THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

VOL. 22, ISSUE 2 Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love SPRING 2018



From the President

Dear Friends,

As we continue our journey through the seasons of Easter and Pentecost I am reminded of how our God is constantly opening doors for us.

The stone has been rolled back and Jesus goes before us into Galilee. The disciples were afraid that He



Sr. Jane appeared in this photo in the September 2011 issue of VISION when she became President of the Congregation. Sr. Dorothy Metz, President from 2003 to 2011, passed on the candle representing the leadership role.

had left them alone and they locked the doors and stayed locked in the upper room. When the Spirit comes, they cannot help themselves. They unlock the doors and run into the streets. Their energy is renewed and they cannot wait to spread the Good News. God's abundant love and presence among us cannot be contained.

This is the same love that has permeated the mission of Charity for these many years. Our God is with us until the end of time. What an unbelievable gift!

For the past 30 years, our Communications Department has continued to share this story of God's presence among us. Our magazine, VISION, has developed over the years into an award-winning publication. It chronicles the lives and ministries of our Sisters, Associates, Companions, and many of our partners in mission.

These stories of our energy and desire to serve those who live on the margins; our history in education, healthcare, and social work; as well as our meeting of the challenges of our city, state, and nation give evidence of God's presence among us. In the spirit of Elizabeth Seton, we daily journey to "meet our grace."

Doors are being opened for new ways to give witness to the good news of our mission. They are opening to joy, challenges, and deep respect for all in the Company of Charity. We tell the story of God's love in all Creation.

Please enjoy this issue of VISION, knowing that so many have been so faithful in telling our story over these years. I am grateful to them all, and especially today to Elena Miranda, who continues to help us tell the stories of the many doors opening before us.

As we move through to the season of Pentecost, may we respond to the Spirit's gifts and always go forward to spread the mission of Charity every day.

Blessings,

Jane Iannucelli, SC

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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Opening the Door in Welcome

By Nora Cunningham, SC

S the 200th anniversary year of the Sisters of Charity of New York came to a close in December 2017, the door of the Formation House in Guatemala opened in welcome to Victoria Chamán Sis and Odilia Areliz Chén Argueta.

The two new postulants were formally received by Sr. Jane Iannucelli in a ceremony within the Mass celebrating the feast of St. Elizabeth Seton on January 4, 2018. Sister Mary Ann Daly, Regional Coordinator, added her welcome and asked the local community to pledge their prayerful support.

It was also a special moment for Sr. Juana Margarita Tax Álvarez, who took the next step of formation into her canonical novitiate. Sister Jane gifted her with the Constitution of the Sisters of Charity, which she will study this year.

Odilia and Victoria are continuing their studies this year along with their postulant program. They are also adjusting to community living: participating in communal prayer, community meetings, and duties. In addition, they will serve in a ministry one day a week.

Sister Margarita shares a similar schedule in addition to attending the intercongregational program for novices in Guatemala City twice a week.

Much appreciated are your prayers for vocations and for each young woman as she discerns her call to religious life.

With Elizabeth Seton we give thanks with the invitation, "All are welcome. The front door, the back door, the side door that leads to the chapel and all the windows upstairs and down all open at your coming."



Above: In the presence of their families, Sr. Rosenda presents Victoria Chamán Sis, left, and Odelia Areliz Chén Argueta to Sr. Mary Ann Daly to be accepted as postulants.

Left: Sr. Jane receives Sr. Juana Margarita Tax Álvarez as a novice. Sr. Margarita was part of the group that visited New York last December.







Paul Newman, gracema herefactor of XY. Foundling, discusses shelter for children with Administrator. Sr. Credia Schweider.

Hope Unites Shelter Residents

by Eller Rese O'Connell, S.C.

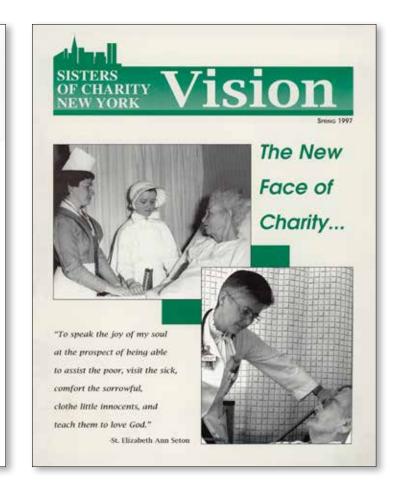
Our history as Sisters of Charrily in America continues to call us to minister to our people. Today, over three mallion Americans have no house. In New York City above, over \$0,000 are houseless. The ensuring statistic is that \$95% of those in New York whelters are children, botteless because of the precaration financial situation of single-pueset families lacking lows victories beausing.

Our Sixters attempt to serve these needs as maries in our 21 medical sites for the honteless, as an advocate/counselor in Sanctuary for Familians, as housing advocates in Harlen, the Broox, and Queen; or

private hospitals.

