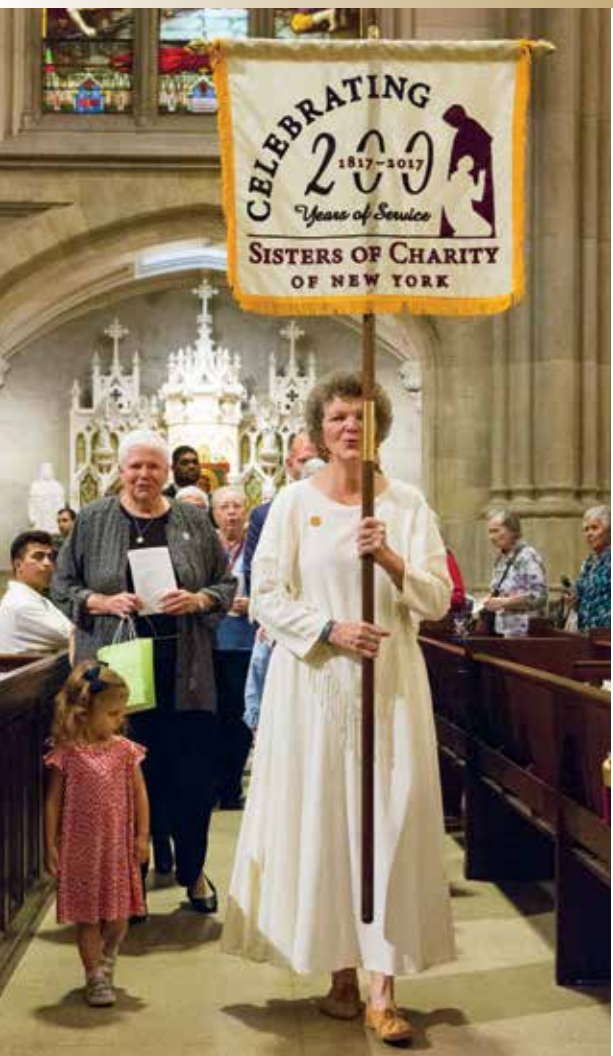


# Vision

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

VOLUME 22, Issue 1  
WINTER 2018

*Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love 1817 – 2017*





# From the President

Dear Friends,

Our celebrations of the 200th Anniversary have come to completion. Another year's ending—December 31, 1846—led to a new beginning on January 1, 1847.

Our early Sisters were truly pioneers working to meet our grace in the many needs before them. We have recognized the continuity of these beginnings and truly celebrated this year.

The gifts and graces of our Vow Renewal of December 9, 2017 provided for us a time of new beginnings. Like those early Sisters, we are all called to look at what is before us.

How is God calling us to respond now?

Where are the persons whose needs are not being met?

Do we see and listen to them?

How can I/we respond?

Where do their needs and our gifts/abilities come together?

One is never too young or too old to listen to that still, small voice that keeps tugging at our hearts, calling us forward. This is a new time of Charity, a new beginning. The year 2018 heralds our third century of mission. What risks must we take that allow the mission of Charity to flourish?

As the earth turns and the darkness turns to the light, we are invited to recognize and walk in the light of Christ. In this new year, may our prayers reflect not only on the celebrations that marked what was, but also on the possibilities before us. These reflections may take us to places we would never dream of as part of our future.

God's grace will sustain us along the way. What we have been given as gifts are the gifts we are called to share. The Charity of Christ impels us to nothing less.

We are all called to be a presence to those who live on the margins, to remember that all belong to the community of Charity. Together, our love and power for good will allow the healing of our world. In living our lives in such a way, God's dream for all people will continue to be realized.

We are grateful to have you at our side as we continue our work in this, our third century of living lives of love.

Blessings,



Jane Iannucelli, SC

## Cover photos

*Clockwise from top left:* (1) On October 8, 2017, Sr. Katie Aucoin led the procession at St. Patrick's Cathedral to the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Lillie Seton Lamb, walking alongside Sr. Katie, is a direct descendent of St. Elizabeth. (2) Cardinal Dolan, Bishop Gerald Walsh, and Sr. Jane. (3) After the 200th Anniversary closing Liturgy, Sr. Jane and members of the Council joined the visitors from Guatemala for a group photo on the altar of the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. (4) Sisters reaffirmed vows in English and Spanish on December 9, 2017 in the church where the mission began in 1817.



VISION enables the Sisters of Charity of New York to make a cohesive statement about how we reveal God's love in our lives and the many and varied ways in which we respond to the signs of the times.



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NEW YORK

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# The Mission of Charity

## Into Our Third Century 1967-2017

*Text by Constance Brennan, SC, and Maryellen Blumlein, SC*

**1967** After the sesquicentennial celebration in 1967, the Sisters of Charity mission expanded to Vietnam in 1969 under the leadership of Sr. Evelyn Schneider, President of the Congregation. Responding to a call from Catholic Relief Services, Sisters Mary Assisium Byrne and Mary Patricia Dengel, both of whom had a long association with the New York Foundling Hospital as social workers, were accepted to the program that would provide various kinds of assistance to the suffering people of Vietnam. Sister Mary Moore, a nurse from St. Vincent's Medical Center in New York, later joined them and served in the hospitals.



Sister Margaret Dowling, 1971-1979

On April 17, 1971 Sister Margaret Dowling was elected President of the Congregation. Sister Margaret's capacity for creative, long-range thinking gave her a vision that was global and future-oriented yet respectful of the Congregation's deep roots in the Archdiocese. In a turbulent era for the church and the world, she challenged the



Congregation to read the signs of the times, and was a passionate advocate for the poor and for social justice. She oversaw the Congregation's transition from a highly structured form of government to one that fostered participation and subsidiarity. The Mission Statement adopted in 1977 continues to guide the Congregation today.

The Associate Relationship Program began in 1975; Patricia and Frank Devaney were the first Associates.

*Right:* The Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer, located in Scarsdale, began its ministry to people involved in the charismatic renewal movement in 1975; pictured here in one of their many prayer services, retreats, and programs.



*Above from left:* Terence Cardinal Cooke, Sr. Evelyn Schneider, Sr. Loretto Bernard Beagan, and Sr. Margaret Dowling gather at a Congregational celebration in 1982.

*Left:* Sr. Evelyn Schneider welcomed the first Associates into the Congregation. The lay relationship continues to grow and thrive in the United States and Guatemala.



Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized by Pope Paul VI on September 14, 1975, as hundreds of thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square. She was the first American-born person to be elevated to a position of sainthood.



*Continued, see page 14*





Left: Margaret Mary in her high school graduation photo. Above: Sr. Margaret Mary with her father, Daniel, and brother Edward.

## *“The Aunt” Is One Hundred*

By Patricia McGowan, SC

Sister Margaret Mary Hannon has been known by many names. As a youngster she was Margaret; for a good part of her religious life she was Sister Marie Daniel; but to her family, she is simply “The Aunt.” And as she celebrates her 100th birthday, this gentle woman with a large heart still retains the droll sense of humor that often took her nieces and nephews by surprise when they were younger. After all, even she can admit that she did look very prim and proper in the black habit! However, she still can laugh at her own foibles or take people by surprise when she says what they least expect. And she credits a good bit of that humor to her Irish-born parents and to the fact that she actually kissed the Blarney Stone.

Margaret Mary was born on December 7, 1917, to Daniel (Cork) and Mary O'Connor Hannon (Kerry). Her father was a transit repairman. The youngest of seven children (five boys and two girls—all redheads and all with quick wits), she grew up in the Hell’s Kitchen section of Manhattan during the Depression. She did not stray far from those West Side blocks, attending Sacred Heart Grammar School and Blessed Sacrament High School, until she finished high school. Although her sister, Nora, attended Cathedral High School, Margaret did not want to be involved with so much homework. She wanted to have more fun. Besides, while she was very close to her sister, she did not want to follow in her footsteps. She was, after all, the youngest and a redhead and she wanted to be herself.

