. Elizabeth and her followers is still strong. The bonds of Federation strengthened at each gathering, especially among the four congregations serving in the NYC metro area. The Seton family motto, “Hazard Yet Forward,” still resonates today.



This year, the Vincentian family will celebrate the lives and ministries of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. Both died 350 years ago, Louise on March 15, Vincent on September 27. ■

It was a busy fall for The New York Foundling. It celebrated its 140th year with a “Homecoming.” Adoptees, former foster children, their caretakers, orphan train rider descendants, social workers and former baby nurses were among the 500 who gathered in Manhattan the weekend of October 9 – 12. This Homecoming capped off a nationwide drive to find and reunite all with a connection to this great institution, which was started in 1869 with \$5 by Sr. Mary Irene Fitzgibbon, SC.



The Foundling dedicated its Staten Island Campus on November 17. At this site, it will offer programs in Preventive Services, Foster Boarding Homes, Group Homes, Health and Mental Health Services, and Healthy Families. At the same time, Stephen’s House was also dedicated. This Foundling branch is a diagnostic center that offers a temporary home for 24 youth at a time. During the course of a year, it will provide a safe haven for over 160 children.

# English Spoken (and Written) Here

In 2009, the Sisters of Charity of New York began sponsoring an evening ESL (English as a Second Language) program at Mount Saint Vincent. Classes were held two evenings a week, two hours each night, over eight weeks and attracted participants from the surrounding Bronx and Yonkers neighborhoods. There were summer and fall sessions.

This outreach is called Project L.I.G.H.T., an acronym that refers to some of goals of the program – Learning English Individually and in Small Groups, Helping Each Other Together. Sr. Mary Katherine Hamm, the Director of Volunteer Services for the Congregation, co-directs the program with Luz Reyes Devine, a local ESL teacher originally from Puerto Rico.



*Among the volunteer teachers was Sr. Nancy McNamara who has been both a teacher and school administrator over five decades.*

fall session ended just before Thanksgiving and the many new friendships were among the reasons for giving extra thanks.

These ESL classes don't serve just those more comfortable with Spanish; they attract students from various countries in Eastern European and Asia too.

All are eager to improve their reading, writing and everyday conversation skills in English.

This program drew many volunteers from the local parish, St. Margaret of Cortona, as well as the Sisters of Charity. Among the latter, were Sisters

Margaret Brick, Alice Darragh, Mary Jane Fitzgibbon, Grace Henke, Nancy McNamara and Ann Reynolds.

By the end of the fall classes, there were 12 volunteers and 25 regular participants. Both sessions ended with a celebratory potluck dinner in the Community Room at the Sisters of Charity Center. The ESL students, their families and friends enjoyed a wonderful meal, spirited and inspirational music, and a slide show showing the students at work during the prior eight weeks. Teachers distributed certificates and photos were snapped. Congratulations were offered all around. The

Volunteers usually share their time once a week for two hours. Depending on their skill and experience, they may lead a class, oversee a small group, or work one-on-one. They love the experience of working with such appreciative and motivated adults! Everyone leaves a winner.

The next evening ESL session runs March 15 – May 19. ■

## Charity in the City



**If you'd like more information about these and other volunteer opportunities with the Congregation, contact Sr. Mary Katherine Hamm at [mkhamm@scny.org](mailto:mkhamm@scny.org) or 718-549-9200 extention 264. Or visit [www.scny.org/becomevolunteer.html](http://www.scny.org/becomevolunteer.html)**

This summer will be the third year of our Charity in the City program.

This two-week outreach ministry offers young women between the ages of 18 & 30 a chance to participate in the Mission of Charity to those in need.

Along with some Sisters and their Colleagues, volunteers have opportunities for hands-on experiences of service, to reflect together on justice implications and strategies for change, and to share in community and prayer.

No experience needed — just a desire to help and a willingness to live simply. During the time of service, volunteers get a chance to catch some of the spirit and sites of Elizabeth Seton's New York.

The 2010 program runs June 1 – 13, 2010. ■

# Jubilarians Celebrated for Years of Dedicated Service



*From the left, seated: Sr. Rosemarie Connell, Sr. Anne Denise Brennan, Sr. Ann Citarella, Sr. Eileen Patricia Walsh, and Sr. Loretto Thomas Donohue. Standing: Sr. Regina Murphy, Sr. Sheila Brosnan, Sr. Mary Catherine Cleary, Sr. Florence Speth, Sr. Loretto John Meehan, Sr. Noreen Sugrue, and Sr. Mary Carmel Craig. (Not available at time of photo, Sr. Kathleen Gilbride and Sr. Frances Smith.)*

The Sisters of Charity of New York celebrated their Golden and Silver Jubilarian Sisters on Saturday, September 12th at Mount Saint Vincent, the northwest Bronx site that has been their administrative and spiritual center for 152 years.

The Liturgy was held in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, where the Sisters began their vowed religious life. The principal celebrants were Rev. Msgr. Raymond Byrne and Rev. Msgr. Robert Larkin. Welcoming remarks were given by Sr. Dorothy Metz, President of the Congregation. Sr. Sheila Brosnan, a Golden Jubilarian herself, gave synopses of the great lives and works of the day's honorees. The Chapel was filled to capacity with the Jubilarians' family and friends. Liturgy was followed by a reception.

