

Vision

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

VOL. 23, ISSUE 1 *Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love* WINTER 2019



*Fonthill
Castle*

Mount Saint Vincent

From the President

Dear Friends,

We move so quickly from the Babe in the crib to the young man moving through Galilee. He is proclaiming a new time—a time to recognize God’s presence among us.

It is this power and presence of God’s love that is not only in Jesus but in each of us. It is in this truth that I pray:

May this new year, this ordinary time, be one of blessing, health, and peace for each of us, our country, our world, and our universe.

As you read this issue of *Vision*, you will meet ordinary people doing extraordinary things. They have followed the light of the star in their lives and have made an impact and difference in so many other lives.

Enjoy these stories. Rejoice and remember that this season of ordinary time takes us from the crib to the resurrection. The story of God’s love among us is all of a piece with each of the stories of our lives.

May ordinary time help us recognize the extraordinary gift of each of our lives.

Blessings,



Jane Iannucelli, SC



Sr. Jane addresses Sisters, Associates, and Companions at the December 8, 2018 Congregation Day meeting. At the end of the meeting, all renewed vows and commitments at a Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Cover photo: In 1847, famed Shakespearean actor Edwin Forrest (1806–1872) bought fifty-five acres of property just south of Yonkers in Riverdale and named it “Fonhill.” On it, he had a castle built of granite quarried in the neighborhood. Completed in 1852, the Norman Gothic castle was to be a home for Forrest and his wife, Catherine, but domestic difficulties intervened, and the couple never occupied it.

After the Sisters of Charity purchased the estate in 1856 as the new home for their motherhouse, Fonhill Castle housed the Sisters who were supervising construction of the Academy building. Subsequently, the Castle became the chaplain’s residence, the College library, and the College’s admissions and financial aid offices.

The castle was designated a New York City landmark in 1966. To generations of Sisters and students, Fonhill Castle symbolizes “The Mount.”

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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2018 Associates’ Commitments—Unity in Diversity

By Lisa Shay, Associate

On a golden fall afternoon, September 22nd, eight Associates made their initial commitments during a ceremony in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. These women and men exemplify the diversity of ministries that give shape and form to the charism of charity in 21st century New York. Across the fields of education, nursing, journalism, social work, and even funeral services, these Associates embody St. Paul’s admonition: There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody, it is the same God who is at work in them all. (1 Cor 12:4–6)

The many different gifts, activities, and ways of serving our God are reflected in their commitment statements, which the new Associates read during the ceremony. As I listened, I was called back to Sr. Mary Lou McGrath’s opening remarks: “We are in awe of what God continues to do in and for us and all God’s people.” The best way to convey this is to share selections from the new Associates’ commitment statements.

The mission of education threads through the entire history of the Sisters of Charity and encompasses every level of education from preschool to the College of Mount Saint Vincent, which awards bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The College President, Dr. Charles L. Flynn, Jr., has formalized his long and deep relationship with the Congregation by becoming an Associate: “I believe that, after eighteen years of the work of Charity, my commitment to justice, compassion, and service is moored to the Mission of the Sisters of Charity.” In the tradition of Catholic liberal arts colleges, the Mount seeks the development of the whole person.

The Dean of the undergraduate college and Associate Professor of English, Lynne Bongiovanni Twomey, exemplifies the faculty’s dedication to the mission: “When I first

Standing from left: Joseph Molinatti, Mary Gregory, Krista Di Girolamo, and Dr. Charles L. Flynn. Sitting: Bobby Soto, Nicole Quaranto, Owen Smith, and Lynne Bongiovanni Twomey. All were welcomed as new Associates.

began teaching at the College, one of my colleagues reminded me to ‘always remember the Mission of the College and the Sisters of Charity.’ I took this wonderful advice to heart, and I always try to see each student that I see in my classroom or my office as a whole person, worthy of compassion and deserving of Jesus’s love.”

Joseph Molinatti is a graduate of the Mount who later returned as a nursing faculty member. His vocation blends two important ministries: nursing and education: “Since I am a Critical Care Nurse, I too have served the poor, the dying, and the sick and have also tried to meet their spiritual needs. In this way, I see myself as responding to the mission of St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of Charity.”

Recent Mount graduates Nicole Quaranto and Owen Smith were deeply influenced by their experiences in the Seton Service and Leadership program, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity. Nicole asserted: “Learning about and participating in service through various Sisters of Charity sponsored ministries to the hungry and homeless, including the POTS Soup Kitchen and LEFSA, has brought me to a deeper and more empathetic connection with those on the margins of society. I know that I will continue to work with those in greatest need, serving with the love and spirit of the Sisters of Charity as my example.” And for Owen, this was truly a transformative experience: “The idea that we are on this earth to be of service to one another has changed my life. Ambivalence has made way for love, as political, social, and economic issues lift

Continued, see page 12, bottom

Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Seton had two life-changing experiences in a place of quarantine.

In 1799 her father, Dr. Richard Bayley, became Chief Medical Officer at the Quarantine Station on Staten Island. His task: to examine immigrants to prevent any with contagious diseases from coming ashore.

Elizabeth and her family were frequent visitors to the home he built near the Station. She was there in June 1801, when he himself contracted yellow fever, a disease from which there was no hope of recovery. He lingered in excruciating pain for a week, cared for by his favorite daughter, the only member of the family with him when he died.

In 1803 Elizabeth and her husband William, accompanied by their 8-year-old daughter Anna Maria, embarked on a journey to Leghorn, hoping that the long ocean voyage and warm Italian sun would give the ailing William some respite from his constant pain.

