

Vision

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

VOL. 22, ISSUE 3 *Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love* SUMMER 2018



The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center
Mission in Quiché, Guatemala

From the Leadership Team

Dear Friends,

Gazing at the beautiful photo on the front cover of this issue, perhaps your eye was drawn to the warm light, as was mine. Groups are busily engaged together in this comfortable yet professional setting, the Conference Center of the Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center. The evening sky over the hilltop trees and the circular building speaks of tranquility. This is a peaceful place in the heart of a violent country, but also an energetic center of vigorous life.

In the ten years since the Center opened in what was then an almost-completed building, the vision and the programs it inspires have expanded as quickly as the buildings have multiplied. You will read in this issue brief descriptions of some key offerings, all of which are focused on enlarging and enriching the lives of Guatemalan youth and women and thereby building this country's capacity for a future of peace.

The approaches to learning and earning are new, but I am reminded often that this Center contributes to the development of Guatemala in ways not unlike the ways our early Sisters built up the citizens of the young United States. The Mission adapts to changing circumstances but is the constant in all our ministries. "For God and Country" is etched on the cornerstone of many a Catholic school in the USA; it could appropriately adorn the Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center as well.

Down the cobbled road on the same campus is the Sisters of Charity House of Formation, where young women are formed in the mission and traditions of Charity. Postulants and novices grow into women of service who minister to God's poor within the Church and beyond. Our numerous Guatemalan Associates often gather here sharing their spirit of Charity and service. Here too the Mission grows and adapts. Our Provident God continues to be faithful.

I hope you will also enjoy some updates on the ways Charity continues to grow and expand here in New York, especially through the Sisters of Charity Ministry Network.

Most of all I wish you some leisurely days this summer to rejoice in the many blessings we all enjoy through God's bounty.

Blessings,



Margaret M. O'Brien, SC
Assistant to the President



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.



SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

ADVISORY BOARD

Regina Bechtle, SC
Maryellen Blumlein, SC
Anne Marie Gardiner
Mindy Gordon
Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC
Eileen McGrory, SC
Patricia McGowan, SC
Dominica Rocchio, SC
Lisa Shay, SC Associate

EDITOR

Elena Miranda

ASSISTANT TO EDITOR

Margaret Comaskey, SC Associate

Articles without attribution are by the editor.

Article contributions to this publication are welcome. All submissions are subject to editorial and space constraints. See rear cover for our mailing address and contact information.

©2018 Sisters of Charity of New York
Articles or material may be reproduced with permission.

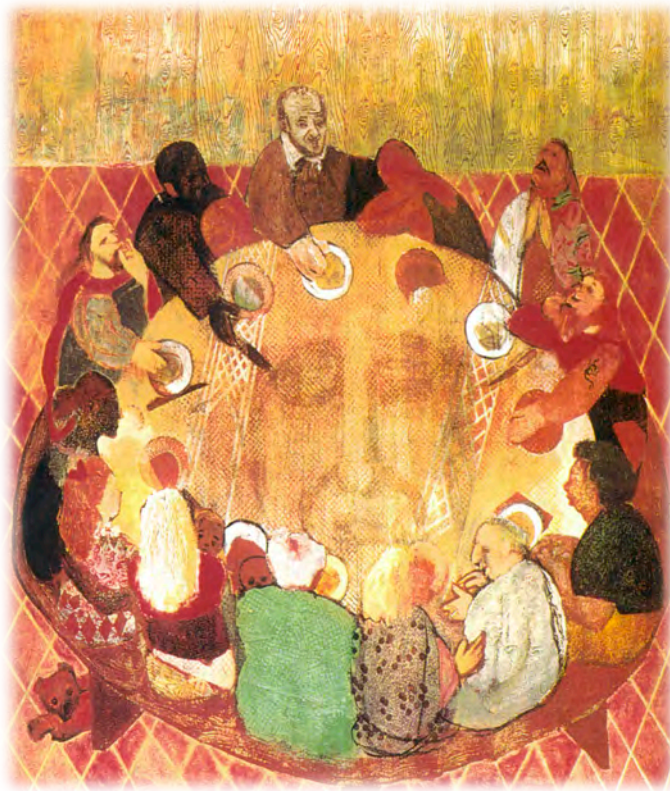
Cover photo: the Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Main Conference Center at dusk. Photo by Elena Miranda

Servant Leadership and the Stockdale Paradox: *Expressions of the Charism of Charity*

By Jean Flannelly, SC, and Lisa Shay, Associate

From news reports to social media to office discussions, we are deluged with examples of bad leaders. In contrast, our charism is filled with examples of great leaders, beginning with Jesus, through Vincent, Louise, Elizabeth, pioneering Sisters of Charity who initiated enduring ministries, to leaders in ministry today. While experts in business and management theory have proposed many models of leadership, one recommends itself for two reasons: the research demonstrates that it is a very effective model and, more importantly, it harmonizes well with the Charism of Charity. The model is Servant Leadership, a term coined by Robert Greenleaf in the late 1960s.