## 13 Golden Jubilarians

**Sr. Anne Denise Brennan**, (Sr. Maria) has dedicated her entire career to education. For the past several years, Sr. Anne Denise has turned her attention to teaching those joining the Sisters of Charity as the Formation/Novice Director. This past October, Sister moved to Guatemala to head the Congregation's growing novitiate program there. Sr. Anne

Denise spent many of her teaching years at the College of Mount Saint Vincent as an Associate Professor of English. While on campus, she also served as both an associate and director of the Center for Leadership/Spirituality and a member of the Campus Ministry Team. Sr. Anne Denise has taught at Cathedral HS in Manhattan; St. Anthony of Padua, Bronx; Blessed Sacrament, Richmond; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarsdale; and St. Ann School, Yonkers. She served as principal of St. Anthony of Padua. Sr. Anne Denise has been a lifelong student always preparing for her next ministry. Among her many honors, she was awarded the College of Mount Saint Vincent's TRIO Student Support Services Award, the Enright Award for Teaching Excellence (twice!), and the Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy Class Representative of the Year Award. Sr. Anne Denise is also listed in *Who's Who Among American Teachers*.

**Sr. Sheila Brosnan**, (Sr. Denis Marie) has been both a teacher and a nurse. In the late 1970s, she began her ministry in health care. Sr. Sheila has divided her time between the States, Chile and Guatemala. She is currently the senior vice president for mission at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center Continuing Care Services. Sister began teaching at

St. Charles Borromeo, Brooklyn. She continued as a teacher at Our Lady of Mercy, Port Chester; St. Joseph by-the-Sea, Richmond; and St. Barnabas HS in the Bronx. Sr. Sheila also served as a pastoral worker at the Santiago Chile Mission and as a nurse/missionary in El Novillero, Guatemala. Her nursing ministries include: Metropolitan Hospital, the Little Sisters of Assumption, and St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center, all in Manhattan. Sr. Sheila took on supervisory roles at Little Sisters and St. Vincent's as well. She also served as a pastoral associate at St. Francis Xavier in Manhattan. From 1995 to 2003, Sr. Sheila was a Regional Coordinator of the Sisters of Charity of New York.

**Sr. Mary Catherine Cleary**, (Sr. Lawrence Mary) has worked with elementary school children throughout her religious life. For the past 25 years, she has served as principal of Our Lady of Angels School in the Bronx, which has been a Sister of Charity school since its founding in the late 1920s. Sr. Mary Catherine also has served as assistant administrator at Incarnation in Manhattan. At St. Gabriel in Queens, Sister served as Principal for nearly a decade, and also coordinated primary grades there for one year. Sr. Mary Catherine began at St. Gabriel, as a first grade teacher, a position she held for seven years. She began her teaching ministry at Holy Trinity in Manhattan as a third grade teacher.

**Sr. Rosemarie Connell**, (Sr. Maura John) is currently the Administrator at Visitation School in the Bronx, a position she has held for nearly 30 years – or almost 40% of the school's history! Her fellow Jubilarians tease her that she has taken a monastic vow of stability. During the past 50 years, Sr. Rosemarie has been staunchly committed to elementary school excellence in the area of academics and religious training. She taught Math and Spanish to the 5th, 7th and 8th grades at St. Raymond School in the Bronx. Sr. Rosemarie taught the younger grades, 2nd and 3rd, while ministering at Elizabeth Seton Academy in Yonkers. Sister had her first teaching experiences at St. Gabriel School in the Bronx and St. Patrick School in Manhattan.

**Sr. Mary Carmel Craig**, (Sr. Elizabeth) began her ministry in the classroom. For more than a decade now, she has served as assistant administrator at the Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers. Sr. Mary Carmel began her teaching ministry in the early 1960s at Blessed Sacrament HS in Manhattan, where she taught a variety of subjects, including Latin, History, English and Religion. Her other education posts include St. Joseph by-the-Sea in Richmond, where she was

assistant administrator; St. Augustine, Grace Outreach, and Grace Institute in Manhattan as Dean of Students / Assistant Administrator. Sister also spent several years as assistant administrator at St. Joseph by-the-Sea in Richmond. From 1983 to 1992, she was Secretary to the Congregation at the Sister of Charity Center. Sr. Mary Carmel was also instrumental in the Sisters of Charity Center Retirement Study Research Project done in the late 1970s.

**Sr. Loretto Thomas Donohue**, (Sr. Elizabeth Bridget) has dedicated her entire working life to St. Agatha Home in Nanuet. She began in 1962 as a senior child care worker. Beginning in 1974, Sr. Loretto Thomas provided Remedial Education at P.S. 53M for students of St. Agatha's. In 1981, she began working with the special education children. For almost the entire last 20 years of her ministry, Sr. Loretto Thomas was a teacher and special education teacher for P.S. 723, also connected with St. Agatha Home. She retired in 2006, currently does volunteer work, and resides in Nanuet at St. Agatha Convent.