In 1986, Doorshy Gallaur, S.C.
and Terens Shebart, R.S.M. mittant
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Thirty Years of Sharing Our Vision

By Mindy Gordon

2018 marks thirty years of publications by the Sisters of Charity of New York. Visually transformed in its presentation from an earlier newsletter style as *CloseUp*, to the contemporary glossy, multi-page publication, *VISION*, the Congregation's hallmark magazine serves to communicate to a diverse readership in forty-eight states, Puerto Rico, and international destinations. (Only Idaho and New Mexico are missing from our mailing list!)

Prior to 1987, an internal publication called the "Newsletter" served as the primary source for the exchange of information between Congregation members. At that time, discussions among Leadership, combined with survey responses from Sisters, revealed the need for a way to expand the reach of communication to an "external readership." The first event to address this need was the establishment of a Communications



VISION Summer 2003 featured an interview with Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen, who completed eight years of service as president that year.

Above left: Sr. Carol Barnes was president in Spring 1988 when CloseUp made its debut.

Above right: Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen was president when the first issue of VISION was published in Spring 1997.

Commission in 1985. The broad function of the Commission was to initiate effective modes of outreach and gather "information on apostolic religious life as lived by members of the Congregation to communicate more fully the life, mission, and ministry of each individual Sister."

During a meeting of the Communications Commission in November 1986, it was suggested that a newsletter or magazine be published to be distributed to the public-at-large with material also used for the in-house newsletter. It was determined that a Communications Coordinator, separate from a

public relations or development officer, be assigned to provide briefings with the press and become a liaison to publication relations departments in ministry locations. As a result, Sr. Paula Holdman became the first Communications Coordinator.

To further inform the public of the works of the Congregation and increase support, an expanded publication for outreach or external communications was suggested by a joint meeting of the Communications Commission and the Executive Council in 1986. As a result, the first issue of *CloseUp* was published in 1988. Articles written by members were tailored to represent the Congregation to the media. The sisters were a resource as both authors and photographers during the ten-year publication of *CloseUp*.

The alteration of the publication from a newsletter to magazine format was further inspired by Congregation members' survey suggestions to "consider creativity" in the appearance of external publications. The current successor to CloseUp, VISION, was first published in Spring 1997. Its purpose was stated on the inner cover: "VISION enables the Sisters of Charity of New York to make a strong, 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." Articles continue to highlight the Congregation's activities and ongoing commitment to child care, nursing, education, and social services.

Editor Elena Miranda, the Director of Communications, meets several times annually with Advisory Board members to consider themes for articles. Advisory Board members, including Congregation members, Associates, and staff, contribute articles about ministries, current events, hallmark celebrations, biographies of the sisters, and personal reflections.

An accomplished photographer and graphic designer, Elena has streamlined the magazine's production process to manage editorial, layout, and graphic design phases. In addition to using photographs from the Congregation's archives, Elena



VISION Winter 2010 highlighted the 200th Anniversary celebration of 2009, which marked the founding of the Sisters of Charity by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Mayor Bloomberg and Sr. Dorothy Metz engaged in a lively discussion during dinner.





With Sr. Jane lannucelli as president, VISION received a makeover in design and format when Director of Communications Elena Miranda became editor.

takes many of the contemporary photographs featured in the magazine. These "born-digital" images are maintained in a database that will become part of the growing collection of photographs in the Congregation's archives.

As a continuing part of the Communications Plan of the Congregation, an ad hoc Communications Committee was created in 2012 to define, among other issues, "one message for multiple audiences or multiple messages for multiple audiences," to strengthen the impact of external communications.

During the bicentennial anniversary year of the Sisters of Charity of New York in 2017, three special feature issues presented a narrative time line of Congregation events since 1817, including photographs from the Congregation's archives. Volume 20, Issue 4, addressed the early history of the Congregation from 1817 to 1866; Volume 21, Issue 1, continued the story through 1967; and Volume 22, Issue 1, examined the Congregation from 1967 to 2017 and the closing celebrations of the bicentennial year.

Current issues of the magazine are distributed to over 12,700 addresses, including Congregation members and ministries, Sisters of Charity Federation individuals and organizations, Archdiocese of New York and metropolitan area parishes and clergy, donors, students, and interested individuals by request. In recent years, the availability of internet and social media paths has increased the visibility, accessibility, and circulation of the magazine. Full printable and searchable issues of VISION from 2005 to 2017 are available in PDF format at the Sisters of Charity website: www.scny.org/vision

In the second decade of the twenty-first century *VISION* continues to further define the expression of the Congregation's mission, as a vehicle to share the ongoing legacy of the Sisters of

Charity of New York. An exhibit of images printed in *CloseUp* and *VISION* to celebrate this thirty-year anniversary will be on view in the Le Gras Community Room at the Sisters of Charity Center in the Bronx during 2018.