The core of Servant Leadership is a twofold commitment: to the dignity and value of each human person and to the mission of the organization. These commitments do not compete with each other but work hand-in-hand to accomplish the overall vision of the group. More specifically, the servant leader recognizes his/her power and position as the tools for developing a community of learners who hold themselves accountable to each other and their mission. A servant leader possesses a variety of attributes that nurture the growth of individuals and the organization. Vincent's observation, "Love is inventive unto infinity," expresses the attribute of a pioneering spirit—readiness to explore new areas. A genuine appreciation of colleagues and subordinates is a hallmark of a servant leader. This attitude enables the leader to recognize the gifts and skills of others



on the team and encourage their use and development. Servant leaders lead by example, with honesty and integrity being characteristic of their person and relationships. They develop a high level of trust among all members of the organization and with its clients.

While this list of qualities might sound like a description of sainthood, we can be reassured that no one person has all these characteristics or exhibits them at all times! Servant leaders have some of these attributes in great measure but both the literature and our experience demonstrate that servant leaders leverage the gifts of others in the organization to create highly effective teams with all these skills.

While we often think of leaders as the ones who hold titles, such as president, CEO, or another executive, these servant leaders and their teams exist at all levels

in an organization, not just the top. Servant leaders might not be in the limelight or receive publicity, but in their own way they work to bring about the service and changes needed for the good of our human community and the rest of creation. Pope Francis, quoting Edith Stein, reminds us of this basic truth: "Certainly the most decisive turning points in world history are substantially co-determined by souls whom no history book ever mentions." (*Gaudete et exsultate*, 8).

Regardless of the size of one's department or team, the organization must have a vision for the future. While there are many ways

of crafting such a vision, one principle, coined by management expert Jim Collins, stands out: The Stockdale Paradox. The Stockdale Paradox requires that we confront the reality of our current situation, no matter how bleak it appears, while at the same time believing that we can and will prevail. If we were to rephrase this theologically, we would describe the Stockdale Paradox as a relentless pursuit of the truth that sets us free and a profound sense of the guiding hand of Providence.

Given this brief and modest overview of servant leadership and the Stockdale Paradox, we hope we have sparked your interest in learning more about them and exploring how you might incorporate some or all of their wisdom into your present situation. In keeping with our founder: the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve. (*Matthew 20: 28*)

Following in the Footsteps— *Our First Bahamian Vocation*

Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC

The first vocation of the Sisters of Charity of New York from the Bahamas was Marie Dolores Greene.

She was born in Nassau, Bahamas, BWI, on November 3, 1895, and baptized the next day. She was named for Sister Marie Dolores van Rensselaer, first Sister Servant of the community sent from New York in 1889 to start a mission in this British colony.

Her parents, Michael and Josephine Greene, were both from Newfoundland. Michael had been a sea captain who relocated his family to the Bahamas and started a sisal plantation at Cargill Creek, Andros, one of the Family Islands. They were on good terms with the small expatriate Catholic community of the time, and were close to the Benedictines who came to the Bahamas in 1893, several years after the arrival of the Sisters of Charity.

Marie was educated by the Sisters at St. Francis Xavier School in Nassau. (There were no schools on many of the Family Islands. Many parents, including the Greene's, sent their children to the capital to be educated.)

As a teenager Marie felt a call to religious life, no doubt influenced by the Sisters whom she came to know and love.



At the opening ceremony of the 200th Anniversary celebrations in 2017, Sr. Andrea Dixon—a native of the Bahamas—presented a conch shell as a symbol of the 118-year mission in the island nation.

Her family, devout Catholics, endorsed her decision to enter.

We have a letter (in the SC Archives) written to Mother Mary Josepha by Father Chrysostom, OSB, an early Benedictine and intrepid missionary who spent much of his life on the Family Islands, including Andros. His letter, dated February 25, 1913, testified to Marie's character and desire to devote her life to God as a Sister of Charity. She herself wrote a follow-up letter, acknowledging that, though she was not a very good stu-

dent, she had a heart-felt yearning to be a religious.

She was accepted and on June 20, 1913 left the Bahamas for New York and Mount Saint Vincent. Archive records show that Marie entered the community on June 23, 1913, at the age of 17. She received the name Sister Maria Mercedes, and pronounced first vows in August 1916.

Sister Mercedes spent her thirty-four years of religious life as an educator in schools around the Archdiocese and Brooklyn. Her longest mission, 1920-27, was at St. Lawrence Academy on 84th Street. And her last was St. John's Orphan Asylum, Brooklyn, where she lived while teaching at St. John's School. She was there just over a year when she died of a pulmonary embolism on October 10, 1947. She is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Besides a list of her missions over the years, the Archives have little to say about Sister Maria Mercedes. We have the two letters and a picture of her taken before she entered, a smiling young woman with beautiful eyes, dressed in the fashion of the day.

Yet she was the first of our Sisters to have been born and raised on an island-nation far from the place where the Sisters of her chosen community had come one hundred years before she became a professed member.

Not very strange, then, that the capital of the Bahamas was, and continues to be, *New Providence*.

Sisters Share a Laugh at St. Patrick's Home

Melissa Perez, Sisters of Charity Health Coordinator, captured this photo of Sisters Rose Frederick Jones, left, and Grace Anne Troisi enjoying each other's company. The Sisters are residents at St. Patrick's Home Rehabilitation and Health Care in the Bronx.