*Sr. Mary Catherine Cleary led the Jubilarians into the Chapel and carried the processional cross.*

**Sr. Kathleen Gilbride**, (Sr. Miriam) is currently the finance office assistant for the Sisters of St. Dominic in Blauvelt. Her earlier roles in her religious life were in education. She began as a first grade teacher in the 1960s in Richmond at St. Peter School. Sr. Kathleen also taught at St. Barnabas Elementary and St. Anthony in the Bronx; St. Peter in Haverstraw; and at St. Barnabas HS in the Bronx. After more than 20 years of teaching, Sr. Kathleen went back to school full time to become an attorney. She spent several years working with Maryssa Gilbride, Esq. to hone her skills. In 1988, she returned to the Sisters of Charity as the representative for Social Concerns/Corporate Responsibility. Sr. Kathleen also served as project coordinator of the Sisters of Charity Housing in Nanuet before becoming director of Seton Village—Phase One in Nanuet in 2002.

**Sr. Loretto John Meehan**, has served as a health care professional throughout her ministry. She currently is assistant to the Retired Sisters with Health Services at Mount Saint Vincent Convent, where she had also served as assistant to administrator. Sr. Loretto John began her nursing career at the Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers. A registered nurse, Sr. Loretto John dedicated much of her professional time to the residents of North Carolina, first as a nurse at Glenmary Nursing Home and then at Good Shepherd Home Health Agency, both in Hayesville. Sr. Loretto has received numerous honors for her nearly 30 years in North Carolina,  
*(continued on next page)*

## *Jubilarians Honored* (continued from previous page)

including being named Nurse of the Year in 1997 and Citizen of the Year in 1994. In 1997, the Smokey Mountain Sentinel named her one of the “Heroic Women of the Southern Highlands.” In 2000, the year she returned to NY, a span over the Hiwassee River in North Carolina was named the Sister L. John Meehan Bridge. In 2002, a Community Service Center in Hayesville was named in her honor.

**Sr. Regina Murphy**, (Sr. Thomas Marilda) is currently the property director of the Sisters of Charity of New York. She also served as the project director of the Interfaith Caregivers of the Northwest Bronx. Sr. Regina began her ministry as a teacher in the 1960s, in the 7th and 8th grades at St. John the Evangelist in White Plains. She also taught at St. Barnabas HS in the Bronx; St. Joseph in Yonkers; Holy Family Parish (CCD) and at Rikers Island. Sr. Regina also taught English at St.

Augustine College in The Bahamas, where she also served as an administrator, and the College of New Rochelle’s School of New Resources. In the mid-1970s, she began as a staff person at the Intercommunity Center for Justice and Peace, later serving as director. A Regional Coordinator for the Sisters of Charity from 1987 to 1995, Sr. Regina also served as a staff person for the Christian Brothers Investment Services and program director for the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in Manhattan.

**Sr. Frances Smith**, (Sr. Marguerite de Lourdes) dedicated the majority of her ministry to St. Ignatius Loyola School in Manhattan, some 35 years. She began there as a first grade teacher in 1968 and taught 3rd grade there for 20 years. Sr. Frances finished her service at St. Ignatius Loyola as the librarian from 1996-2003. She had begun her ministry in Brooklyn as a Group Mother at St. Joseph Hall. In 2003, she retired to Mount Saint Vincent Convent. She has served in prayer and witness since then and currently resides at Mary the Queen in Yonkers.



*At the reception after the Liturgy, Sisters socialized with family and friends. Here, Sr. Anne Denise Brennan, center, is congratulated by her colleagues from the New Membership Office – Sr. Maria Iglesias and Marilyn Henning.*

**Sr. Florence Speth**, (Sr. Mary Florence) has been the director of Fox House Shelter in Manhattan since its inception over 20 years ago. While helping to develop this facility for homeless women and their children, she also served as associate pastor at St. Paul in East Harlem.

Sr. Florence began her ministry as a first grade teacher at St. Paul in 1962. She continued to teach there part time at the Neighborhood Children Center while she performed neighborhood work throughout East Harlem. Sr. Florence returned to St. Paul in the mid-1980s as principal. In 1972, she spent a year working in the Follow Through Program at Bank Street College. Sr. Florence also served her Congregation for eight years as Regional Coordinator, from 1975 to 1983.

**Sr. Noreen Sugrue**, (Sr. Timothy Maria) combined her two loves – art and education – throughout her ministry. She began as a sixth grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament in Richmond.

She also taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarsdale; St. Anthony in the Bronx; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Manhattan. She began teaching art in 1969 at five schools throughout the city and also taught art in Appalachia. Sr. Noreen returned to teaching art in the 1980s at Incarnation in Manhattan; St. Peter in Yonkers and Mount Saint Vincent Convent. Sr. Noreen served as a volunteer art teacher and regional coordinator at the New York Foundling Hospital in Manhattan. She provided volunteer services including art at St. Patrick Villa, Nanuet, and taught at Sts. Peter and Paul School in the Bronx in the mid-1990s. She also worked with the Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale as a recreation therapist. Sr. Noreen served as the assistant archivist and then archivist for the Sisters of Charity Center for more than a decade. She provided congregational services to Mount Saint Vincent Convent until her retirement to prayer and witness in 2008.