CMSV Students Leave Their Mark During Winter Break

By Patricia McGowan, SC

uring this past college Winter Break, almost two dozen College of Mount Saint Vincent students—known on campus as Leaders in Service—traveled domestically and abroad to join in the Sisters of Charity mission of working with the poor.

Why would college students give up part of their vacation time? It is really quite simple. They fully embrace the college and the Sisters of Charity legacy of giving back, of caring for one another, of the common bond of humanity. As Jonathan Ramirez'18 says, "Doing service is my way of serving the Lord."

In New Orleans, two first-year students and Kat O'Loughlin, Associate Director for Campus Ministry, joined students from other colleges to work with the Sisters of Charity Federation and the St. Bernard Parish Project in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, an area still recuperating from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. During their long work days, the students became carpenters, electricians, and construction workers, building an Opportunity Home (a first-time home for survivors of that hurricane). While they became experts in putting up ceilings and attaching drywall,





among the highlights of their days was meet-

ing the people who had survived so much and still had hope. For Kathleen Shay 21, getting to know Burnell, who had lost everything (his home, his neighbors, his community), was a special blessing. Today, more than ten years later, he has built the only grocery store in that ward and he is determined to rebuild "his" neighborhood. This experi-

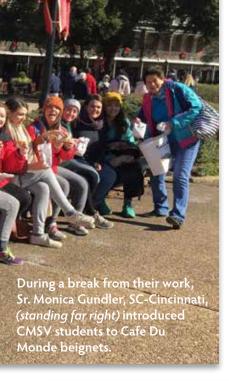
ence has taught Kathleen that "despite how impossible a goal may seem, with a lot of hard work, dedication, and a positive attitude, it is achievable."

During the evenings, the volunteers joined in communal prayer and reflection, building teamwork and marveling that together they were able to build a house that a family would

someday call "home." Sister Claire Regan, SC, who lives in the House of Charity, is grateful that these young people "want to continue the Vincentian and Setonian tradition of service."

Accompanying a group of eleven students, Kat O'Loughlin and Tim Nagy, Graduate Assistant for the Office of Campus Ministry, travelled by bus to Appalachia, one of the poorest areas in America. They spent a week living at Bethlehem Farm in West Virginia, a Catholic community founded by a lay couple whose mantra is "to transform lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices."

Kat had been involved in similar service projects while she was in college and, she says, "Being on the other side now and watching these students grow and become 'different people' is really inspiring." It is common, she says, for students who have been on one of these trips to return for another trip.







Above: Five CMSV nursing students worked in medical clinics in Guatemala operated by the Sisters of Charity.

Left: Students spent a week at Bethlehem Farm in West Virginia, located in the Appalachian Mountains, one of the poorest areas in America.

This year was her fourth in Appalachia and this time it was with "a very diverse group of students in terms of race and religion (Catholic, Christian, and Muslim) who were introduced to what some sociologists call 'the hidden homeless." They are not the people sleeping on the streets and under the highways of our big cities. They are a people whose families have lived on "their own lands" for generations. They have very little in the way of wealth, yet they are a proud people who take care of one another. And that pride and simplicity of life inspired the students.

For Nicole Quaranto '18, it was an "absolutely amazing trip filled with such peace, reflection, and simplicity." She enjoyed learning about "sustainability and how to live a simple, meaningful life." (The students had to relinquish their cell phones and internet access for the week and Nicole actually found that "refreshing.")

During the days they spent long hours helping the local community with their farming and home repairs and, as in New Orleans, a lot of muscle went into attaching drywall and putting up ceilings. Nicole even surprised herself with how well she could use power tools.

This trip "opened the eyes" of Jonathan Ramirez '18 once again. Last year he went to Kentucky and he says, "Every time I go, I learn a different lesson. I'm from the Bronx. I'm a city kid going to West Virginia. I see things that I don't see in New York. It takes me out of my comfort zone and broadens my horizon. It's one of the most amazing feelings in the world knowing that I made a difference in another person's life. Nothing can compare to that feeling."

The third group of students travelled even farther.

Led by Sr. Cecilia Harriendorf, SC, five senior nursing majors travelled to the Sololá region of Guatemala to assist at multiple health clinics created by the Sisters of Charity. Under the supervision of Sr. Marie Tolle, SC, and Dr. José Miquel, an Associate of the Sisters of Charity, they worked alongside medical students from the University of Guatemala City, sharpening their nursing skills and experiencing the beauty and culture of the Mayan people.

The trip was both a service mission and a learning experience. Despite the physical hardships they had to endure Continued, see page 15, bottom right The Octavio Family, c. 1937. Seated, first row from left: Josephine (Sr. Maria Louis), Antoinette, Louis Octavio (father), Yolanda, and Louise. Rear standing: Ida, Angela (mother), and Mary.