Sisters of Charity Ministry Network

The Mission Continues

In September 2015, Sr. Jane Iannucelli, President of the Sisters of Charity, announced the creation of the **Sisters of Charity Ministry Network**. The purpose of the new organization is to strengthen Sisters of Charity of New York sponsored ministries and focus staff members, trustees, volunteers, and donors on the mission and values of the Founders.

The first member organizations of the SC Ministry Network are the incorporated ministries: Children's Rehabilitation Center, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, Elizabeth Seton Women's Center, John A. Coleman School, New York Foundling, New York Foundling Charitable Corporation, Saint Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation, and Saint Joseph's Medical Center, Inc. Unincorporated ministries such as Casa de Esperanza, Sisters Hill Farm, and Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates are expected to become part of the SC Ministry Network at a future date.

The initial Network Board of Trustees includes Sisters and one lay woman who serves as Secretary of the Board. In the future, the Board will be expanded to include more of the laity. "Our lay colleagues have always embodied our mission and values," said Sr. Jane. "Now, serving on the Network Board, they will be actively involved in plans for the future. The goal is to provide orientation and ongoing programs to enable all to integrate the mission and core values into their everyday work. We believe that the Sisters of Charity Ministry Network will promote the distinct culture and vitality of mission that is evident in SCNY sponsored ministries today."

The creation of the SC Ministry Network was made possible by the tireless efforts of the Sponsorship Advisory Council who worked with board chairs, the CEOs, and canon and civil lawyers. With their help, the Network will make a difference now and in the future.

Members of the board are: Jane Iannucelli, SC, Chair of the Board/President of the Corporation; Jennifer Coffey, Esq., Secretary of the Board; Karen Helfenstein, SC, Assistant Secretary of the Board; Margaret Sweeney, OP, Treasurer; and Sheila Brosnan, SC, Trustee.

Since the time of its creation in 2015, the SC Ministry Network has been a work in progress. On June 19, 2018, the Board held its third annual meeting, which provided the opportunity for each ministry to present its report. The enthusiasm for the Network and its outreach to those in need was inspirational for all participants. After attending the meeting, Sr. Dorothy Metz, former president of the Congregation and current Board Chair of the St. Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation wrote to Sr. Karen Helfenstein to say,

... your presentation was excellent today. So much good has been accomplished with the assistance and inspiration of your office. It had to be rewarding for the CEOs themselves to reflect on how mission oriented they have become. Kudos to you.

The Congregations asks for prayers for the ongoing success of the SC Ministry Network to ensure a future for its ministries as they continue to prepare leaders to carry on excellent compassionate service and peaceful encounters to all in need.



Sisters of Charity Ministry Network Logo

Karen Helfenstein, SC

Working with the design team to create a fitting logo, the Board of the Sisters of Charity Ministry Network spoke about the vision for the Network.

The design of the logo gives expression to the dynamism of the Network whose parts, signified by the various "leaves," are small and large. In the future, the Network will be able to grow and include organizations whose missions and values align with those of the Sisters of Charity.

The cross serves as a reminder that we are a Christian Catholic community of workers in service to those whom society often leaves aside. The model of our service is Jesus of Nazareth.

A small "tag line" has been designed to be added to the websites and stationery of all organizations sponsored by the Sisters of Charity Ministry Network.

Claire Regan, SC, shared her thoughts on the new logo:

Very nice and delicate logo design for the SCMN. It has subtle allusion to our earth awareness and farm ministry, its greenness speaks of hope for the future—a kindling image. I like it for its simplicity, femininity, and flow. The cross, of course, is evident centrally.

Thank you for your work on this image representing our future course in ministry.



Above: Sr. Helen Connors (left) and Anne Hennelly, Asst. Administrator at Mount Saint Vincent Convent; **below:** Sr. Patricia Walsh



Above: Srs. Aileen Kelly (left) and Elizabeth Stelmack; **below:** (from left) Srs. Anne Marie Lagan, Patricia Mulryan, and Marie Murphy

Seton Village Welcomes Retired Sisters for Luncheon

Eight-eight retired Sisters were welcomed by the Sisters living and working in the Nanuet area to a day of food and friendship at Seton Village in Nanuet.

Sisters gathered included those from Seton Village, St. Patrick Villa, St. Agatha, Kittay House and the Alp at the New Jewish Home, Mount Saint Vincent Convent, Rosary Hall, Ely Hall, and the Villa.

Below: Srs. Evyleen Larkin (left) and Eileen T. Kelly



Left: (from left, seated) Srs. Alice Darragh and Eucharia Carrigan; (standing) Srs. Eileen Walsh, Joan Burbage, and Donna Dodge

Right: Srs. Rosemarie Connell, Kathleen McKiernan, and Miriam Anne Brennan



Far left: (from left) Srs. Wilda Asfour and Mary Damian Gardner; **left:** Srs. Monica Griffin, Jean Iannone, and Maureen Alexander. Standing in the background are Srs. Katherine King (l) and Margaret Angelovich



Clockwise from top left: Jennifer Coffey (left) is joined by Sr. Kathleen Byrnes (right), her daughter Madeleine (center) and her friend Hannah; Emcee Denise Richards; Ann Marie Smith with her grandchildren; Sr. Donna Dodge (center) helped present the Flame of Charity Award to Ann Marie; Sr. Karen presents Jennifer the Grace Strazzire Humanitarian Award. Photos by James Higgins, NYC



2018 Spring Benefit Honors Two Outstanding Women

Close to 300 of our close friends, family, and benefactors once again celebrated with us at the 2018 Annual Spring Benefit held at The Lighthouse at Pier 61 on May 17.