**Sister Eileen Patricia Walsh**, (Sr. Rose Michael) has served as resident services director of Seton Village in Nanuet since 2002. A nurse by trade, Sr. Eileen began her ministry as a

senior child care worker at St. Agatha Home, also in Nanuet. She served as a student / practical nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers before becoming a practical nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern. After receiving her R.N. in the mid-1980s, Sr. Eileen worked as an oncology nurse at Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, where she cared for patients for nearly 20 years.

## Silver Jubilarian

**Sr. Ann Citarella**, was a lay teacher in several Catholic schools before she became a Sister of Charity. Her current mission is serving in pastoral care for the Sister of Charity Sponsored Supported Housing. Sr. Ann also has recently been the vocation director of the Office of New Membership for her Congregation and served as the Director of Campus Ministry at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Before

entering religious life, she taught at St. Anthony, Nanuet; St. Agnes Home and School, Sparkill; St. Anthony, Northvale, NJ; St Peter, Haverstraw; and St. Paul, East Harlem, she served as principal at St. Paul in Manhattan while a candidate for the Sisters of Charity. Her teaching ministry continued as a Sister at St. Peter, Yonkers; and at St. Francis de Sales, St. Paul, St. Ann, and St. Catherine of Genoa, all in Manhattan. Sr. Ann also held administrative positions including director of development at the Coalition of Catholic Schools in Yonkers and assistant principal at St. Paul in Manhattan. In the early 1990s, she founded the Gay and Lesbian Catholics Support Group at St. Francis Xavier in Manhattan. Still active with that group, Sr. Ann is also on the Ad Hoc Committee for Pastoral Care with Gay, Lesbian Catholics and their families in Brooklyn. ■

## Diamond Jubilarians

These 32 Sisters also observed significant Jubilees last fall. They represent a total of 2,035 years of dedicated ministry!

### 75th Anniversary

- Sr. Mary Jude Watson, SC: teacher

### 70th Anniversary

- Sr. Miriam Anne Brennan (Sr. Miriam Theresa): teacher, nurse, administrator
- Sr. Anne Rita Cullen (Sr. Miriam Gerald): teacher, librarian
- Sr. Frances A. Devine (Sr. James Marie): teacher, principal, spiritual ministry
- Sr. Cecilia Dolores Holmes: teacher, principal
- Sr. Dorothy O'Brien: DRE, from 1976 onward  
\*\*\* Sr. Dorothy entered religious life in Oct 1939 with The Daughters of Mary, Health of the Sick & transferred to SCNY in 1976

### 65th Anniversary

- Sr. Loretta Josepha Conran: teacher
- Sr. Anne T. Flood (Sr. Mary Turibius): teacher, NY Archdiocesan coordinator, spiritual ministry
- Sr. Rose Marie Galligan: finance administrator
- Sr. Eileen A. Grubert (Sr. Thomas Marian): teacher, principal
- Sr. Marion Hunt (Sr. Marion Agnes): teacher, college professor
- Sr. Miriam Roberta Kiernan: teacher, child care worker
- Sr. Catherine McGlynn (Sr. Marian Daniel): teacher, housing administrator

- Sr. Rita Meaney (Sr. Maureen Catherine): teacher, social worker, child care administrator
- Sr. Helen Murphy (Sr. Marian Jeanne): teacher, child care administrator
- Sr. Grace Ann Troisi (Sr. Grace Antoinette): teacher, coordinator at organizations, consultant

### 60th Anniversary

- Sr. Mary Ellen Brosnan (Sr. Mary Rose): teacher, college president & dean
- Sr. Joan Burbage (Sr. James Marietta): teacher, principal
- Sr. Mary Eucharia Carrigan: teacher, librarian
- Sr. Mary Regina Caulfield: teacher, DRE, Dir. of Volunteers & hospital chaplaincy
- Sr. Bernadette Marie Del Frate: teacher, principal
- Sr. Mary Theresa Fowler (Sr. Mary Charles): teacher, principal, counselor
- Sr. Marie Dolorosa Henn: teacher, administrator, child care worker
- Sr. Margaret Mary Hindley (Sr. Grace Margaret): teacher, administrator
- Sr. Agnes Regina Hughes: teacher, DRE, chaplain
- Sr. Patricia Humphrey (Sr. Michael Mercedes): teacher
- Sr. Marguerite Mahony (Sr. Angelita Maria): teacher, spiritual ministry
- Sr. Rita McIvor (Sr. Maria Immaculata): teacher, bursar, business manager
- Sr. Patricia Maureen Mulryan (Sr. Mary Catherine): teacher, principal, treasurer
- Sr. Cecilia M. Reeves (Sr. John Maria): teacher, principal
- Sr. Mary Christine Rogers: teacher, child care worker, DRE
- Sr. Mary Lou Steele (Sr. Elizabeth Maureen): teacher

# Diamond Jubilarians

These 12 Sisters observe significant Jubilees in February 2010. They represent a total of 755 years of service!

All but one entered on February 2nd, the feast of the Purification. The exception was Sr. Jeanne De Lourdes Potocek who entered on February 1st in 1940.