After high school she wasn’t sure that she wanted to become a nun so she put it out of her mind for a while and took night courses at Grace Institute. In the evenings she volunteered at the New York Foundling, working in a secretarial pool. When the social workers would return from visits to the children, Margaret would transcribe their notes for record-keeping purposes. Even today though, she can’t forget the notes pinned to the diapers of the babies who had been abandoned, notes that read “I will come back for you” or “I will always love you.” Those heartbreaking messages, she admits, may have encouraged her to finally enter the convent in 1937.

Her first assignment after the Novitiate took her to St. Stephen’s School and thus began her love affair with Brooklyn and with parish life. She spent the next thirteen years in Brooklyn and Queens, calling them the best of her years in the front of the classroom. “I loved the children, the families, parish life. We went to every wake and we were so accepted. We knew all the families. They were so warm.”



Young Margaret Mary Hannon (right) with her big sister, Nora.

She and her friend, Sr. Catherine Smith, were to spend many of those wonderful years together in Brooklyn. During those days they also got to know each other's families. "The Aunt's" niece, Catherine Hannon-Broems, recalls the fun the children would have when the two Sisters would come for a visit. Sister Catherine was so sweet and even though the "The Aunt" at first seemed prim, she actually was very funny and loved to play pranks on the children. None of her nieces or nephews can remember why she was called by that sobriquet; she just was. And still is. Often when the two visited Sr. Catherine's family, Mr. Smith would join Sr. Margaret as she crafted designs from chenille pipe cleaner pieces.

Those idyllic classroom days, she says, changed somewhat when she was sent to teach history at Bishop McDonnell High School, but she was still in Brooklyn and Sr. Catherine was also there. A former student, Sr. Mary Tommasino, remembers meeting Sr. Marie Daniel as a freshman and was taken with her warm and welcoming ways, her beautiful smile, and her great sense of humor. While she was there she studied at St. Johns University, also in Brooklyn, and, recalling her earlier days, wrote in her Master's dissertation on the New York Foundling Hospital that "its aim today (1956) is the same as it was more than eighty years ago ... to receive each new infant as if it were the Babe of Bethlehem."

In 1962 she went to teach at All Saints Branch of Cathedral High School in Harlem. And this mission was to bring another change in her life. Along with teaching history during the day, in the evening she taught typing to the mothers of her students. On the side, she and Sr. Marita Anna Fox (the principal) sold Avon products in order to buy secondhand typewriters. Unfortunately, the typewriters were stolen during one summer break and the program ended. However, she continued to use the skills she had learned at the Grace Institute when she soon became secretary to Sr. Marita Anna for the New York Archdiocese Adult Education program.

The two friends then were to work together for the next ten years at Adept Associates, an agency that provided an English Language study program for nonnative speakers. After the death of her friend and realizing that her own retirement was "nearing," she became the secretary at St. Ignatius School and then at Regis High School, both in Manhattan.

Sister Margaret Mary moved to the Convent of Mary the Queen in 2000. Even as age began to weaken her body, her sense of peace and her great sense of humor remained strong and she has only happy memories of her years there. "Everyone was so wonderful" she says. "From Sr. Martha Cummings to Sr. Mary Kay to Betty Kolb, it was like everyone was happy



Sister Marie Daniel was moderator of the Sodality group at All Saints High School, a branch of Cathedral High School in Harlem.

*"I loved the children, the families, parish life. We went to every wake and we were so accepted. We knew all the families. They were so warm."*

Below: Grand niece Jennifer Walsh, nephew Howard Schramm, and Sr. Mary Kay Finneran helped Sr. Margaret celebrate her 100th birthday.

*Continued, see page 22, bottom right*







# Celebrating Our Golden Jubilarian

## Fifty Years of Loving Service

By Margaret McEntee, SC

Sister Karen Anne Helfenstein entered the Sisters of Charity of New York on August 25, 1967 with eight other young women who shared life in community for various lengths of time. Usually there are circles of Sister Jubilarians, but Sr. Karen refers to herself as a dot, as she alone remained for fifty golden years.

The daughter of Mary (Fleming) and Joseph Helfenstein, Sr. Karen was the third of eight children in the family: Mary, Joe, Karen, Peter, Bob, Walter, Janet, and Ellen. Ma Fleming, her beloved grandmother, lived with the family for many years and celebrated her 100th birthday back in 1984.

Sister Karen grew up in Long Island, where her father was an educator who challenged his children to aim high. She received a scholarship to the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent in Tuxedo Park. The Academy sparked her interest in science and in a future career in nursing. After graduation Sr. Karen attended St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing in Manhattan, where she began her life-long work in Catholic health care and advanced in her skills. Sister Karen's nursing career brought her into contact with Mother Loretto Bernard and eventually to pursuing a call to religious life.

In 1967 the Sisters of Charity were involved in experimental formation programs, as suggested by the Second Vatican Council, making



From left: Sisters Margaret Metz, Karen Helfenstein, Loretto Bernard Beagan, Mary Daniel McLaughlin, and Carmela Regina Cahill at St. Vincent Hospital, Staten Island.



her initial formation different from that experienced by those who entered in previous years. She wore a brown suit, not a habit, and was sent to live and work at St. Vincent's Hospital in Staten Island two weeks after she entered. She and the other candidates returned to the Mount on weekends for spiritual direction and training.

In 1970 Davidson House was opened in the Bronx as a house of formation. Sister Karen lived there when she made first vows later that year and final vows in 1974.

Sister Karen used her professional skills over the years at St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers, the New York Foundling, and St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, where she was administrator of the Emergency Room and the Ambulance service.

She then went to St. Francis Heart Hospital in Long Island as VP for mission. She then worked in a special leadership training project with Catholic Health East in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. In 2011, Sr. Karen returned to New York and was appointed Director of Sponsorship Services, the position she holds today.

Sister Karen has always maintained a deeply spiritual side to balance and sustain her active professional life. She has many close friends and a good social life, but her number one heart's love is her family. Through good times and bad, the sad and the glad, Sr. Karen has personified the message of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: "Keep well to what you believe to be the grace of the moment ... Only do your best as you always have done, and leave the rest to our dear God."



Brothers, sisters, generations of nieces and nephews, and cousins joined the Congregation and friends to celebrate Sr. Karen's Golden Jubilee.



Above: Sr. Karen was surrounded by her parents, grandmother, brothers and sisters when she made final vows at Mount Saint Vincent in 1974; Sr. Margaret Dowling (at right) was president. Below: Sr. Karen addressed the audience at a LEFSA sponsored event.





# The Safe House

By Patricia McGowan, SC

When Sisters Mary Ellen O'Boyle and Patricia Brennan walked through the doors of the Sisters of Charity Novitiate in 1956, they had a general idea of what the next sixty years of religious life would hold for them. Like most of the sisters in New York at that time, they would teach or nurse. In general, they would continue the works of the women who went before them, helping those in need.

True, both of them began their ministries in education, but they certainly had no idea of what their ministries would be like in the twenty-first century. While they still advocate for those in need, now those in need are women who are part of the 20.9 million people around the globe who are victims of modern-day slavery or forced labor.

In 2005 seven sisters from the New York area, representing five religious Congregations, attended a human trafficking conference. The conference focused on legislation, safe housing, and education as vital needs for those who were being trafficked. Today more than 250 U.S. religious Congregations are actively involved with these issues.

In February 2012 an organization called LifeWay Network opened its first Safe House in New York for women survivors of trafficking. Presently, five women and three religious sisters live full time in this transitional house that provides the women with access to health care, legal counseling, and educational services.