The Congregation was pleased to honor Jennifer Coffey, Esq., with the Grace Strazzire Humanitarian Award and Ann Marie Smith of Rockland County, NY, with the Flame of Charity Award. Both Jennifer and Ann Marie generously give their time, talent, and treasure helping the Sisters of Charity continue the mission of serving those who are living at the margins of society. Their goodness and humility are examples to us all.

Denise Richardson, co-host of *The Pledge Drive* on PBS, was the emcee for the evening. Denise entertained the audience with her memories of the Sisters of Charity from her days at St. Augustine Elementary School and St. Barnabas High School. During the program, Sr. Jane Iannucelli delighted Denise by presenting her with a framed photo of her first grade teacher, Sr. Mary Richard Rowley.

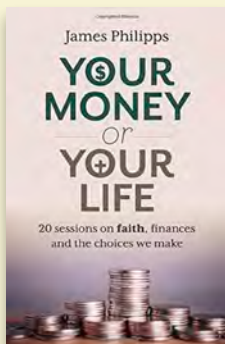
The Guss Hayes Band provided musical entertainment and Sister Margaret Egan once again sat in on the drums.

Anne Marie Gardiner

Book Review: *Your Money or Your Life: 20 Sessions on Faith, Finances and the Choices We Make*

Reviewed by Sr. Margaret Egan, SC

What a treasure we have in James Philipps' newly published book, *Your Money or Your Life!* Based solidly upon Scripture, the book offers 20 chapters/meditations of reflective challenge. Philipps encourages readers to reflect upon the honest reality of their attitudes and personal choices



regarding their ownership and use of material possessions. Philipps invites readers to reflect on questions such as "Where is my treasure?"; "Am I aware of my abundance?"; "Is my concern for the poor real or reality TV?"; "Am I with Mary and the poor?" Philipps does not chide or belittle his readers; rather, he stirs them to contemplative reflection and offers thought-provoking points for discussion and suggestions for personal application—all culminating in simple prayer. Truly, the book's reflection on faith, finances and resulting choices is a welcome invitation to a fuller, "richer"

life for all, regardless of career or vocational choice.

Suggested uses: personal reflection, high school or college courses in Christian morality or ethics, adult faith formation programs, parish or finance councils.

Author James Philipps is a full-time teacher of Religion at Cathedral High School, New York, and an adjunct at Molloy College.

Published: 2018; 106 pages
Twenty-third Publications
New London, CT
\$14.95



Sr. Virginia Searing serves as Executive Director at the Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center.

The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center Carries Forward the Mission & Service of the Sisters of Charity in Guatemala

by Adriana Smith

The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center (BFPC) was founded by the Sisters of Charity of New York as a part of their decades-long community development work in the Guatemalan highlands. The Center carries on the mission of the Sisters of Charity in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton by revealing the Father's love through integrated development projects with indigenous Mayan communities in the rural highlands of Guatemala.

The mission of the Center is to “promote a citizenship committed to development, justice, and peace for the poor, involving women, youth, community leaders, and local authorities.” The Center works with these populations to promote structural changes in the social, cultural, economic, and political environment. The development programs include educational activities and direct services in several areas:

- » Alternative health services delivered by local lay health promoters;
- » The promotion and defense of human rights by organized youth networks;
- » Economic and educational opportunities for youth and young mothers;
- » The sustainable management of natural resources through conservation agricultural practices and eco-education; and
- » The prevention of violence against women through comprehensive services and social behavior change.

The Sisters of Charity have been working in Guatemala for forty-five years.

Sister Barbara Ford dedicated her life to rural development in Guatemala. Her mission is continued today by other sisters in Guatemala.

The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center promotes integral human development, designing and applying innovative models that make an impact on communities' economic opportunities, health, and ability to exercise their rights.

—Sister Virginia Searing
Executive Director

Get Involved!
Aldea Chajbal,
Santa Cruz del
Quiché, Guatemala
centrodepazbarbara.org.gt
info@cenpaz.org
+502 7793-5900

The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center bases its activities on principles of environmental and social sustainability for comprehensive human development and relies on a wide network of community actors and partners in Quiché and internationally.

The Center was founded by the Sisters of Charity after years of working in justice and reconciliation during the Guatemalan civil war. The Sisters came to Guatemala over forty-five years ago as missionaries for healing, reconciliation, justice, human rights, and peace. The recent wounds of a bloody civil war were evident throughout the rural indigenous communities when the Sisters began working in healing and mental health support services.

After decades of community development work in the Guatemalan highlands, the Sisters founded the Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center in 2009, to continue their legacy of community development. Today the Center is a hub for community development projects that not only attend to the psychosocial needs of violence survivors, but also respond to the socioeconomic needs of the Maya K'iché and Ixil people of the Guatemalan highlands.