Celebrating One Hundred Years of Life

By Maryellen Blumlein, SC

ne hundred years ago the United States Congress authorized time zones and approved daylight savings time; the U.S. was fighting World War I in Europe; Sam Walton—founder of Walmart and Sam's Club—was born, and so was Sr. Maria Louis Octavio.

Surrounded by Sisters of Charity, her younger (age 99) and last surviving sister, Louise Higgiston, and friends, Sr. Louis celebrated her one hundredth birthday at Mount Saint Vincent Convent on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Her sister Louise was accompanied by her devoted caregiver, Bernadette DiGuilian. Her niece Lynda Cox and husband Bob, who could not attend, provided the flowers that decorated the altar.



Niece Lynda Cox, right, and husband Bob, recently visited with Sr. Maria Louis.



Sr. Florence Mallon, who was sponsored into the Congregation by Sr. Maria Louis, remained by her side throughout the day.

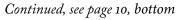
For all of those one hundred years, Sr. Louis and her sisters were in constant contact and she always knew what was happening around the home fires of every family. Sister Kathleen Sullivan often drove her to Connecticut so that she could "keep track" of each family member very carefully.

The fourth of six girls born to Louis and Angela Octavio, Josephine Octavio spent the first eighteen years in Danbury, CT. After high school, she enrolled in the New York Foundling Baby Nurse program and upon graduation began working there. It was there that she met the Sisters of Charity and began a lifelong love of New York City. Josephine entered the Sisters of Charity of New York on February 2, 1951 and received the religious name Sr. Maria Louis. In 1953, she was assigned to the New York Foundling

Hospital as Assistant to the Director of the School of Child Care. Sister Louis loved the young children, especially the babies, and was a very happy and gifted instructor to the students at the NYFH School.

After thirteen years at the Foundling, Sr. Louis was assigned to teach the first grade at St. Peter's School in Poughkeepsie, where she remained for ten years until being missioned to Sacred Heart School on Staten Island. While there, Sr. Louis also volunteered to help Sr. Kathleen Sullivan with the day camp at St. Peter's Elementary School, and thus began a friendship that continues to this day.

It was during her years at Sacred Heart that Sr. Louis became a docent at the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD. Sister Louis worked as a docent and hostess at the Shrine every summer until 2005. Speaking of her contribution, the staff said, "Sr. Maria Louis brought with her a wealth of knowledge about Mother Seton, which she shared with pilgrims." She wrote letters home to the Sisters at Mount Saint Vincent Convent telling them of her adventures in the valley at Emmitsburg. During her more than twenty years at St. Joseph's, she engaged in several research projects. In her farewell letter to her coworkers and friends at the Seton Shrine, Sr. Louis expressed her gratitude for the privilege of serving as a docent. "Reflecting on the history of the foundation of our community and of the early sisters…has been most enriching. It has put me in touch with the pioneer mothers and sisters of the early 1800s." At the end of her ministry at the Shrine in 2005, Sr. Maria Louis







Sr. Rita Flynn (rear right) baked a cake for Sr. Maria Louis' (seated at right) birthday in 1986 when she was missioned to Sacred Heart in Staten Island. Also joining in the celebration was Sr. Florence Mallon (seated at left) and Sr. Marguerite Mahony (rear left).

Sr. Maria Louis
brought with
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which she shared
with pilgrims.



Sr. Anne Woodford, SC-Halifax, looks on as Sr. Maria Louis blows out her candles and her sister Louise cheers her on.

Mount Saint Vincent Convent Maintenance Tech Wins One for the Sisters

By Nicholas Cambria



Michael Carr, Maintenance Technician at Mount Saint Vincent Convent, with the mailbox for which he so fervently advocated.

Celebrating 100 Years of Life

Continued from page 9

returned to the Convent of Mount Saint Vincent to enjoy her retirement.

While living at the Mount, Sr. Louis volunteered in the College of Mount Saint Vincent library, helping students with their research projects and general studying. A true highlight of her time at Mount Saint Vincent was the filming of the movie *Doubt*. Each morning Sr. Louis went over to the set to check if Meryl Streep and Amy Adams were perfectly dressed in their Sister of Charity habits. On several occasions, Sr. Louis invited some of the actresses to her convent room for afternoon tea and cookies. All came at one time or another and had wonderful conversations about religious life, and life in general. Sister Louis spoke of her own experience of vocation and her religious life, which gave both the cast and crew a deeper understanding of who religious women really are. Ms. Streep came to visit the convent dining room to have the opportunity to meet the Sisters of whom Sr. Louis so often spoke. Sister Louis arranged for every Sister to have her picture taken with Ms. Streep.

Though born and raised in Connecticut, Sr. Louis has New York City blood running through her veins. On many a Saturday, she walked up the hill to the main gate and boarded an express bus to visit some museum or musical production. As far back as anyone can remember, there was a mailbox in front of Rosary Hall that served the Sisters at Mount Saint Vincent Convent and Rosary Hall. In December 2016, the mailbox disappeared and few held out hope it would return, until Michael Carr, Maintenance Technician at the Convent, got involved.