Perhaps just as important, though, is the welcoming environment that assures the women a peaceful, secure home. The three resident sisters go out daily to full-time employment, but someone is in the house 24/7. A house manager is present Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are present at various times on most days.

Sisters Mary Ellen and Pat, along with seven other Sisters of Charity and one Associate, volunteer at the house. Seven sisters from other Congregations and two lay women are also

Above: Sr. Patricia Brennan lends support by attending Sr. Mary Ellen's trafficking information class (left) at the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

volunteers. During their time there, they talk, listen, garden, cook with the women, and help prepare them for any upcoming school exams. Several women have successfully passed their GED exams. Others have begun or are continuing their college careers. These women, rescued from abuse, know they are loved and are no longer on the margins of society.

While she was Secretary to the President of the Congregation, Sr. Mary Ellen became concerned about the horrific injustice done to women and teens who were being abused. As the Congregation representative to CRC-STOP (Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop Trafficking of Persons), she became actively involved in the issues of human trafficking. She soon realized that many people were uncomfortable discussing the topic, so she prepared a handout and shared it with anyone who might seem concerned about this issue. Today, along with volunteering at the Safe House, she speaks with college students and other groups.

It is obvious that Sr. Mary Ellen is passionate about the topic of trafficking and about the need to educate and collaborate with others. "Our efforts cannot effect change all at once," she says, "but by joining with many others we can bring about supportive legislation and policies that will aid our women."

Within the past five to ten years, trafficking has become one of the "hot topics" and there is a great deal of informative material available on the internet. The Stop Trafficking newsletter, which offers information on both national and international happenings, can be downloaded monthly. (Visit [www.stopenslavement.org](http://www.stopenslavement.org))

Sister Pat coordinates the volunteer schedule, but her main job, she says, is to "be present" and a "listener" to the women. And she believes her background was a wonderful preparation for this ministry. After teaching, she became a social worker and worked at St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet, the New York Foundling, and Fox House in Manhattan.





Above top: Sr. Jane, Cardinal Dolan and Bishop Gerald Walsh. Above: Sr. Margaret Beaudette's family (from left), brother Joe Beaudette, sister Anne McLaughlin, and brother-in-law Bill McLaughlin. Top right: Sr. Jane also blessed the statues in the name of the Congregation. Right: Members of the Congregation, family, friends, and supporters were joined by the faithful at St. Patrick's Cathedral for the prayer service and blessing.

## *Altar of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Blessed by Cardinal Dolan*

*By Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC*

On Sunday, October 8, 2017, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, a simple prayer service and blessing marked the occasion of the installation of the new altar dedicated to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Congregation of Sisters of Charity she founded.

Sister Margaret Beaudette, SC, sculpted the statues of Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton, Louise de Marillac, and Vincent de Paul, and created the bas reliefs of the Sisters of Charity's traditional works of education and health care, social services, and mission. It was Sr. Peggie's final art commission before her death on March 12, 2017.



Sr. Ceil Harriendorf on the altar at St. Patrick's

The altar itself had been built by the Cathedral's original architect, James Renwick, Jr., and enhanced by the newly created lighting and design components of DCAK-MSA Architecture.

*Continued, see page 22*

### **Vignettes from Blessing of the Altar of St. Elizabeth Seton at St. Patrick's Cathedral**

As the service began, Sr. Karen Helfenstein was standing toward the back of the SC group. She moved over to get a better look at the altar, and noticed a man with two young children in front of it. As he pointed to the statue of Elizabeth Seton, she overheard him telling his daughter, "That's your great-great-great-great aunt!" (The little girl, Lillie Seton Lamb, is on the cover walking alongside Sr. Katie Aucoin.)

[We are aware that there are direct descendants of Guy Carlton Bayley, a half-brother of Elizabeth Seton, who married into a branch of the Roosevelt family. A 1975 article in *People* magazine listed a number of other descendants as well.]





Seniors from St. Raymond Academy wore the SCNY traditional habit for the 175th Celebration. *From left to right:* Jada Major, Dede Bavon, and Olivia Perez.

## *St. Raymond's Still Going Strong After 175 Years*

One hundred seventy-five years ago, in 1842, an old barn served as a temporary church for the Catholics of Westchester Village, then part of Westchester County. Named St. Raymond, it became the Mother Church of what later became the Bronx. On September 16, 2017, Cardinal Timothy Dolan celebrated a 175th Anniversary Mass attended by about 650 people. It launched nine days of celebration that featured a Eucharistic procession through Parkchester, days of prayer and

adoration, open houses at the three schools, and a gala.

Sisters of Charity were sent to open St. Raymond's parish school in 1868. They lived at nearby Holy Angels, the girls' department of the Catholic Protectory, an outgrowth of our original Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum on Prince and Mott Streets in Manhattan. In addition to the elementary school, the parish now includes a boys' high school, a girls' academy, and a community outreach program.

When asked what the parish's 175th anniversary means to her, Sr. Mary Ann D'Antonio, principal of the girls' academy since 1999, replied enthusiastically: "St. Raymond's has been a part of my life and mission for over thirty years. The Anniversary celebration last month only heightened my feelings of love and appreciation for this parish and for so many who have ministered here.

In Civil War times, the Sisters worked with the children living in the Protectory. Then in 1868 the parish elementary school opened and soon expanded to the building that the girls' academy now calls its own!

In times past, we met the needs of the immigrant New Yorkers who came from Europe. Today, they come from Mexico and South and East Asia and settle in regions like Parkchester and the South Bronx. They struggle financially to offer their children a Catholic education, hoping that it will bring them a better life than they have known. It's their story and likely the story that many of us knew, growing up in homes with first- and second-generation American parents.

I am very happy to tell you that I work with excellent educators, men and women who really care and who are committed to carrying on the mission, tradition, and love for God's poor among us. Rest assured: Catholic education will continue to serve the children and young teens of the Archdiocese of New York in parishes like St. Raymond's for many years to come!"

*Regina Bechtle, SC*

## *In Its Fifth Century, the Vincentian Heart of Charity Beats Strong*

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matt. 25:35) Almost 10,000 members of the worldwide Vincentian Family gathered around this theme in Rome, October 12–15, for an international symposium in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian charism. Participants from ninety countries, including members of several Congregations in the Sisters of Charity Federation, came together as one international family for the first time in its history.

The year 1617 marked the origin of the Vincentian charism of service on behalf of the poor. In that year, Vincent de Paul experienced the spiritual and

material poverty of his parishioners in the rural villages of France and began the Confraternities of Charity, locally based organizations to provide organized help to those in need.

Reverend Tomaž Mavrič, CM, the Vincentian Superior General, gave thanks to Providence for making this small mustard seed of St. Vincent's spirit and mission grow into a large tree. He also announced a three-year, worldwide drive to globalize charity and to develop a global alliance for the homeless of this world, including migrants, refugees, and those driven from their homes by war and violence. There are over 65 million displaced persons worldwide.

See <http://sistersofcharityfederation.org/welcoming-the-stranger-at-the-na-vincentian-family-gathering/>

In a special October 14 audience Pope Francis greeted participants with a simple yet challenging summary of the Vincentian spirit: "Pray. Welcome. Go." Calling Vincentians to claim "the ecclesial DNA of welcoming," the Pope explained: "The one who welcomes renounces the 'me' and enters into the life of the 'you' and the 'we.'" Pope Francis continued, "Love is dynamic, it goes out. ... The one who loves 'does not sit ... waiting for the coming of a better world, but gets up and goes out with enthusiasm and simplicity."