## 75th Anniversary

- Sr. Marian Joseph Craddock: teacher

## 70th Anniversary

- Sr. Jeanne De Lourdes Potocek: teacher

## 65th Anniversary

- Sr. Mary Martin Meehan: nurse, administrator
- Sr. Laura M. Ruckel (Sr. Joan Mary): teacher, principal

## 60th Anniversary

- Sr. Audrey Boylan (Sr. Thomas Miriam): teacher, administrator, archivist
- Sr. Mary T. Boyle (Sr. Dominic Marie): nurse, teacher, administrator
- Sr. Mary Damian Gardner: teacher
- Sr. Kathleen Marie Gregg (Sr. Michael Marie): teacher, guidance counselor, administrator
- Sr. M. Christopher Kurtz: nurse, administrator
- Sr. Caroline McGinn (Sr. Maureen Thomas): teacher, guidance counselor
- Sr. Grace Thérèse Murray: teacher, dean, administrator, treasurer
- Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips: nurse, administrator

## *A Celebration of Collaboration* (continued from page one)

The evening was underwritten by donations and the “Only For Your Love” journal.

New York City’s Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg acknowledged the Sisters’ contribution to the city and joked about being part of the evening.

“My mother always wanted me to be more religious, but I don’t think she counted on this,” he quipped.

He said New York was lucky to have the Sisters.

“Government can’t do it alone, which is why organizations like the Sisters of Charity are important. With your help we will continue to make New York a more just and humane society.”

A 15-minute video “Because of Your Love,” shot over 10 hours of filming, began with old black and white photos and continued through to highlights of current ministries, ending with the questions “Will you help?” and “Will you stand with us?” and proclaiming “Together we are the company of Charity.”

The evening was meant as more than just a celebration of the Sisters’ sponsored works. It also was the first event of

a yearlong process to continue strengthening collaboration and leadership with lay colleagues in ministry, in keeping with Assembly 2007 goals.

“We must reveal God’s love in what we are and what we do,” said Sr. Jane Iannucelli, whose task in part is to pass the torch to leaders of the various sponsored ministries. Looking to a future with a decreasing number of Sisters, she challenged Sisters and their lay leaders to create a new path together. “We need to have a vision. No one’s contribution is too small.”

Together we have an obligation to prune, nourish and water the seed planted by Elizabeth Seton 200 years ago, she said. “My task is to work with you to make that happen. What say you?”

The response was a loud, enthusiastic “Yes!”

As Sr. Dorothy concluded, “We don’t know what the future will bring, but we have reason to trust.” ■

*Retta Blaney has been a Sister of Charity Associate for 10 years. She is a theatre and religion writer and author of Working on the Inside: The Spiritual Life through the Eyes of Actors. Retta posts news, reviews and insights into the worlds of faith and the performing arts online at her blog <http://uponthesacredstage.blogspot.com>*

## Sponsorship Celebration



Three of the evening's speakers. Alfred E. Smith, IV, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers, emceed the event. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan spoke enthusiastically of the Sisters' works. Sr. Dorothy Metz, above, and Sr. Jane Iannucelli, the Director of Sponsorship Services for the Congregation, took turns at the podium, as did Edward Cardinal Egan and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Although still fairly new to the city, Archbishop Dolan knew that the Sisters of Charity have been "a blessing" to New York, and he thanked them for coming here. He noted how appropriate it was to hold this celebration on the feast of the Archangels: Michael, who protects; Gabriel, who announces the good news of salvation; and Raphael, who heals – all roles that the Sisters have filled since the time of Mother Seton.

The evening reflected the careful planning done over many months by the committee chaired by Sr. Jane Iannucelli. The other committee members included Sisters Regina Bechtle, Constance Brennan, Donna Dodge, A. Jean Iannone, Dorothy Metz, Margaret O'Brien, Dominica Rocchio; Bill Hurley, the Congregation's director of development; long-time friend Dr. Mary Ann Jordan; and Bernadette Kingham-Bex, senior vice president for communications and planning at St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan.

At our web site, you'll find additional photos taken that evening; you'll see the award designed by Sr. Margaret Beaudette; and you can flip through the program journal that's filled with illustrations of Sisters, their colleagues and ministry sites from the earliest days until now.

## Broadway Blessing

As she has since it began in 1996, SC Associate Retta Blaney produced Broadway Blessing, the annual interfaith service that brings the theatre community

together each fall to seek God's grace on the new season.



Over 450 people enjoyed the music, dance and stories at the September 14 presentation that was held at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

In this photo, Retta is seen with Lynn

Redgrave, the evening's featured guest. The noted British actress spoke of the three things that kept her going throughout her ordeal with breast cancer: her faith and her church, her work, and the theatre.

After the performances, cancer survivors lined up to tell Ms. Redgrave their stories; they weren't dazzled by her celebrity, they were drawn to her humanity.

You can read more about the Broadway Blessing at Retta's online blog "Life Upon the Sacred Stage." Her report is under September archives at <http://uponthesacredstage.blogspot.com>.

## Who is this, and what's on her head?



(Mystery solved page 14)

# Works Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York

Here, divided into categories, are the ministries sponsored and assisted by the Congregation.