The mailbox was initially taken off the campus of the College of Mount Saint Vincent for security upgrades and was to be returned after the upgrades were completed. A year later, the mailbox had yet to be replaced.

Michael's efforts began with a letter right to the top: the Postmaster General. In his letter, he explained that the Sisters, "all in the golden years, really miss the mailbox. It was their lifeline as they are all old school and do everything by mail." He was pleased to see that his case was assigned a reference number and he continued his letter-writing campaign. He enlisted the help of his former eighth-grade teacher from St. Margaret of Cortona, Sr. Mary O'Brien, a resident at Rosary Hall, to help him fax his letters. When his letter writing began to feel futile, Mr. Carr turned to the office of U.S. Representative Elliot Engel, where he made contact with Richard Fedderman, Director of Constituent Services. Mr. Fedderman proved to be a valuable ally in Michael's pursuit. In late fall 2017, Mr. Carr was surprised and thrilled to see the mailbox being installed in its rightful place.

Thank you, Michael Carr, for watching out for the retired Sisters at Mount Saint Vincent Convent and Rosary Hall. Well done!

She loves classical music, opera, ballet, and all art media. She returned to the convent filled with the splendor of what she experienced and shared it all with the Sisters. She searched the *New York Times* every day for articles about exhibitions that were being held in the area. She once traveled to Vassar College for a quilting exhibit.

Sister Louis also enjoyed attending many streets fairs in New York City. She walked the fairs observing everything on display and talking with as many people as possible. Sister Louis always wanted "to bring people into her world" and share with them the splendor of all she saw and learned. Her love of music and theater inspired her to search for free concerts or dramatic performances to attend on weekends.

From daughter, to sister, to baby nurse, to teacher, to shrine docent, Sr. Maria Louis has brought her love of life to each and every one of her hundred years. Though she may not be visiting the street fairs, museums, and concerts of New York City, she brings her love of life, and especially her Italian heritage, to the nurse, Maria Caffori, and the aides on her floor at St. Joseph's Nursing Home. Sister Louis will always be a vibrant person. This birthday celebration was very special to her, the family, and all of her Sisters and friends.

Ad multos annos, Sr. Louis, as you enter into your second century of life.

Deepening the Charism: Roots and Wings

An Associate's Reflection



ne of the many inspiring events of our Bicentennial Year was a reflection on the Charism of Charity by Sr. Maureen Hall, a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, at the 2017 Associates' Commitment Luncheon. She kept all spellbound for an hour, relating story after story that illustrated the Vincentian–Setonian charism, inspiring and challenging us. Her use of props including loaves of bread, a small heart-shaped porcelain box, pennies, and prayer cards made each story memorable. In respect to my editor and your patience, I struggled to decide which few to include. Those who were there know what I mean: I ask your pardon for omitting your favorite parables and missing the vital message you drew from them.

One of her congregation's ministries is a Catholic Worker house called "Holy Family House," but those who know it simply call it "Holy House." What a name to live up to! Sister Maureen reminded us that we are all called to the thrilling responsibility to live up to our name: Sisters of Charity, Associates, Companions of Charity.

Housing and hospitality figured prominently in her talk. Sister Maureen introduced us to the poetry of David Whyte, particularly his poem, *House of Belonging*: "There is no house like the house of belonging where we learn to love, but it takes a lifetime to learn to live that love. ... There is no house like the house of belonging. In this room we belong to God. In this Vincentian family we are sons and daughters who follow a spirit of the Gospel where the poor are who we are called to serve. That's why I can walk in this room and feel so much at home. Doesn't it take a lifetime to learn to do that?"

As Vincentian disciples, we have one foot in the world locally, the other globally. How do we balance? Sister Maureen picked up the porcelain box, to share a story about roots, while inviting us to reflect on our own roots. She related the true story of a couple, now on the other side of Easter. Tom and Mary saved up money to buy a farm and have a simple wedding with a reception in their own home. Mary received a small box; a jewelry box but she had no jewels, except the ring on her finger. She found her own use for the pretty box, though; every night before she and Tom went to sleep, they would bring it out and put in one memory from the day. After their fiftieth anniversary, their children wanted them to sell the farm. They had an auction, sold equipment to neighbors who were staying, and got a little apartment in town. The first night there, Mary said, "I want to take our memory box and shake