See additional symposium coverage at <https://cmglobal.org/en/> and <https://famvin.org/en/>

*Regina Bechtle, SC*





## Sisters of Charity Welcome Visitors from Guatemala

By Mary Ann Daly, SC

As part of the 200th Anniversary Celebrations, the Congregation welcomed Sisters, Associates, and staff from Guatemala in December. Visitors stayed in convents in Westchester, the Bronx, and Manhattan. Faithful Sisters, Associates, and friends transported the visitors from site to site, making lasting friendships along the way.

The highlight of the trip was the closing Liturgy in the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. The celebration included readings, petitions, and hymns in Spanish as well as English. One of the petitions was read in Quiché, one of the 21 Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala.

In the week before the celebration, the Guatemalan visitors had the opportunity to visit the Elizabeth Seton National Shrine in Emmitsburg. On December 8, the group visited the shrine in lower Manhattan, which was followed by a ride on the Staten Island Ferry. They also enjoyed tours of the archives at Mount Saint Vincent. They visited with many Sisters and shared their own videos about their ministries in Guatemala.

In the days before and after the December 9th celebration, the visitors did some "touristy" things like visiting Rockefeller

Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Radio City Music Hall. Some enjoyed museums, while others took in the train show at the New York Botanical Garden. All shopped for gifts to bring home to family and friends.

When asked about the joys of the trip, Sr. Manuela Quiché said that staying in the house where Elizabeth Seton lived and died in Emmitsburg was something she will never forget. For Associate Luciano Laynez, the most joyful experience was meeting more sisters and learning their "stories" of service.

As far as the Congregation in the U.S. is concerned, the visitors from Guatemala made one thing perfectly clear: the Sisters, Associates, and staff members in Guatemala will truly be an integral part of "living lives of love" in this third century.

The group of thirty-one visited the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton where she is entombed.

Sisters Manuela Quiché Tzoc and Mary Mc Cormick on the Staten Island Ferry.

From left: Sisters Rosa Tzul Sayhac, Margarita Taz Alvarez, and Maria Andrés Santos on the subway.





# How did the SISTERS of CHARITY INFLUENCE your *life*?

Graduate, Class of 1941, St. Veronica's, NYC. Sister Cornelia was my teacher. Fond memories of a rowdy boy who was taught reverence for our religion and faith by the good Sisters.

Peter Princi,  
Suffern, NY

Each of the Sisters who taught me at St. Vincent's Hospital between 1955-58, marked my life. We have excellent nursing skills, professionalism, assertiveness, and compassion.

Josephine B. Palermo  
Los Altos, CA

Sister Eileen Storey taught me to meditate and pray better and gave me many good hours of fellowship and spiritual direction.

Joan Marlow Golan  
Forest Hills, NY

Sister Marie Irene Breheny taught me mathematics at St. Lawrence Academy (1954-57) and inspired me to become a math professor on the college level for over forty years.

Virginia Feehan McGlone  
Boonton, NJ

Sisters of Charity and Franciscan Brothers helped form me as an educator. Two wonderful Sisters taught me Graduate Theology and Mathematics. I still use their examples of service outreach with others today!

Rodolfo L. Tamez, OFS  
San Antonio, TX

My life with the Sisters of Charity begins in Harlem, New York at the All Saints branch of Cathedral High School. Mother was there to register my sister and me for freshman year. How excited the three of us were! Our excitement grew when Sr. Dolorita Maria Donachie, Principal, told Mother that since she was registering her two girls, she would only have to pay tuition for one. Two years later, during Christmas vacation, God took Mother home. We returned to school to face exams and January Regents. I vividly remember Sister standing next to us as we took the Geometry Regents (not my best subject), praying that Mother's intercession would help us. The prayers worked!

My biggest fear entering high school was the fact that I had a severe stutter. I did not stutter at home nor among friends, but speaking to strangers was always a struggle. In my sophomore year, my Ancient History teacher, Sister Maria Concepta Mulhern, recognized my fear immediately. Each day she would call on us to read aloud from our texts, calling on us spontaneously. Dear Sister that she was, whenever it was oral reading day, she called on me first, thus reducing the anxiety of waiting to have my name called. Before long, the stuttering was practically non-existent.

My friendship and love for Sister Maria Concepta grew over the years. I visited her often at the Mount. When I entered the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary, she was there. (I took her name, Sister Mary Concepta). When I left the community after nineteen years of service, she was there. She met and loved my dear husband, Reginald. My beloved friend that was there for me, was there for the most important times of my life.

Having Sister Maria Concepta as a teacher influenced me to become an educator. In fact, I taught at All Saints, then at the Main Building. My career in education ended in the public high school system as a teacher and administrator. The young men to whom I taught English could not believe how rigorous an English course could be. Book reports, poetry, orals—all the things I had done at Cathedral, I brought to them. As their love for learning grew, I gained their trust and gradually became more effective.

Now as a senior, my memories of the Sisters of Charity are of caregivers and loving educators who helped all of us realize the many gifts God has given us. To God be the glory! To the Sisters, I extend praise, thanksgiving and love.

P.S. One morning in 1965 when I arrived at school, Sister Marita Anna Fox, Principal, announced that she had arranged for our All Saints Glee Club to sing at the World's Fair. After the initial shock, I realized Sister was serious. We appeared at the World's Fair and were superb!

Mary Alexander Purcell, Class of 1946



The former Sr. Mary Concepta at the far right in the first row; Sr. Marita Anna is on the left.





Above: Vincent's Village, which will be located adjacent to Seton Village in Rockland County, has received preliminary approval for its project from the Town of Clarkstown for its ninety-three units of affordable housing for seniors.

Left: Seven Sisters and Associate Elena Miranda attended Mass at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral to commemorate the actual 200th anniversary of Sisters Rose White, Cecilia O'Conway, and Felicity Brady's arrival at Prince and Mott Streets in 1817. *From left, back row:* Sisters Mary Mc Cormick, Charlotte Raftery, Sheila Brosnan, Margaret Dennehy and Carol Barnes. *Front row:* Sisters Geraldine Hanley, Carol Ruf, and Msgr. Don Sakano, Pastor.



In honor of the Congregation's 200th Anniversary, Cathedral High School welcomed Sisters of Charity alumnae and former faculty to celebrate Mass and have lunch with the students. The Sisters delighted the students by singing the school song, which has not been used for several years, but might make a comeback. Principal Maria Spagnuolo presented Sr. Margaret Egan a plaque to commemorate the day and the continuing relationship enjoyed by the school and the Congregation.



Ten new Associates were welcomed into the Congregation on September 30, 2017. *From left, back row:* Lilly Cross, Marie O'Shea, Maureen Noonan, and Maureen Reiser; *middle row:* Christina Clohessy, Courtney Cahill, and Katelyn Wentworth; *front row:* Stephanie Rodway and Gillian May. (Not pictured: Patricia Yeager.) *Thomas Puleo photo.*

Associates who renewed their commitment were LeeAnn Brathwaite, Todd Gable, Kathryn O'Loughlin, Matthew Shields, and Nizarys Vargas. Associates Roberta Lener, Kitty Lunn-Macmillan, Elena Miranda, Maureen Russell, and Robert Williams made lifetime commitments.



Sister Agnes Connolly was elected President of the Congregation on April 7, 1979. Her administration was one of peace and settlement. Terence Cardinal Cooke presided at her installation, and the Congregation pledged its support of prayer, ideas, and talents, knowing that they could best serve the church in New York by strengthening the bonds of love and trust among them. Her administration saw the growth of the Associate Relationship Program begun in 1975. The revised Sisters of Charity *Constitution* and *Directory* were formally approved by Archbishop John O'Connor in 1984 during Sister Agnes' second term of office. Archbishop O'Connor saluted the Congregation for the "deep faith, vibrant hope, and unselfish love" that its members brought to the "poor, ill, elderly, and the youth whom you serve."