- College of Mount Saint Vincent
- **SJMC, Inc. (Saint Joseph's Medical Center)**  
(parent corporation for St. Joseph's, Yonkers)
  - St. Joseph's Hospital
  - SJMV Senior Housing
    - SJMC Senior Housing Development Fund Corporation, Yonkers  
(81 units affordable housing for the elderly)
    - Ludlow Heights Housing Development Fund Corporation, Yonkers  
(81 units affordable housing for the elderly)
  - St. Joseph's Hospital Nursing Home
- **The New York Foundling**
- Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection
- The Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center  
(residential and home care services)
- John A. Coleman School, Inc.  
(outpatient clinic, White Plains and Manhattan)
- Children's Rehabilitation Center, Inc.  
(outpatient clinic, White Plains)
- Elizabeth Ann Seton Women's Center  
(spirituality and empowerment)
- Part Of The Solution – AKA POTS  
(multi-service organization servicing the poor)
- The Sister Barbara Ford Center for Peace-Building  
(incorporation in process in Guatemala)
- Elizabeth Seton Housing Development Fund Corporation
  - Seton House, Manhattan  
(16 units permanent housing for families)
- Cecilia Associates, L.P.
  - Casa Cecilia, Manhattan  
(35 units permanent housing for families)
- Msgr. Robert Fox Memorial Shelter Housing
  - Fox House, Manhattan (17 units Tier II Shelter)
- Seton Village, Nanuet  
(106 units affordable independent housing for those 55 and older)
- Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation
  - Northfield: St. Vincent's Housing Development Fund Company
- St. Vincent's Manor, Staten Island  
(72 units affordable housing for the elderly)
  - Olivet: St. Vincent Housing Development Fund Company
- Joseph House, Staten Island  
(75 units affordable housing for the elderly)
  - Sisters of Charity Healthcare System Housing Development Fund Company
    - St. Elizabeth's Manor, Staten Island  
(80 units affordable housing for the elderly)
    - St. Vincent's Housing Development Fund Company
    - Sr. Elizabeth Boyle Manor, Staten Island  
(65 units affordable housing for the elderly)
  - Projects Under Consideration/Development
    - Sophia House (in June)
    - Sr. Louise de Marillac Manor, Staten Island  
(19 units for the chronically mentally ill)
    - Lafayette Manor, Staten Island  
(60 units affordable housing for the elderly)
    - Markham Gardens, Staten Island  
(80 units affordable housing for the elderly)
    - St. Vincent's Village at Charleston, Staten Island  
(80 units affordable housing for the elderly)
- **Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers of New York**
  - St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan
  - St. Vincent's Home Health Care
  - St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester (Behavioral Health)
  - Pax Christi Hospice
  - St. Elizabeth Ann's Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, Staten Island
  - Bishop Mugavero Center for Geriatric Care, Brooklyn
  - Holy Family Home, Brooklyn
  - St. Mary's Supportive Housing Corporation, Brooklyn  
(50 for the mentally ill and 28 for H.I.V. residents)
  - Immaculata Hall, Queens (100 units for the mentally ill)
  - Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Residence (50 units for the mentally ill and 28 for H.I.V. residents)
  - Uniformed Services Family Health Plan
- Sisters Hill Farm  
(community farm, organically grown produce)
- Sisters of Charity Multi-Service Center  
(Casa De Esperanza)
- LEFSA (Life Experience & Faith Sharing Assn.) ■

## Honors & Happenings

**Sr. Katherine Seibert** (MD, PhD, FACP) was one of five doctors to receive the Surveyor Spirit Award from the Commission on Cancer. The tribute for Sr. Katherine read, in part, “excellent surveyor; extremely knowledgeable; valued advice. We were impressed with her life experiences, her passion for patient care and commitment to service.” Sister serves as an oncologist/internist at Hudson River Healthcare in Monticello, NY.

**Sr. Gabriel Miriam Obraz** was honored by the parish of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Shrub Oak at its First Annual Parish Ball, held in November. Pastor Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Sandi saluted Sr. Gabriel as “our own ‘Mother Seton’.” Sister has touched the lives of thousands in her 40+ years at this northern Westchester County parish. The journal from the evening also listed and paid tribute to the 18 other Sisters of Charity who have served there over the years.

**Sr. Dorothy Metz**, President of the Sisters of Charity of New York, has been inducted into the Saint Barnabas High School Hall of Fame. Her many contributions to St. Barnabas during her 20 year tenure there include her role as a faculty member, chair of the Math and Religion Departments, and founder of the Development Office. The ceremony took place during their Alumnae Luncheon in October.

**Sr. Regina Bechtle** was awarded the 2009 Saint Elizabeth Seton Medal by the College of Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio. This citation, which recognizes distinguished women in theology, was presented to Sr. Regina in October for being one of the foremost experts on the life of Saint Elizabeth Seton. The day of the presentation, Sr. Regina gave a talk at the college entitled, “Harvesting Wisdom: Theological Abundance in Saint Elizabeth Seton’s Story.”

**Sr. Mary Ann Garisto** received a Certificate of Recognition from Kevin Zari, the Chief Technology Officer for the International Space Station. Kevin was in Sr. Mary Ann’s biology class at Iona Prep. The NASA certificate read, in part, “Presented to Sr. Mary Ann Garisto for inspiring generations of students to pursue college degrees in biology and other sciences.” Kevin added, “Thanks for inspiring me to reach for the stars.”