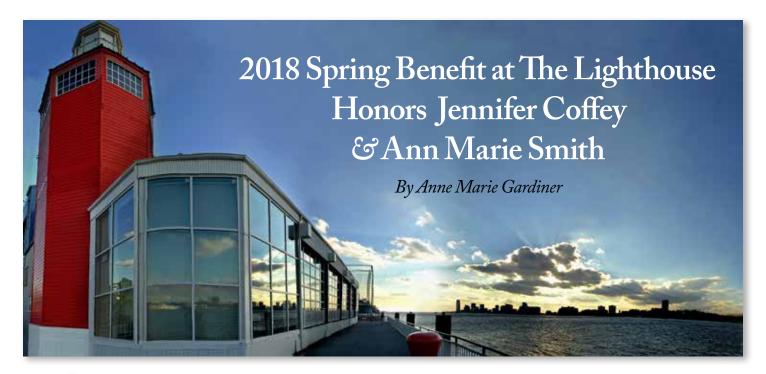


Sr. Mary Ann Daly (left standing) and Maureen Russell welcomed Sr. Maureen Hall, SC-L (seated) on Associates Day 2017.

all the stories out." Birth of five kids, death of one, crops that blew away in the dust bowl, remnants eaten by grasshoppers, all the joys and sorrows of their lives together. When Tom died, at the funeral home, Mary took the rosary out of Tom's hands and replaced it with the memory box. Her priest asked why. She responded that upon seeing the memory box, God would say, "Tom, welcome home, good and faithful servant." And, she added, "I'm a shoe-in because God will know the story!" Tom and Mary gave the gift of themselves to one another. As Vincentians, we give ourselves to one another. Who is in our memory box? Whose are we in? Sister Maureen is convinced that we are in the memory boxes of many men, women, and children whom we have served over 200 years of living lives of love.

Sister Maureen closed with a story close to home. Eugene O'Neil, who spent time on the Mount Saint Vincent campus, wrote the play, *And Lazarus Laughed*. It ends with, "O death you did not win. O life I love you." She urged us to continue as sons and daughters of Vincent, Louise, and our Elizabeth, to live out our lives of love until we meet our God with our memory box. And God will say, "Oh! I know you. Well done, good and faithful servant. You are now in the house of belonging."

By Lisa Shay



he 200th Anniversary events of 2017 were a source of great enjoyment and celebration with the many friends who have supported us throughout the years. Of particular enjoyment was the Gala held at The Lighthouse, Pier 61, at Chelsea Piers. We enjoyed the event so much that on Thursday, May 17, from 6 to 9 pm, we will return to Chelsea Piers for our 2018 Spring Benefit. The celebration will once again include cocktails, dinner, and dancing, with music provided by our faithful friend, Guss Hayes.

The first honorees in our third century are two very special women who give not only their talent and treasure to the Sisters of Charity, but give generously of their time to serve on some of our boards.

Jennifer Coffey, Esq., has nearly twenty years of experience in not-for-profit corporate law and health care law, and currently serves as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers. Her legal career started in the New York City Mayor's Office of Medicaid Managed Care. She then went on to private practice at the national law firm of Epstein, Becker and Green, P.C., where she focused on not-for-profit corporate law and health care law, and advised clients in the health care and insurance industries.

She joined the legal department at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers nearly fifteen years ago and is currently Senior Vice President and General Counsel, a position she has held for the past six years. She also serves as Chief Legal Officer and board member of Queensbrook Insurance Limited, a Cayman Islands based captive insurance company affiliated with St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers.

Since 2014, Jen has provided extensive pro bono legal services to the Sisters of Charity of New York and has served as a member of the Sponsorship Advisory Council, as Chair of the Corporate Restructuring Committee, and Co-Trustee of the 200th Anniversary of the Sisters of Charity Gala in 2017. She is also a member on the Board of Directors of the Sisters of Charity Ministry Network.

Jen lives in West Hartford, CT, with her supportive husband of twelve years, David Vorchheimer, and their amazing daughter, Madeleine, as well as their beloved feline family members, Sampson, Boots, and Lucky.

Ann Marie Smith has been serving her community and helping others for over forty years. She began her relationship with the Sisters of Charity of New York when she attended St. Barnabas High School in the Bronx, which was founded by the Sisters in 1924. Ann Marie thrived there as captain of the basketball team and president of her graduating class. She later attended Dominican College in Blauvelt, NY, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

In 1973 Ann Marie and her husband, a New York City firefighter, moved from Woodlawn to Rockland County. There she began serving on the St. Paul's Finance Committee and was an active member of the board of Girl Scouts, the Hi-Tor Animal Shelter, and the Veterans Memorial Association.

After many years of supporting others with their political campaigns, Ann Marie ran for the Clarkstown Town Board. She was elected and served for seventeen years, holding the distinction of being the first woman to serve on the board.

In the late 1990s Ann worked with the Sisters of Charity as they submitted plans for their first senior housing development, Seton Village, in Clarkstown. At the invitation of Sr. Jane Iannucelli, Ann Marie became a member of the Seton Village Board in 2004. She is presently on the path of executing the second phase, Vincent's Village, which will provide additional housing for the elderly.

Ann Marie credits her achievements to the support of her husband, Arthur, their four children: Kenneth, Susan, Veronica, and Virginia, and their seven grandchildren, who all remain in Clarkstown and are only a few steps away at any time.