Sister Agnes Connolly, 1979–1987



Left: A registered nurse, Sr. Immaculata Burke arrived in Guatemala in 1981. She was responsible for opening several clinics focused on mother and infant health initiatives. She continued her work there until her death in 2014. She requested to be buried among the people she served for forty-three years.



The South Bronx Pastoral Center provided the opportunity to learn and understand scripture in both English and Spanish. Sr. Muriel Long speaks with one person who attended the program.



Left: Fr. Ned Murphy, SJ, Sr. Jane Iannucelli, and Tim Boon opened POTS (Part of the Solution) in 1982. Soup was served to the hungry who came to the store-front center. Now a sponsored ministry, POTS is a multi-service center.

Below: Sr. Dorothy Gallant (center) with Mercy Sister Theresa Skehan, founded the Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates (LEFSA) for men and women in homeless shelters in New York City in 1986.



By an act of Congress, the U.S. Public Health Hospital in Staten Island was turned over to the Sisters of Charity and renamed Bayley Seton Hospital. From left: Sisters Loretto Bernard Beagan and Agnes Connolly accompanied Cardinal Cooke during the dedication of Bayley Seton Hospital on Staten Island.





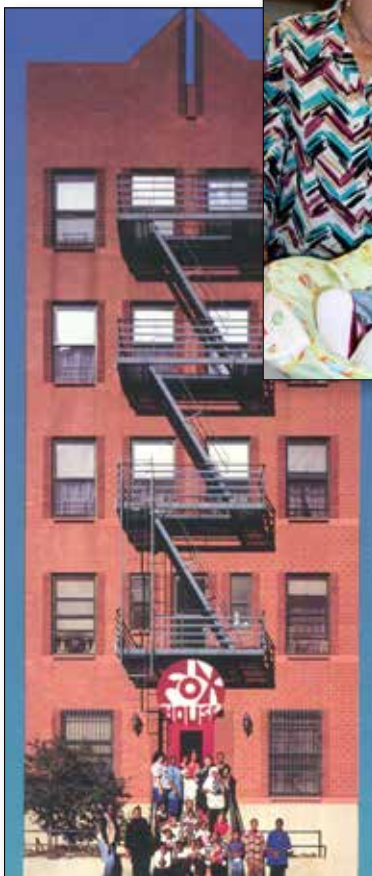
The Assembly elected Sister Carol Barnes to the office of President on April 4, 1987. Her calm, collaborative manner, based on faith in God's providence, guided the Congregation as it moved forward. During Sister Carol's administration a new residence for sisters, Mother Mary Jerome Ely Hall, was constructed on the grounds of Mount Saint Vincent, and the Congregation's offices at Le Gras were extensively renovated after a fire. The Development Office was established to fund ministries and further good stewardship of Congregational funds. Sister Carol fostered the Congregation's understanding of its role as sponsor of institutions, and expanded opportunities for sisters to participate in Congregational governance and planning.



Sister Carol Barnes 1987–1995



A Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1992 celebrated the 175th anniversary of the Congregation's arrival in Elizabeth Seton's New York.



The Robert Fox Memorial Shelter on East 117th Street in Manhattan was opened in 1989 to provide transitional shelter for homeless women with children. Above: Founder/Director Sr. Florence Speth visits with one of the children.



Catechetical and pastoral ministry continued to grow in Guatemala during Sr. Carol's term. Left: Sisters Doris Pagano, (center) and Kathleen Byrnes (right) while on mission in Guatemala near Quiché with Sr. Elizabeth Gilmore, SHCJ.



Sister Carol Barnes welcomed family and friends at the opening of Seton House, affordable housing for previously homeless families in Harlem in 1995.





At the 1995 Assembly, the Congregation decided to focus even more intently on women's issues, global awareness, and the poor. As a result, the Multi-Service Center (Casa de Esperanza) (above right: Sr. Jean Bocian holding one of their client's children), the Elizabeth Seton Women's Center (right: Sr. Arleen Ketchum and two staff members), and Sisters Hill Farm in Dutchess County opened in 1999 (bottom right: Sr. Mary Ann Garisto, founder and current Director Emerita, in one of the fields on the farm).



Sister Elizabeth Vermaelen  
1995–2003



Under the guiding hands of Eric Feldmann, the Sisters of Charity became involved with various housing projects. The Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation is dedicated to the development and management of affordable permanent and transitional homes for the elderly, the formerly homeless, and those with mental illnesses or disabilities. The housing programs offer more than four walls and a roof—they provide homes in an atmosphere of respect and compassion while offering support to contribute to a better quality of life for residents. Today the Sisters of Charity Housing is headed by Sr. Donna Dodge.



In 1995 Sister Elizabeth Vermaelen was elected President of the Congregation. The General Assembly that year committed to be risk takers for the poor, to stand with and for women, and to reverence all creation. Under Sister Elizabeth's leadership new and creative initiatives were begun to implement these commitments. She was deeply involved in the challenges regarding Catholic health care. In partnership with the Most Rev. Joseph Sullivan of the Diocese of Brooklyn, St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers of New York was formed, joining four hospitals sponsored by the Brooklyn Diocese and four hospitals sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York. In 2001 Sister Elizabeth led the Congregation as it grieved the killing of Sister Barbara Ford in Guatemala and the attack on the World Trade Center later that year.

*"Hope always awake  
whispers Mercy for  
the future as sure as  
the past."*

Elizabeth Ann Seton



*Right:* Sr. Barbara Ford, a missionary working with families in Guatemala who had lost loved ones in the civil war in that country, was murdered on May 5, 2001.

*Far right:* Family and friends from near and far gathered at St. Joseph Cemetery for Sr. Barbara Ford's burial.



*Far Left:* St. Vincent's Hospital staff stood ready to receive the casualties and trauma victims from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. The number of persons arriving at the ER was small because so many perished at the site of the attack.

*Left:* Cardinal Egan sat on the platform of the ambulance bay at St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, taking a brief break from consoling both families of the victims and members of the hospital staff.



Sister Dorothy Metz  
2003–2011

Sister Dorothy Metz, elected President in 2003, brought to the office a deep knowledge of the sisters, developed in her eight previous years on the council.

With hope and realism she urged the Congregation to meet its grace in a time of economic recession, war in Iraq and Afghanistan, unprecedented changes in health care and human services, and the closing of several cherished missions. An Office of Sponsorship was created to strengthen connections with our partners in ministry and deepen the Congregation's knowledge of and commitment to its sponsored works.

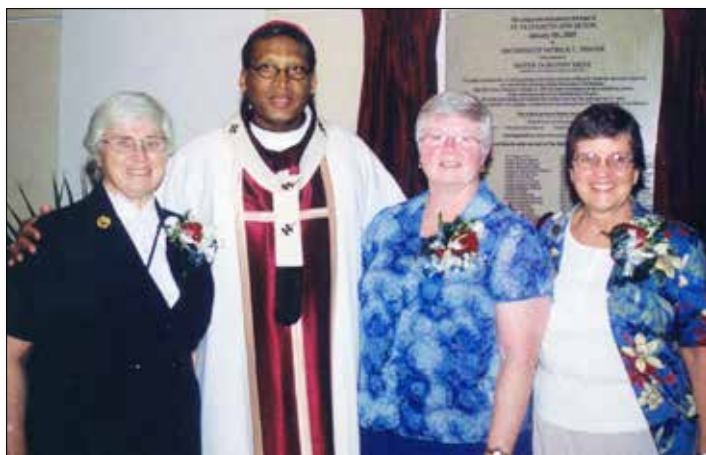
Sister Dorothy invited Sisters and Associates to participate in monthly meetings that addressed issues critical to the mission. External communications expanded via the website ([www.scny.org](http://www.scny.org)) and use of social media.