The Center supports integrated human development through its programs. It does this by working with women, youth, community leaders, and local authorities to promote structural changes in the sociocultural, economic, and political environment to foster a society that reflects integral human development, justice, and peace. The development programs include educational activities and direct services in opportunity development, human rights, and comprehensive health programs.



Young women in the Opportunities Program learn skills that will allow them to generate income through self-employment.

The **Opportunities Program** works with youth groups and their families to access educational and income-generating opportunities in a number of ways. The Center supports a youth cooperative, JunamQ'ab—or “United Hands” in K'iché—that serves as a learning and training ground for youth in entrepreneurship and financial management skills for collective small businesses. JunamQ'ab has launched businesses

in honey production and silk-screen printing that are run by and for youth in Quiché. The Center also supports youths' individual business entrepreneurship through a training course called “Youth Builders,” where youth learn and practice life and professional competencies, vocational skills, community service, and entrepreneurship. Once they graduate, the Center helps to guide them into jobs, schooling, or self-employment tracks.



A youth leader reads aloud a “Youth Declaration of Rights” in a regional conference attended by local leaders and youth from all over the Western Highland region of Guatemala.

The **Human Rights Program** strengthens the organization and empowerment of youth to promote justice, security, violence prevention, employment and educational opportunities, and sustainable natural resource management. It does this through political advocacy, public events, and petitions to local government officials. The Center has helped youth to form municipal and local Youth Offices that have a voice and influence in local decision-making for community development programs. These youth are trained in human rights advocacy through the Center’s “School of Human Rights and Civic Participation” within this program.

The **Comprehensive Health Program** promotes the organization, empowerment, and skills building of a network

Continued, see BFPC, page 12



Women and men participate in a “healing circle,” an exercise to promote group trust and reduce trauma-related stress through movement.

Sr. Katherine Seibert Honored by Notre Dame

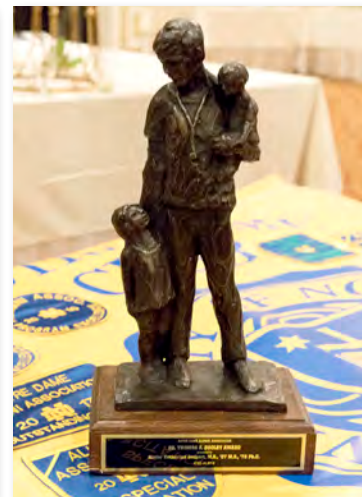
The University of Notre Dame Alumni Association honored Sr. Katherine Seibert, MD, SC, with the Thomas A. Dooley Award on April 18. In recognition of Sr. Katherine's service to the community as a physician and a humanitarian, the Notre Dame Club of the Mid-Hudson Valley honored her with the Exemplar Award on May 31. It was only the third time in twenty years that the club bestowed this award.

Sister Katherine was joined by family, colleagues from HRH Community Health, Sisters, and friends on this special evening.

Top from left: Sr. Katherine addressed the Alumni Assn. after receiving the Thomas Dooley award; **bottom row:** Les McCarthy presented the Exemplar Award on May 31; Srs. Janet Baxendale, Helen Wade, and Mary Ann Garisto, were among the many Sisters that attended the event in Poughkeepsie.



Peter Ringenberg photo



Sr. Donna Dodge and SCNY Honored in Staten Island

Photo by Margaret Egan, SC



Sister Donna Dodge, Executive Director of the Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation, was honored on May 31 at the 2018 Golf Outing and Dinner of Northfield Community LDC of Staten Island at the Grand Oaks Country Club. Joan Catalano, Northfield's Executive

Director, also serves on the Sisters of Charity Staten Island Regional Housing Board.

Currently the Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation, a sponsored ministry of the Congregation, operates seven residences with 451 units on Staten Island. Six of the residences provide affordable HUD housing for seniors and one offers supportive housing for chronically mentally disabled adults. A special challenge and opportunity for the 528 residents is their diversity of cultures and languages, mainly English, Russian, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese.

Accepting the award in the name of the Sisters of Charity of New York, Sr. Donna noted that the Sisters of Charity have a long history of service on Staten Island, beginning in 1853 with St. Peter's School. Many Island residents know the Sisters through one of the ten schools

they staffed, or St. Vincent's and Bayley Seton Hospitals, or perhaps even the property at Huguenot (now St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School) when it served as a summer respite for children from the New York Foundling and the Sisters' summer school.

Sister Donna noted the urgent need for affordable housing on Staten Island, with over 4,000 families on the waiting list for Sisters of Charity sponsored senior housing alone. She highlighted the mission that Northfield and the Sisters of Charity share on the Island, that of serving those most in need. Through foreclosure prevention efforts, energy conservation programs, and economic development promotion, Northfield helps seniors to stay longer in their own communities. Sister Donna ended by congratulating Northfield on its 40th anniversary, saying, "I look forward to our paths and missions crossing well into the future."

Regina Bechtle, SC

Assembly Logo Introduced



The Assembly Steering Committee presented the logo for Assembly 2019 to the Congregation at a meeting on June 9. The logo, designed by Sr. Doris Klein, CSA, features the words, "Charity Rising, Now more than ever!" The 2019 Assembly will be held from April 26–31. The Assembly Prayer was written by Sr. Claire Regan.