This photo appeared in the first issue of *CloseUp* Spring 1988, Vol. 1 #1. Paul Newman, generous benefactor of N.Y. Foundling, discusses shelter for children with Administrator, Sr. Cecilia Schneider. *Right:* Actress Amy Adams, who played Sr. James in the film *Doubt* with Sr. Peggy McEntee, the inspiration for the role. *VISION* Winter 2008/09, Vol. 13, # 1

THIRTY YEARS OF SHARING OUR

Vision







The Sisters of Charity of New York hosted one of the first Federation meetings in 1948 at Mount Saint Vincent. Mother Mary Josephine Taafe and Bishop McNamara (center) participated in that conference. VISION Summer 2004, Vol. 8, #3. Left: Sr. Catherine Sherry, (c. 1962) then Director of Labs at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York. VISION Spring 1997, Vol. 1 #1



Sr. Eileen Kelly and Elizabeth Gilbert, who is part of the pastoral team from the local flour mill (Bahamas). CloseUp Spring 1995, Vol. 8 #1



Sr. Nancy Kellar attends Papal audience in Rome. CloseUp Winter 1994/95, Vol. 7 #4



Sr. Karen Helfenstein met Pope John Paul II on St. Elizabeth Seton's Feast Day in 1993. VISION Spring 2005, Vol. 9 #2

Sisters Return to the Former O'Toole Building

A palpable sense of pride for all that took place within those walls. A sense of gratitude to Northwell Health for preserving the memories. Feelings of nostalgia for what might have been.

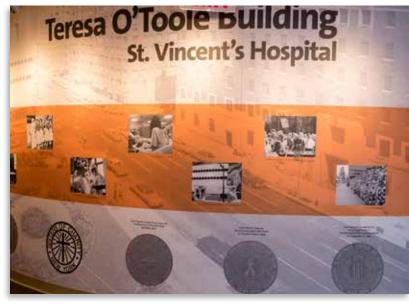
Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips, October 25, 2017

ride. Gratitude. Nostalgia. These were but three of the many emotions felt when the Sisters of Charity attended the Downtown Ribbon Cutting Event in the former O'Toole Building of St. Vincent Medical Center on Seventh Avenue. Held last fall, the event celebrated the opening of the \$25 million, 30,000 square-foot ambulatory surgery center that spans the entire fourth floor of Lenox Health Greenwich Village. The state-of-the-art facility serves as Manhattan's only free-standing twenty-four-hour emergency center and provides other critical services to the community.

In designing and planning the new facility, Northwell Health was determined to pay tribute to the building's unique history. When completed in 1964, the Joseph Curran Building served as headquarters for the National Maritime Union. Both revered and despised by the Greenwich Village community for its appearance, the nautical motif structure was designated a landmark by the City of New York in 1969. St. Vincent's Hospital acquired the distinctive six-story structure in 1977 and renamed it the Edward & Theresa O'Toole Medical Services Building. Northwell Health paid homage to the National Maritime Union and St. Vincent's Hospital by dedicating a wall of historical photos to each organization.

Sisters of Charity that attended the event included Sr. Jane Iannucelli, who served as corporate board member of St. Vincent Medical Center at the time of the hospital's closing, Sr. Miriam Kevin Phillips, who was Vice President for Mission Integration, Sr. Carol Barnes, former board member, Sr. Karen Helfenstein, whose last position was Senior Vice President for Mission Integration, Sr. Charlotte Raftery, and





Sr. Mary Ellen O'Boyle. The Sisters were delighted to see several familiar faces among the current staff, from the security guard at the front desk, to doctors, nurses, and administrative staff. The presence of Sisters of Charity at the event was much welcomed by Northwell executives, the community, and staff members alike. In his opening remarks, Michael Dowling, president and chief executive officer of Northwell Health, made reference to the "very special guests seated in the front row." Several of the speakers thanked the Sisters for the years of dedicated service, as well as for their presence at the event.

Given the opportunity to speak at the event, Sr. Jane said, "I think that it's wonderful to say that you honor the history that has been, but you truly have taken it into the 21st Century...you truly honor the spirit that was St. Vincent's that is in this neighborhood." In a subsequent interview with Northwell, Sr. Jane said, "The spirit that was alive for 161 years continues to be alive."

Unable to tour the medical facility that day, Sisters Miriam Kevin Phillips and Karen Helfenstein, both nurses, returned for an extensive, behind-the-scenes tour with Executive Director Alex Hellinger last February. Both Sisters were not only impressed with the state-of-the-art facility, but with the commitment Northwell Health has made to the community.

> In reflecting on her initial and subsequent visits, Sr. Karen said, "When I walked in I wanted to say 'I love what you've done with the place.' It was bittersweet to visit our former clinic building at St. Vincent's. However, when I realized how health services are being provided there now for thousands of people, I was very happy. It is a first-rate facility and people in southwest Manhattan need and deserve this near their homes. Great development!"