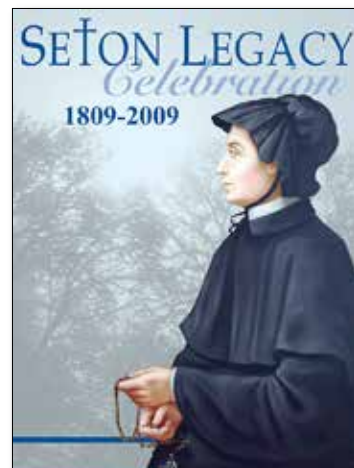
*From left:* Sisters Immaculata Burke, Marie Tolle, and Gloria De Arteaga with young Guatemalan women.

During Sr. Dorothy's term, the Apostolic Visitation was announced; a large number of Sisters and Associates were interviewed by the Visitation Team. Her administration also saw the growth of missions in Guatemala with the establishment of a novitiate and the Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center.





Sr. Joan Anderson (left) was the last Sister of Charity to leave the mission in the Bahamas. Pictured here at the farewell reception are Archbishop Patrick Pinder, who was educated by the Sisters of Charity, Sr. Dorothy Metz, and Sr. Regina Murphy.



Right and below: Celebrating the bicentennial of the founding of the Sisters of Charity in America, the Sisters of Charity of New York and other members of the Sisters of Charity Federation marched in the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 2009. As Honorees of



the parade, the New York Sisters were saluted for all their work. Left: Sisters symbolically "walk on fire," the flame of charity continues to burn brightly. Below: Cardinal Egan with Sr. Florence Simpson in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Above: The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center opened in a rural part of the mountains in Guatemala in 2009. People come from miles around to attend the programs offered. Below: Sr. Gloria De Arteaga (left) and Sr. Anne Denise Brennan on the grounds of the Center.



Sr. Dorothy Metz and Mayor Bloomberg engaged in conversation at the Chelsea Piers Sponsorship Gala held October 29, 2009, in celebration of the bicentennial of the Sisters of Charity in America.



Left: Sr. Dorothy presented the Mission Award, a hand holding the flame of charity, to heads of the sponsored institutions.





Sister Jane Iannucelli  
2011–Present

Sister Jane Iannucelli was elected President of the Sisters of Charity on April 30, 2011. She brought a breadth of experience in education, pastoral care, health care, and social service settings, as well as in Congregational leadership and formation roles. As the first Director of Sponsorship Services, Sister Jane built collaborative relationships with laity and clergy as she shared her passion for the mission and spirit of the Sisters of Charity. As President, she continues to draw on these gifts. Her administration seeks to involve Sisters and Associates in contributing their wisdom and experience. The vision of Sister Jane and her council is that of the Congregation Assembly 2011: to ignite the fire of Charity anew, to “... stand strong together in a place of risk and promise ...” and, trusting in God’s providence, to cross the threshold “... into the future that God has prepared for us.”



*Left:* Cardinal Dolan blessed POTS’ new multi-service center in 2012. *From left:* Sisters Karen Helfenstein, Ann Citarella, Msgr. Donald Dwyer, Carol Ruf (holding holy water), Mary Alice Hannan, OP, Cardinal Dolan, and Sr. Jane Iannucelli.



When the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center moved from Manhattan to its Yonkers location in 2012, it offered additional space, comfort, and education for 137 residents. A new wing opened in 2017 to provide an additional thirty-two beds for technology-dependent children, making it one of the nation’s leading providers of health and quality-of-life services for medically complex children. *Inset:* One of six stained glass windows, all of which were moved from the New York Foundling chapel to the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapel at the Pediatric Center.

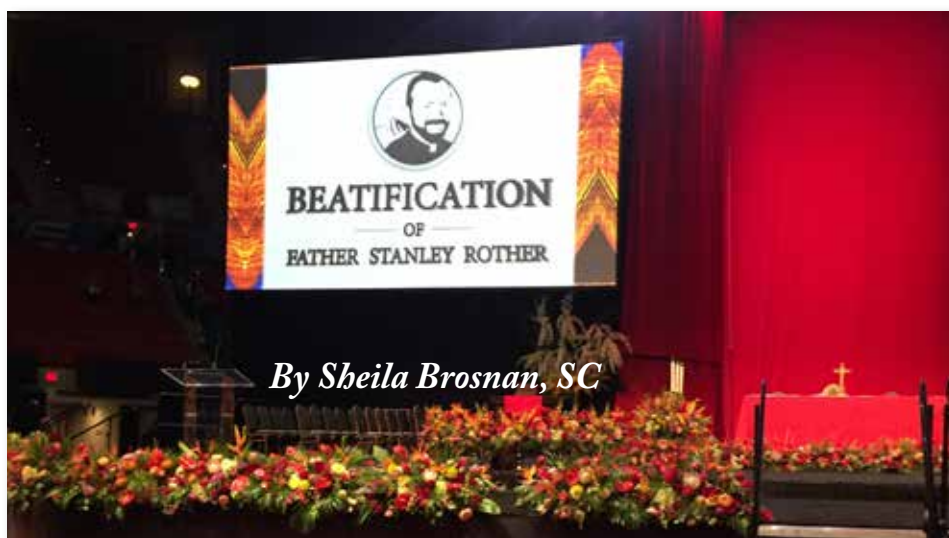
*Right:* Rosenda Magdalena Castañeda González was welcomed as a postulant on the Feast of St. Elizabeth in 2012. In the presence of her family, her community, Sr. Jane, other members of the SC Council, the Sisters on mission in Guatemala, and Bishop Álvaro Ramazzini Imeri, Sr. Rosenda made final vows on July 11, 2017. Sr. Nora Cunningham, Novice/Postulant Director in Guatemala is seated in the background. As the mission grows in Guatemala, so do vocations.



*Left:* In 2016, LEFSA moved to a new, larger location in Harlem, which makes it easier for the team to serve the homeless community. This photo was taken during a bus tour of the Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation properties for board members and Sisters of Charity staff.







*By Sheila Brosnan, SC*

On September 23, 2017, I participated in a Liturgy and Beatification Ceremony for Fr. Stanley Rother, along with tens of thousands of people representing the entire age spectrum from infancy to seniors. People came from all parts of Oklahoma and neighboring States, sometimes traveling all night to arrive in Oklahoma City for this special event. Buses were met by marching bands and participants were led with music into the arena. The Sports Center was transformed by the red banners, red carpets, flowers, and the stunning outfits of each of the five choirs that sang during the waiting time. During the English/Spanish Liturgy and the simple Beatification Ceremony, the teens in the gathering offered cheers, hoots, and clapping at every opportunity. We celebrated the martyrdom of Stan with great joy, and a touch of sorrow.

Shortly after I returned from Oklahoma, someone asked me, "What is it like to have known a saint? My initial response was that we all know saints. However, upon reflection, I know that Stan was a very special man and many who have known him recognize his unique holiness.

Stan and others from Oklahoma, Minnesota, Montana, Spokane, Washington, and other dioceses in the Midwest responded readily to the 1959 request of Pope John XXIII that North America send missionaries to Central and South America. In 1971, the Sisters

of Charity responded to this call by sending Sisters Immaculata Burke, Marie Tolle, and Doris Pagano to the Diocese of Sololá, Guatemala. A few years later, Sisters Barbara Ford and Sheila Brosnan joined the Spokane team in the Sololá Diocese.

It was in Sololá that we came to know Stanley Rother. He was handsome, quiet, and gracious. Stan grew up on a farm and he was happiest when he was fixing something. Despite the fact that he always struggled in school, he was able to learn the Tz'utujil Indian language, and he succeeded in translating the New Testament into this language.