Assembly Prayer

Charity Rising

from the God-space deep within.
Loving God, raise what is awakening in us
up to your Light,
so we might better perceive the action
of your Spirit calling us forth.
You are the desire of our hearts,
You form the desire in our hearts.
May we,
and all who serve You alongside us,
Associates and Companions,
be faithful,
as we gather in Assembly 2019
to discern your Will in our midst,
to hear again the sound of Your call
in this dawning age of

Charity Rising
Now more than ever!

May we be true as You are true.

Amen



Elizabeth Seton Women's Center Hosts Women's Empowerment Event

Ellen Mihovics

A group of women came together at LeGras Hall on Saturday, June 9 for the Elizabeth Seton Women's Center second annual Women's Empowerment event, an inspiring opportunity for women to benefit from several guest speakers, enjoy a day with other women from both shared and different circumstances, and learn information helpful to their well-being on both a practical and spiritual level.

Anne Janiak, the CEO from the Women's Enterprise Development Center—an organization dedicated to helping entrepreneurs make small business dreams a reality—spoke to the group about the array of workshops, classes, and assistance available for women of all economic backgrounds and with all types of vision. WEDC is a valuable resource for women where scholarships are available for those of limited means who are interested in trying to bring an entrepreneurial idea to reality.

Other speakers included a self-made female CEO from a small HR firm, Mary Rizzuti. Mary offered helpful advice on building confidence and succeeding in securing employment

positions, and staying grounded and emotionally healthy with family members, friends, and professional colleagues in the workplace.

Fitness expert Natascha Hardee offered invaluable techniques to center oneself, to relax, and to unplug from the world of technology that often competes with our ability to remain at peace and stay connected within ourselves.

Cathleen Benjamin, a wellness coach, provided guidance as the women developed their own dream boards that envisioned what they wanted to achieve in the future, lending credence to the adage that if one does not know what direction he/she is heading in, no wind is the right wind.

Selena Herrera, Social Service Coordinator at Seton House and Casa Cecilia, closed out the day by providing helpful suggestions on coping mechanisms to deal with residual issues from previous trauma or hurtful or damaging past experiences.

Breakfast and lunch were served and transportation was provided to and from Harlem, where a majority of the women reside.

Photo above: Women's Enterprise Development Center CEO Anne Janiak shared information with eager participants about the many resources available for entrepreneurs.

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of IHM School



At a festive dinner April 14, 2018, parishioners and friends of Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Scarsdale, gathered to celebrate the 90th anniversary of IHM School and the 200th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity in New York. Sisters of Charity served the school as principals and teachers from its opening in 1928 (Sr. Miriam Patricia McGinty, principal) until 1967 (Sr. Marie Loretta Bergin, principal).

In 1975, Sisters returned to the parish to begin the St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer. Its ministry of evangelization and prayer has reached thousands of people here and around the world, and still continues today (see *VISION*, Winter 2015).

In his eloquent tribute Msgr. John T. Ferry, pastor (back, second from left) noted that the Sisters through their ministries have touched a vast number of lives in the Archdiocese of New York. He cited numerous elementary schools staffed by the Congregation as well as Cathedral, Cardinal Spellman, and Saint Barnabas High Schools and the College of Mount Saint Vincent. The Sisters left their mark in health care and child care as well at Saint Vincent and Saint Joseph Medical Centers, the New York Foundling, and Saint Agatha's Home.

Former Sister-teachers joined Sisters from the House of Prayer at the celebration. Pictured are (front, from left) Sisters Bernadette Brennan (who still volunteers at the school), Dorothy DeYoung FSP, Mary Tommasino, Margaret Egan; (back, beginning third from right) Nancy Kellar, Evyleen T. Larkin, Mary Benedict.

Regina Bechtle, SC

Kids Say the FUNNIEST Things to SISTERS!

This was a favorite story of Sister Mary Louise Fernandez (dec).

When, early in her teaching career, she was teaching first or second grade, one of the boys in her class raised his hand and asked, "Sister, was your mother surprised when her baby was a little nun?"

Sr. Janet Baxendale

The art teacher told the class that in three weeks they would have to bring glue and glitter for a very special art project. A week later, she reminded them, "Don't forget your glue and glitter two weeks from now." A week later, she reminded them again, "Next week, glue and glitter." Finally, the big day arrived. "Does everybody have your glue and glitter?" "Yes," they shouted. The teacher proceeded to give instructions to which they listened attentively. Finally, she added, "Remember, children, you have to use your ingenuity." A hand shot up, "Is that the glue or the glitter?"

Sr. Theresa Courtney

BFPC

Continued from page 9

of community health promoters and other key community leaders, such as teachers, traditional midwives, and local authorities in areas related to alternative healing, preventative health practices, and violence prevention. The Center's network of lay alternative health promoters are trained in natural healing and bioenergy techniques that help families cope with trauma, reduce stress, and develop overall wellbeing, or "Utz K'aslemaal"—a term in K'iché that refers to overall balance with the physical, social, spiritual, and environmental elements. The network of alternative health promoters also helps to identify women and girl survivors of violence and helps to navigate them through clinical, legal, and psycho-social services, as well as the mental health and economic empowerment services the Center offers.