From left: Sisters Jane lannucelli, Miriam Kevin Phillips, Karen Helfenstein, Charlotte Raftery, Mary Ellen O'Boyle, and Carol Barnes.

With Love and Appreciation We Remember...

Sister Mary Margaret McGovern

Entered: 1931 + Date of Death: 1/8/18 + Age: 102

Sister Mary Margaret's ministry in education spanned over sixty years, from elementary school through adult education. From 1960 through 1962, Sr. Mary Margaret was the Postulant Mistress for the Sisters of Charity. She returned to teaching on the high school level where she taught Latin, English, and Religion. She was then missioned to Grace



Institute where she spent over thirty years as a teacher, Interim Director, and, for the last five years, a volunteer. In 2003, Sr. Mary Margaret retired to Mount Saint Vincent Convent where she continued her volunteer services, as well as the ministry of prayer and witness.

Sister Margaret Mary Hannon (Sister Marie Daniel)

Entered: 1937 + Date of Death: 3/4/18 + Age: 100



Sister Margaret Mary spent thirteen years in the ministry of elementary education. A student at Grace Institute before entering, Sr. Margaret mastered secretarial skills. When she left the field of teaching, she used those skills in her service at the Adult Education Department of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Ignatius Loyola School, and Regis

High School. In 2017, she celebrated her 100th birthday in style with her family and the Sisters at her Assisted Living home. Sister Margaret Mary will be remembered for her kindness, gentleness and compassion, her organizational skills, her sense of humor, and her love of community life.

Sister Doris Ann Pagano (Sister Christopher Marie)

Entered: 1956 + Date of Death: 3/9/18 + Age: 80

Sister Doris' first ministry was elementary education. In 1970, Sr. Doris began her preparation to respond to God's call to become a missionary. Sister Doris first studied Spanish in Cochabamba, Bolivia, then served in Parish Ministry in El Novillero, Santa Lucia, Guatemala, for eleven years. She then served as Pastoral Associate at



Incarnation Parish in Manhattan. In 1985, Sr. Doris returned to Guatemala and served as Pastoral Minister in San Marcos. In 1996, she returned to New York and trained to be a hospital chaplain. Sister Doris interned at New York University Medical Center and then worked for thirteen years at Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Manhattan. She later volunteered in the ArchCare Senior Life Program.

SC NEWS

C ister Katherine Seibert, SC, will receive the 2018 Thomas A. Dooley Award from her alma mater, the University of Notre Dame.

The award honors individuals who demonstrate personal courage, compassion, and commitment to advance human and civil rights. The award is presented by the university's Alumni Association.

Sister Katherine will receive the award during the Notre Dame Alumni Association spring board of directors' meeting on April 18 at the university's Morris Inn.

Congratulations Sr. Katherine!

As reported in Catholic New York, March 1, 2018



During a visit to the Seton Shrine Museum, Emmitsburg, MD, in 2017, Sr. Katherine was drawn to the late-eighteenth-century medical bag of Dr. Richard Bayley, Elizabeth Seton's father.

CMSV Winter Break

Continued from page 7

(imagine a college student having to limit her shower time), they learned from the beauty and simplicity of the Mayan people how often they themselves take so many little things for granted in their lives.

The trip helped Sirinda Artun '18, herself a native of Thailand, to "get out of her own little bubble" and see how other people lived" and she will always be grateful.

The Guatemalan trip was the third service trip for Olivia O'Neil '18 and it is the one she always wanted to experience because it enabled her to incorporate her "love for nursing" with her "desire to serve."

It would seem that Olivia speaks for ALL of these Leaders in Service when she says "I won't forget the people we worked with, the people we met, the conversations we had. I am grateful for all that I have and for the opportunity to share it."

Kat O'Loughlin believes that "when people come together around one service, there is a certain kind of joy. They learn that a life in service brings joy." There is no doubt that while each of these young people had different experiences, they all returned to the College filled with that joy.



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Artist Joseph Dawley signed his portrait of St. Elizabeth Seton. *CloseUp* Winter 1989, Vol. 2, #1

Below: Golden Jubilarians 1998, (rear) Srs. Patricia Maureen Mulryan, Patricia Lawlor, Rita King, and Mary Linehan; (front) Srs. Jean Dell A'qua, Marian James Deegan, and Marguerite Mahony. VISION Fall 1998, Vol. 2 #4



THIRTY YEARS OF SHARING OUR VISION



Sr. Helen Murphy, Administrator of the New York Foundling, prays with children receiving First Holy Communion in the Mater Dei Chapel. *CloseUp* Fall 1992, Vol. 5 #2,



Former Mayor Ed Koch (back right) and Broadway star Sheryl Lee Ralph (center) listen to the Cathedral High School Marching Band with Principal Sr. Mary Kilmartin (left), newsman David Hartman, and CHS Music Director Sr. Eileen Regina Leonard. *CloseUp* Fall 1990, Vol. 3 #2