Stan's parish was on the edges of Lake Atitlán. The people were desperately poor because their land was on the side of a mountain. Stan was able to teach the people agricultural techniques that improved their crops and subsequently improved their lives. And above all, if anything needed to be fixed, "Stan was their man."

Guatemala has been described as the "land of the Eternal Spring." Dark showers there are very likely to produce beautiful afternoon rainbows. Although oppression has been the history of the indigenous people in Guatemala, the rainbow or arco iris has always been a sign of hope and God's blessings.

In the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s there was a major shift from a trusting, sometimes passive, stance among the poor to one of suspicion, fear, and actual

terror. Stan's murder was linked to his outcry when a number of people were senselessly assassinated in the plaza in front of the church in Atitlán. Stan's protest was followed almost immediately by death threats. The actual source of the threats was never determined, but death squads were responsible for torturing and killing people at night for almost no reason.

When I met Stan at the airport in Guatemala City in the Spring of 1981, he was returning to Oklahoma to say goodbye to his parents and family. Multiple death threats were a clear indication that it was a matter of time before he would be killed. Stan was murdered a short time after he returned to his parish in Santiago Atitlán.

The radio carried the news of Stan's death, as well as his funeral arrangements. Even though it was not market day, the narrow roads leading to Santiago Atitlán began to fill with people coming from far and wide, hurrying to visit the place of Stan's murder and to Mass in the little Church in town. Stan's parents were still living so the parishioners knew that the body of their beloved Father Stan must be returned to the family. The people of Santiago, however, wanted to preserve Stan's heart and his blood, symbolic of his courage and fidelity.

Toward the end of the Funeral Mass, the people began keening, that is, expressing their sorrow in a collective audible moan. As the casket was placed in the hearse, the crowds spilled out onto a nearby sports field. The people sat, opened up their little bundles of food, and shared. The Eucharist was complete.

Stanley Rother's Beatification brought to my mind the murders of Bill Woods, MM, Barbara Ford, SC, and countless other unnamed women, men, and children who have died in Guatemala from violence or starvation. Pedro Moreno of the Tulsa Diocese notes that Stanley Rother is a martyr. "Martyrdom is what occurs when love meets hate." Father Rother has joined the great throng of saints who have given everyday witness to God's love and mercy.





Above: Associates Francisca and Joel, a married couple from Guatemala, carried the candles in the procession. Below: Associates from the U.S., and Guatemala renewed vows together for the first time in English and Spanish.

Above: Archbishop Patrick Pinder of the Bahamas; Sr. Maria Andrés Santos from Guatemala. Below: Sr. Sheila Brosnan, chair of the 200th Committee, celebrates the closing of the Mass.



## Congregation Closes 200th Anniversary Year at the Site of the First Mission in 1817, Prince & Mott Streets

By Lisa Shay, SC Associate

**"I**t is with a heart full of gratitude that I welcome each and every one of us here today." With these words, Sister Jane Iannucelli welcomed all to the closing liturgy of the 200th Anniversary Year on Saturday, December 9th, as a joyous expression of thanksgiving, a beautiful commemoration of two centuries of service, and a hope-filled entrance into our third century of living lives of love. Symbols of the many ministries and missions in the United States, the Bahamas, and Guatemala graced a table in the sanctuary while the principal celebrant of this joyous event, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, was assisted by Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder of the Bahamas, and Padre Juan Álvarez Velasques and Padre Leonel Tono Oorio from the Diocese of Quiché in Guatemala. Their willingness to travel thousands of miles for the celebration is a tribute to the transformation the Sisters of Charity have made in so many lives.

The liturgy included the annual renewal of vows for Sisters, and commitments for Associates and Companions, for the first

time in both English and Spanish in recognition of the twenty-six members of the community from Guatemala—Sisters, Postulants, and Associates—who were here for a two-week visit. To illustrate the unity of the Congregation, the readings, petitions, and hymns were printed and sung in English and Spanish. After the liturgy, everyone dined together in the Parish Hall, providing a wonderful opportunity for sharing among the New York, Bahaman, and Guatemalan members and friends of the Congregation.

The Congregation is grateful to Monsignor Donald Sakano and the Parish of the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral for making it possible to celebrate the closing Mass in the very Church that welcomed Sisters Rose White, Cecilia O'Conway, and Felicity Brady in 1817.

Into its third century the Congregation journeys together as "Hope, always awake, whispers Mercy for the future, as sure as the past" (*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*).

Hazard Yet Forward, Together!



## The Safe House

*Continued from page 10*

When the women arrive home from their work or school, there is always someone there to open the door, give them a hug, talk about current events, help them with their homework, or have a cup of tea with them.

There is also an added bonus for Sister Pat: when she leaves at the end of those days, she goes home happy, inspired by their courage and moved by their gratitude toward all who help them. She prays for them daily.

After visiting with a group of women who had been trafficked, Pope Francis prayed that exploited women would soon be able to live “a life of peace and love in expectation of the day when they will be held by hands that do not humiliate

them, but tenderly lift them and lead them on the path of life.” Sisters Mary Ellen and Pat, and all the other women who volunteer at the Safe House are, in some small way, those hands.

Another way to ensure the success of this ministry, Sr. Mary Ellen says, would be to have more women become volunteers at the Safe House. Her hope is that more semi/newly retired women would experience its joys: “Since the women are with us at the Safe House for only a year, they welcome all contacts and support for housing, further education, and employment when the women leave us.”

We welcome your support and interest in this joyful ministry. Please contact us at [maryelleno@aol.com](mailto:maryelleno@aol.com) if you are interested.

## Altar Blessing

*Continued from page 9*

More than three hundred Sisters, Associates, Seton and Bayley family members, Beaudette family members, and friends gathered at the Cathedral to be part of the dedication ceremony. After the prayer, which featured readings from Elizabeth Seton and the Book of Proverbs, the participants were led in procession to the altar by Sr. Katie Aucoin, who carried the bicentennial banner. Cardinal Dolan blessed the altar and spoke in tribute to the works of charity which have characterized the presence of Elizabeth Seton’s community in New York since 1817.

Following the ceremony, there was an outdoor reception prepared by the staff of the Cathedral and enjoyed by all.

## Vignettes

*Continued from page 9*

Trying to return to her seat for the prayer service, Sr. Karen found the way blocked by a rope. She looked for an usher and told him, “I need to go through. I’m a Sister.” His face brightened. He pointed to a man in a nearby pew and said, “This man came to the Cathedral today looking for someone to talk to. Would you please speak with him?” So Sr. Karen listened while Barry from the West Coast shared his concerns about his girlfriend and their future. Her advice: “Why don’t you pray to St. Elizabeth Seton? She had two sons. I believe she understands a young man’s heart.”

So, as the prayer and celebration of the day were unfolding, there was one of God’s people in need. And right by his side was a Sister of Charity, under the watchful (and, no doubt, approving) eyes of Elizabeth, Vincent, and Louise, continuing the mission of Charity.

## Danny Boy the Therapy Dog



Danny Boy, who lives with Sr. Katherine Seibert, SC, MD, in Sullivan County, NY, became a therapy dog in November, 2017. With Sr. Katherine, he visits the children’s section of the local library where children are encouraged to read aloud to him and gain confidence in their reading skills.

## “The Aunt”

*Continued from page 5*

we were there.” And she adds, with that twinkle in her eye, “We didn’t have to do any cooking!”

For Alan and Catherine Re, long-time volunteers at the Queen, Sr. Margaret was a favorite. Alan remembers how he often would sit next to her in the rear of the chapel for a quiet chat. Their conversation would always end the same way. She would say, “Alan, now you be a good boy.” His answer, always, “You bet!”