The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center Facilities

The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center offices sit on a fifty-one-acre pine and oak forest in Santa Cruz del Quiché. The site also houses training and formation centers; including a large multiuse area, several smaller conference rooms, a restaurant and hotel, and an eco-trail that showcases the environmental diversity of the Center. In addition, there are workshops where youth learn key trades for enhancing their employability or small business opportunities. These include sewing, cosmetology, silk-screen printing, and honey production. The Center hosts national and international groups in training seminars, as well as community events, private parties, and tourists who are involved in the Center programs. All visitors enjoy the rich cultural and biodiverse environment that the Center provides.

An Associate's Reflection

I believe that I was first touched by the Charity charism in my parish, St. Anthony's, where the Sisters of Charity taught for sixty-six years. After elementary school I attended St. Barnabas High School, also staffed by the Sisters of Charity, and spent a year and a half in the Novitiate at Mount Saint Vincent.

By the time I had graduated from the College of New Rochelle and finished Graduate School, about 1970, the implementation of the Vatican Council was providing many opportunities for active participation in parish life. I became a Lector and Eucharistic Minister, served on the Parish Council and the Vicariate Council, and was part of the Archdiocesan Synod. For a number of years, St. Anthony's sponsored an Adult Education program with classes in High School Equivalency, English as a Second Language, Modern Math, Spanish, Sewing, and Arts and Crafts. I enjoyed arranging for volunteers, making the coffee, trying out arts and crafts, and occasionally repairing sewing machines.

Most of my working years were spent in the scientific publishing field and I was fortunate to work for companies where you could learn all the parts of book production, and I



Associate Margaret Comaskey with Fr. Peter Meehan, former pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary, home of the Elizabeth Seton Shrine in Manhattan.

have been using those skills on congregation editing and publishing projects, such as *Vision*, the *Associate Newsletter*, and an updated edition of the *Associate Orientation Materials*.

Another one of my retirement "occupations" is volunteering at the New York Botanical Garden. It is a place to experience many of the faces of God—from the children who come on field trips to learn about nature, to the courses and lectures on the Garden's research and environmental studies and projects, and

the sheer joy of the variety and perfection of plants and flowers.

What does being an Associate of the Sisters of Charity mean to me? When I first started to volunteer at the Archives at Boyle Hall in 2005, scanning photos for the database, I was also helping Sr. Mary Mc Cormick to publish her prayer book. When I asked her what the name of the book was, her answer, *Belonging*, didn't impress me at the time. In the years since, as I met Sisters at retreats and meetings, worked with Sisters and Associates on projects and committees, and had the opportunity to visit Emmitsburg and Guatemala, I learned that being an Associate means **belonging** to this group of women and men and sharing in the charism and mission of Elizabeth Seton and the Sisters of Charity of New York.

Margaret Comaskey



This past winter and fall, LEFSA (Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates) continued to collect socks for those living on the street and in shelters. Since its inception in the summer of 2017, over 1000 pairs of socks have been distributed!

People have organized sock drives in their churches,

schools, and among their friends and communities. Many people in shelters lack basic necessities; almost everyone whom LEFSA encounters wants a pair of socks to stay warm and dry.

We will continue to collect socks and toiletries this summer as the need is always growing. For additional



information, contact LEFSA at 212-987-0959 or visit www.scny-lefsa.org.

Anne Marie Gardiner

LEFSA Director Karolina May and Operations Manager James Addison picked up socks at the Sisters of Charity Center.



New Exhibit Features Published Works of Sister Authors

Mindy Gordon

“Selected Published Writings by Sister Authors” is the title of a new exhibit in the Community Room at LeGras Hall, located at Sisters of Charity Center. The exhibit features published writings by Congregation members from the Library at the Boyle Hall Archives.



Writings represent a broad range of subjects, including individual experiences in ministry; spiritual reflections; poetic composition; texts for instructional use in secondary, college, and nursing education. The exhibit is open during business hours.

Sister authors included in this exhibit are Sr. Regina M. Bechtle, Sr. Anne Courtney, Sr. Francis Dolores Covella, Sr. Yolanda T. De Mola, Sr. Maria Dodge, Sr. Elizabeth Earley, Sr. Margaret Egan, Sr. Eileen Fagan, Sr. Anne T. Flood, Sr. M. Irene Fugazy, Sr. Grace Henke, Sr. Mary Gertrude Keckeissen, Sr. Nancy Kellar, Sr. Rose Maria Laverty, Sr. Mary Christopher Ludden, Sr. Rose Agnes MacCauley, Sr. Mary E. Mc Cormick, Sr. Patricia Noone, Sr. Mary Francis Slattery, Sr. Eileen Storey, and Sr. Marjorie Walsh.



Six 2019 St. Raymond Academy seniors participated in Charity in the City, held from Sunday through Friday, June 24–29. Under the leadership of Sr. Mary Lou McGrath and

SC Associate LeeAnn Brathwaite, who is also a teacher at St. Raymond, the girls visited with the Sisters at Kittay House, went to the Veteran’s Hospital, shopped for and prepared sandwiches with Sisters at Mount Saint Vincent Convent for the Midnight Run, watched *Entertaining Angels*, a movie about Dorothy Day, and more. At the end of a full week of activity, the girls were filled with enthusiasm and appreciation for the Mission of Charity.