**Eric Feldmann**, Executive Director of Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation, was honored by

the Staten Island Inter-Agency for the Aging. Through Eric’s leadership the Sisters of Charity were also honored for contributing to the quality of life of senior citizens through our housing projects on Staten Island.

**Sr. Grace Thérèse Murray** was honored for her “outstanding dedication to providing residents with weekly Catholic Services” at the Skilled Nursing Unit of the Catskill Regional Medical Center (CRMC). Sister’s Communion Services also are well-attended by non-Catholics who enjoy the prayers and songs. Sr. Grace Thérèse has been performing this service for 12 years. CRMC is Sullivan County’s premier provider of health care services.

Fordham University’s Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education (GRE) bestowed its Sapientia et Doctrina Award on the Sisters of Charity of New York. This award acknowledges those who do the daily work of the Lord, often without adequate recognition for their contributions. The GRE wished to honor the multifaceted ministries of the Congregation as it enters its 3rd century of service. The presentation took place in October.

In the fall, three Bronx parishes saluted the Congregation for its Bicentennial:

- St. Margaret of Cortona, the Congregation’s home parish, honored the Sisters who served as administrators and teachers for the parish school from 1926 through 1997; Sr. Eleanor Fitzgerald still volunteers there. Before the parish was established in 1887, the Sisters taught then children of the area at St. Vincent’s Free School from 1875 – 1910 in Le Gras Hall, where their administrative offices now are.
- St. Raymond Parish, as part of its Annual Parish Reunion, paid tribute to all the Sisters who taught at the three parish schools and to all the women who entered our Congregation from there. Sr. Mary Ann D’Antonio currently is principal at St. Raymond Academy.
- Our Lady of Angels Parish celebrated its 85th anniversary in November. The Congregation’s ministry there began in 1925, when two Sisters commuted from Mount Saint Vincent twice a week to teach Catechism Classes. Sr. Mary Catherine Cleary is principal there today.

# Annual Memorial Mass

The Congregation remembered and honored its members who died over the year with a Liturgy on November 1st.

- Sr. Marguerite Caso
- Sr. Kathleen Curtin
- Sr. Mary Louise Fernandez
- Sr. Margaret Foley
- Sr. Regina Kraft
- Sr. Mary Linehan
- Sr. Eileen Maher
- Sr. Frances Mc Ginn
- Sr. Christine Marie Murphy
- Sr. Margaret O'Brien
- Sr. Maria Esther Regan
- Sr. Bernadette Sheridan

And Former Member Michele Le Brun.

Rev. Joseph Tierney was the principal celebrant at the Mass for all Saints which was held in the chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent. Fr. Tierney is the president of Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx. He started coming to the Convent of Mary the Queen three times a week when he was in the seminary. ■

## Monument Rededicated

In this Bicentennial year, the Congregation renovated and rededicated the marker at its main burial site.

The original granite cross at the Congregation's section at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Yonkers has been placed on a new base of the same material, to improve its visibility. In addition, a bronze plaque with a bas-relief image of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton has been affixed to the front of the plinth.

Between December 9, 1895 – when Sr. Joseph Berchmans McCabe became the first member of the Congregation to be buried there – and the rededication, a total of 1,011 Sisters of Charity have been laid to rest at this cemetery.

Fr. George Kuhn, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Yonkers which owns the cemetery, presided at the ceremony on July 1st – just 30 days shy of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Sisters of Charity in the Americas by Mother Seton. ■

*At the rededication, the ceremony participants pose with the revamped monument. From left, Sr. Margaret M. Kelly, Sr. Margaret O'Brien, Sr. Helen McGovern, (the cross), Sr. Dominica Rocchio, Sr. Dorothy Metz, and Sr. Donna Dodge. Not pictured but present, Sr. Nora Cunningham and Sr. Eileen McGrory.*



Photo by: Frank Dietrich, superintendent of St. Joseph's Cemetery

## Mystery Solved! *(continued from page 11)*



Why it's Sr. Patricia Walsh, modeling a straw hat covered with scratch-off lottery tickets. This collection of instant games was one of the prizes raffled off at our third annual golf outing in October.

That's Sr. Mary Ellen O'Boyle selling raffle tickets for prizes that also included golf accessories, electronics, jewelry, art work, and more!

We hope you'll be able to join us at this year's outing, tentatively scheduled for September 30, 2010. You'll enjoy the golf, the camaraderie, the wonderful food and other amenities at the N. Hempstead Country Club. And it's all for a great cause; proceeds go to the support of our Sisters in retirement. ■

# In Memoriam



## **Sr. Margaret M. O'Brien • Educator / Librarian**

*Religious Name: Sr. Dolores Marie • Entered: 1941 • Final vows: 1946 • Age at death: 92*

Although her early years were spent in Scranton, PA, Margaret became a true NYer when her family moved here; she graduated from Cathedral HS. She taught on the high school level for 21 years: in Manhattan, at Cathedral -- All Saints (1950-64) & main (1970-71); at Holy Cross Academy (1964-68); on Staten Island, at St. Peter HS (1968-70); in Tuxedo, at the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent (1971-72). She also taught at five grade schools over 21 years. Sr.