In 2014 Sr. Margaret Mary was among the first of our sisters to move to the New Jewish Home Assisted Living Program. These days she welcomes family and friends who visit her with that same pleasant manner and sense of humor that, as Proverbs 16:24 says, are “like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

According to “the Aunt” she was a prim and proper girl when she was growing up. She practiced with her brothers when they were learning how to dance correctly and she admits that they did spoil her. While never a “tomboy,” she readily boasts that they also taught her jujitsu and, even today, she can still use the “death stranglehold” they taught her. She grins as she emphasizes, “Just in case.”

It has been said that humor inspires hope, lessens our burdens, even adds years to our lives. There is little doubt that all of this true in the case of this 100-year-old Sister, friend, “Aunt.”



## *With Love and Appreciation We Remember...*

### **Sister Mary Elizabeth Phelan** (*Sister Raymond Marian*)

Entered: 1954 + Date of Death: 7/2/17 + Age: 80

Sister Mary Elizabeth began her ministry in education in 1957, teaching the primary grades in schools in Brooklyn and New York. In 1966 she began a seventeen-year mission at Holy Trinity in Mamaroneck, where she taught science and math. She worked at St. Raymond Academy for Girls for the next ten years. Illness forced her to retire early but she continued in volunteer work at Mount Saint Vincent Convent and the Convent of Mary the Queen. As a computer whiz, she was always willing and able to assist the less technically savvy. After moving to Kittay in 2014, Sr. Elizabeth received training as a hospice volunteer and used her many gifts in being a presence to the dying.



### **Sister Helen Murphy** (*Sister Marian Jeanne*)

Entered: 1944 + Date of Death: 10/4/17 + Age: 94

Sister Helen began her ministry in education at schools in Manhattan, followed by a year at St. Joseph Hall, Brooklyn. In 1950 she began a long history with the New York Foundling, in the Boarding Department and in Mothers' Social Services. In 1963 Sr. Helen became the Director of the Boarding Department, and then Assistant Administrator of the New York Foundling. In 1968 she became Administrator of St. Agatha Home, Nanuet, and was a special consultant in facilitating the merger of the New York Foundling and St. Agatha Home. In 1981 Sister Helen returned to the Foundling as Associate Executive Director and as Executive Director until 1996. She dedicated a total of forty-five years to the special call of child care service to the poor with humility and expertise.



### **Sister Rita Meaney** (*Sister Maureen Catherine*)

Entered: 1944 + Date of Death: 10/20/17 + Age: 93

Sister Rita's first ministries were as teacher at elementary schools in Manhattan. In 1951 she began her continuing association with the field of child care when she went to St. Agatha Home in Nanuet, and for fifteen years filled many roles. In 1966 she was assigned to St. Joseph Hall in Brooklyn and for the next thirty years was Administrator, serving through its transition to St. Joseph Services for Children and Families. Sister Rita considered it a privilege to have the opportunity to serve children and families in need. After leaving St. Joseph Services, she volunteered in the adoption department of the New York Foundling. Sister Rita dedicated sixty-three years of ministry to child care and child services and to families who loved and supported children in need.



### **Sister Jane Maria Hoehn**

Entered: 1947 + Date of Death: 10/31/17 + Age: 93

Although Sister Jane's first mission was teaching third grade at Holy Trinity School in Manhattan, it was her next assignment at St. Agatha's Home in Nanuet that led to her lifelong devotion to social services. From 1951 until 1973 she served in a variety of roles at St. Agatha's. In 1973 the New York Foundling opened an office in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, under Sister Jane's supervision to assist foster families and children who had returned to live in Puerto Rico. After her retirement in 1998, Sr. Jane returned to New York City and continued to volunteer her talents as a social worker. Her kindness, compassion, love of all God's people, and sense of humor made her someone with whom people could talk easily.



### **Sister Marietta Joseph Mackin**

Entered: 1943 + Date of Death: 11/18/17 + Age: 92

After her profession, Sr. Joseph served as group mother for fifteen years at St. Joseph Hall, Brooklyn. In 1961 she began her ministry in education at St. Augustine School, Bronx, at St. Mary in Saugerties, and as Principal of Our Lady of the Angelus School, Rego Park, where she served for eighteen years. When she retired in 1997, a tribute stated, "You have invested your heart and soul into the students and faculty of Our Lady of the Angelus School. You have truly influenced and shaped our lives." In retirement, Sr. Joseph volunteered at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers. Sister was a patient, kind, and compassionate woman. She loved her work with children as a group mother and as an educator.



### **Sister Mary Richard Rowley**

Entered: 1945 + Date of Death: 12/3/17 + Age: 95

During Sr. Richard's forty-six years in the ministry of education she taught every grade in elementary school, as well as religion and history in high school. Her first mission was St. Mary's in Yonkers. For the rest of her years in education, Sr. Richard taught in schools throughout the Archdiocese. After retiring, Sr. Richard volunteered in parish ministry in Staten Island and from 2004 to 2012 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Sister Richard and Sr. Marguerite McGilly were missioned on Staten Island when the 9/11 tragedy happened. For weeks following 9/11, the sisters went to the waterfront each day after school and were a presence to all those who gathered, listening to them, and crying and praying with them. Sister Richard said, "Never before have I realized the impact the presence of a Sister of Charity could bring."







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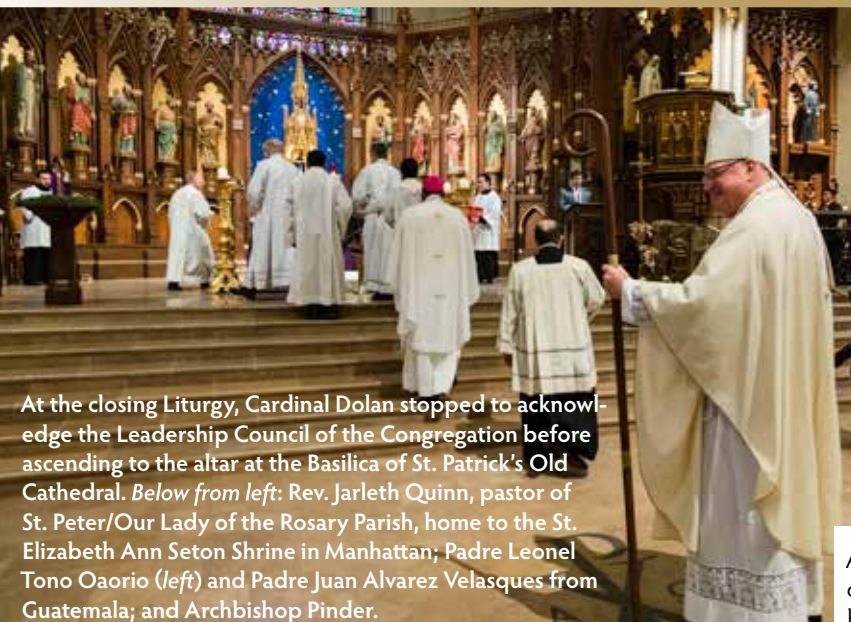


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# Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love



At the closing Liturgy, Cardinal Dolan stopped to acknowledge the Leadership Council of the Congregation before ascending to the altar at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. Below from left: Rev. Jarleth Quinn, pastor of St. Peter/Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, home to the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine in Manhattan; Padre Leonel Tono Oaorio (left) and Padre Juan Alvarez Velasques from Guatemala; and Archbishop Pinder.



Archbishop Pinder (*above center*) remarked, "The Sisters of Charity have made contributions to both the spiritual and social life of the Bahamas. I was educated by the Sisters, as was the Prime Minister, Hubert Mininis. It was my privilege and honor to join the Congregation for the closing Mass and to visit with the many Sisters who served in the Bahamas."



Guatemala Associate and Director of the medical clinics, Dr. Jose Miguel presented a hand-made weaving that says, "Sisters of Charity, 200 years of service, since 1971 in the mountain region of Guatemala."