First row from left: Marianna Rodriguez, Georgianna Percival, Lianna Cordero, Alondra Flores; **back row:** Sr. Mary Lou McGrath, Maryolly Rosado, Leans Cortez- Ruiz, and Associate LeeAnn Brathwaite

Sisters and students listen as Sr. Frances Keegan (center) talks about the daily ministry of prayer in which the Sisters participate.



In Memoriam

Please visit our website at www.scny.org/in-memoriam/ for complete biographies of our Sisters

Sister Marian Mercedes Bishop, SC

Entered: 1954 + Date of Death: 4/10/18 + Age: 82

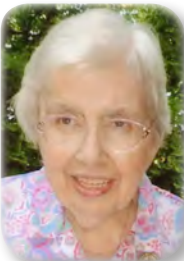


Sister Marian's first ministry was elementary education. She taught in Staten Island, Manhattan, Rye, the Bronx, Yonkers, and White Plains. After nine years with American Press, she returned to the ministry of education as the Assistant Director at Queen's Daughters Day Care Center in Yonkers, and then as Assistant Principal and Principal at St. Paul School, Harlem. She also worked with the Franciscan Friars as an Executive Secretary and then as Office Coordinator until 2008, and volunteered in the Finance Office at Mount Saint Vincent Convent. Sister Marian retired in 2014.

Sister Jo Ann Schwarz, SC (Sister Miriam Loreto)

Entered: 1961 + Date of Death: 5/2/18 + Age: 76

Sister Jo Ann's first teaching assignment was in St. Monica School in Jamaica, Queens, where she taught grades three and six and then became Principal. In 1973 she began her ministry of thirty-eight years at Our Lady of the Angelus Parish in Rego Park, Queens, first as teacher and then as Parish Coordinator for thirty-one years. In those many years, Sister Jo Ann earned the confidence and trust of five pastors who allowed her to direct the Religious Education Program, lead inquirers to the Catholic faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), oversee sacramental preparation for children, and organize assistance for the elderly of the parish. Sister Jo Ann retired in 2011.



Sister M. Irene Fugazy, SC

Entered: 1936 + Date of Death: 5/18/18 + Age: 99



Sister Irene spent nineteen years in elementary education, then taught French and Religion on the high school level. She went on to teach French and work in Public Relations and Development at Elizabeth Seton College in Yonkers. Sister Irene was also Professor of French at St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie, and Cathedral College Seminary, Douglaston. In 1972, Sr. Irene was asked by the Archdiocese of New York to work at Instructional Television (ITV). In 1991, Sr. Irene asked if she could follow her strong desire to make Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton better known and more accessible to the public. Thus, she became known as "the PR person for a saint," a title given by her family. After sixteen years of this dedicated work, Sister Irene retired to Mount Saint Vincent Convent in 2007.

SC NEWS



Sr. Jane Iannucelli (left) with Sr. Ann Costello, who was honored by the College of Mount Saint Vincent on May 19.

The College of Mount Saint Vincent held its 106th commencement ceremony on May 19, 2018. During the ceremony, the college awarded the Elizabeth Seton Medal—the College's highest honor—to **Ann Costello, SC**, for her work as a distinguished member of the Sisters of Charity. Sister Ann, Health Coordinator for the Congregation from 2002 to 2017, began her ministry in 1965. She has held a number of administrative and nursing positions at the Sisters of Charity Center, the Convent of Mary the Queen, St. Vincent's Medical Center, St. Clare's Hospital, and with the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill.



Congratulations and best wishes to Nicholas Cambria, left, and Thomas Puleo, 2018 College of Mount Saint Vincent graduates who interned in the Communications office at Sisters of Charity Center during the 2017-2018 academic year. Communications majors, the two interns helped maintain the SCNY website and social media pages, covered events and offered tremendous assistance throughout the semesters.



**SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK**

Sisters of Charity Center
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471-1093
718.549.9200 • www.scny.org



THIRTY YEARS OF SHARING OUR *Vision*



Seated in front row: Srs. Patricia A. Walsh, Margaret A. Donegan, Teresa Kelly, Mary E. Mc Cormick, and Evyleen T. Larkin. Standing in middle row: Srs. Jane Iannucelli, Veronica Liegey, Lorraine Cooper, and Josephine Rog. Standing in rear row: Srs. Sheila M. Finucane, Genevieve Wetmore, Janet Baxendale, and Mary Kieran Mulligan. *Vision* Fall 2007, Vol. 11 #4



Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen celebrated the opening of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in 1964 with Cardinal Cooke and her father, Joseph, who was Chief Engineer of the bridge. *Vision* Summer 2003, Vol. 7 #3



The St. Elizabeth Seton Traveling Museum, which made its debut in the Staten Island Ferry Terminal in October 1998, was on display at the Nation Museum of Catholic Art and History in Manhattan in 2003. The museum was a labor of love for its creator and curator, Sr. M. Irene Fugazy, (below) who sought to teach the world about the first American-born saint. The traveling museum depicted the life of St. Elizabeth and incorporated artifacts, a video, and an interactive CD-ROM, allowing viewers to experience the legacy of the foundress.



The traveling museum returned to its permanent home at the College of Mount Saint Vincent where it was on display at the library for several years. *Vision* Spring 2003, Vol. 7 #2