Margaret lived on Staten Island for a total of 31 years, 24 of them in the Rosebank section where she taught at St. Mary (1976-89), then volunteered within St. Joseph's Parish for 11 years. She formed a prayer group and was an avid ESL teacher. In her retirement at St. Patrick Villa, she and other Sisters made and donated rosaries to schools and religious education programs.



## **Sr. Mary Louise Fernandez • Educator / Librarian**

*Entered: 1947 • Final vows: 1953 • Age at death: 82*

Sr. Mary Louise taught at six elementary schools over 14 years. During that period, her longest service was at St. Monica in Jamaica, Queens (1952-54 & 1955-61). In 1964, she began her mostly-in-the-Bronx library ministry, at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. After two years there, followed by a year at St. Barnabas HS, Sister began her 32 years in the Cardinal Spellman HS library. Sister concluded

her library ministry working with seminarians, both at the St. John Neumann Residence in the Bronx and at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers. Although quiet and reserved, Sister had a great sense of humor and quietly impacted many lives. She was an avid reader and loved music, opera, the state of Maine, the ocean, and all animals, especially dogs.



## **Sr. Kathleen Miriam Curtin • Educator**

*Entered: 1932 • Final vows: 1938 • Age at death: 94*

Born in Astoria, NY, Kathleen first encountered the Sisters of Charity as a student at Bishop McDonnell HS, Brooklyn. Her 59 years in elementary education covered eight schools in three counties. During a challenging period (1960-66), Sister was principal at St. Paul School in East Harlem. Sr. Kathleen made the greatest impression at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Port Chester, where she lived for 30 years. There she taught at the parish school (1966-93) and touched

many hearts through her monthly Centering Prayer Group. Her involvement in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the Centering Prayer movement brought her much joy. Through her life, Sr. Kathleen drew on her love of children, her appreciation of art, and her belief in the goodness of people. Her quick mind and ready sense of humor brightened days for many.



## **Sr. Rita Dermody • Educator**

*Religious Name: Sr. Miriam Christine • Entered: 1950 • Final vows: 1957 • Age at death: 78*

Sr. Rita's education ministry spanned five decades. After teaching at St. John Evangelist in White Plains (1952-55) and St. Gabriel in the Bronx (1955-1963), Sister volunteered for the Congregation's missions in The Bahamas. There she taught at six schools in Nassau for a total of 22 years. During this period, Sister began her religious education ministry, which would span 30 years. Back in the States, Sister served as Religion Coordinator at St. Denis School in

Yonkers (1981-84) and Holy Trinity Parish in Mamaroneck (1988-90). Sister's letters from The Bahamas show her great enthusiasm for her work with the poor. She never thought she could love any people as much as the Bahamians...until her pastoral work at Annunciation Parish in Paramus, NJ (1991-2001). Sr. Rita was admired for her great wit, humor and enthusiasm. She is survived by her three sisters, including Sr. Teresa Dermody, SC.

# In Memoriam



## **Sr. Clara Regina Aylward • Educator / Administrator**

*Entered: 1938 • Final Vows: 1944 • Age at death: 91*

Bronx-born Mary Aylward didn't begin her association with the Sisters of Charity until a student at Cathedral HS. As Sr. Clara Regina, she would spend 41 years teaching in the Bronx, including a total of 17 years at St. Augustine. She also taught at St. Gabriel (1943-57) and at Ascension in Manhattan (1957-60).

Sister put her BS in Business and MA in Business Education to good use teaching commercial subjects at Barnabas HS

(1960-70) and Grace Institute (1970-73). Sr. Clara felt that her most significant mission was at Grace Institute Outreach, housed at St. Augustine's, where she helped minority women secure jobs and become self-supporting (1976-87). In her 70s, Sister served on the Administrative team at the Congregation's house in Ventnor, NJ.

Sr. Clara was predeceased by her sister, Margaret – Sr. Mary Aidan, SC.



## **Sr. Mary de Sales Collins • Educator / Child Care Administrator**

*Entered: 1932 • Final vows: 1937 • Age at death: 96*

Elizabeth grew up in the Highbridge section of the Bronx and entered the Congregation after graduating from Cathedral HS. (Two years later, her younger sister Margaret – the late Sr. Therese Rosaire, SC – entered.) As Sr. Mary de Sales, her first ministry was teaching – at St. Paul's (1933-43) and at St. John the Baptist (1943-46), both in Brooklyn. Subsequently, she directed social services at St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet (1948-55); then began her 51 years at The NY Foundling

Hospital in Manhattan. There, she was Assistant Director of Adoptions and Director of the Maternity Residence. Over the decades, Sister carried babies from older to newer Foundling buildings twice. She personally was involved in over 1,500 adoptions or placements in foster homes. She saw the need for permanent homes for young women with children, and, in 1972, started the first mother-child program of its kind in NYC. She helped many adoptees piece together their past.

*As of January 2010, we are posting more detailed write-ups about our deceased Sisters and SC Associates on our web site at [www.scny.org/memorial.html](http://www.scny.org/memorial.html)*

## Reflection:

*“Our cross will soon be taken off; look only forward to our long, long Eternity.”*

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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