News about a deadly outbreak of yellow fever in New York had already reached the port city, and when the *Shepherdess* arrived on the morning of November 19th without proper health clearance, authorities feared the worst. With little real knowledge of what a yellow-fever victim looked like, they decided that William fit the description and ordered the family to be detained.

The quarantine station, known as the Lazaretto, was some distance away, situated on a canal. It had been rumored that it was a sort of hospice or rest home, a place of comfort for the sick. Nothing could have been further from the truth. Ordered into a little boat, the Setons were rowed “out to sea again... over the waves.” An hour later they came to a grim stone building, where a guard pointed with his bayonet toward the entrance.

The family was taken up the twenty steps to their quarters, Room Number 6, where they would be locked in during their



In the Lazaretto

By Mary E. Mc Cormick, SC

stay. The room had a brick floor, naked walls, and on the floor a jug of water—nothing else. On that first night the captain in charge of the facility had mattresses laid on the floor, and had a meager supper brought up for them. There was a single small fireplace that would eventually provide a little heat. However, the wind that blew through the cracks of a single window spewed smoke and ash whenever it was used, causing William uncontrollable choking.

Philip Filicchi’s wife, Mary, who had been at the port to welcome the family, hurried by carriage to the Lazaretto, stood outside and called up to them, assuring them of help. The Filicchis continued to provide food and warm blankets, and eventually a bed for William. Guy Carlton Bayley had also been at the pier to welcome his half-sister but was prevented by one of the officers from approaching the family.

During their 25-day incarceration, the lives of the Setons were transformed. William, not a religious person, came in touch with God as a loving Father and savior. It was because of Elizabeth’s unwavering faith in the providence of God that he came to a new place of peace and resignation.

When they were released on December 19th they had to make the 15-mile trip by carriage to Pisa; Elizabeth doubted whether her husband would survive that journey. He lived another nine days, and after a final night of intense suffering, died on December 27th, 1802. His final words were of love for his wife and family, ending with “May Christ Jesus have mercy and receive me.”

Elizabeth had seen the suffering of the immigrant families at her father’s quarantine station. In the Lazaretto, she knew their pain in a different way. She had become one with them.

(Material taken from Elizabeth’s journal of reminiscences)



Steve Korf played drums at Bankrupt Talent’s 2018 concert at Le Poisson Rouge in New York City.



From left: Glenn Moses on guitar; Emily, Tom (Steve’s brother), and Steve Korf; and Randa Karambelas perform the group’s final song.

Steve Korf: Servant Leadership at Its Finest

2019 Grace Strazzierre Humanitarian Award Recipient

Since 1817, the Sisters of Charity of New York have welcomed over 3,000 women into the Congregation, women who have devoted their lives working as teachers, nurses, social workers, administrators, and in many other capacities to serve the people of New York and beyond. One constant quality throughout the years has been the ability to respond to the signs of the times to meet the needs of the community. Over the past several years, the Congregation has welcomed lay leaders to serve in roles formerly held by Sisters. One need only look at the gifted lay leaders in the sponsored ministries to know that the Spirit continues to guide the Congregation. Steven Korf, CEO of St. Vincent’s Medical Center, is a prime example of devoted lay service in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity.

Steve first encountered the Sisters of Charity in 2010 when his company was retained as financial consultants for Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers of New York, which was already experiencing financial hardship. After it became apparent that the corporate entities were not sustainable, he played a significant role in navigating the Company through bankruptcy, selling off most of the health

care assets to other institutions.

In his role as acting Chief Financial Officer with Saint Vincent’s, Steve worked with Sr. Jane Iannucelli, who was then Director of Sponsored Works. Upon her election as president of the Congregation, Sr. Jane asked Steve to

“You can’t walk out of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center without being moved.”

join a new advisory council that would serve the sponsored ministries, and he graciously accepted.

In 2014, Sr. Carol Barnes, a past president of the Congregation and member of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center Board, asked Steve to join that Board as well. Members of sponsored ministry boards are typically invited to tour the facilities which they will serve. After visiting the facility, Steve said, “You

can’t walk out of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center without being moved.” As a member, Steve lends his financial expertise to the four boards that govern the entities in the Elizabeth Seton continuum of care. Of his service, Sr. Carol said, “As a board member, Steve combines his extensive experience in health care with a deep appreciation of the mission of the Sisters of Charity as it is carried out in the Elizabeth Seton Children’s Ministries.

As a member of the Sponsorship Advisory Council, Steve played a significant role in the establishment of the Sisters of Charity Ministry Network in 2015, which was created to strengthen sponsored ministries and focus staff members, trustees, volunteers, and donors on the mission and values of the Founders. In reflecting on his contribution to the Network, Sr. Karen Helfenstein, Director of Sponsorship Services, says, “Steve’s experience and knowledge of corporate restructuring has been invaluable to the work of the Sponsorship Advisory Council. He has guided the implementation of strategic planning that enables services of ministries to continue well into the future.

Continued, see page 12, top

Sister Catherine Smith —

Celebrating 100 Years of Life

By Patricia McGowan, SC



Left: Young Catherine Smith shortly before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1937. Right: Sr. Miriam Magdalen began her teaching ministry at St. Paul School in Brooklyn.



In the Roman Catholic Church, a new Bishop typically places within his shield symbols or words that indicate his interests or past service. If Sisters were to do the same, Sr. Catherine Smith's shield would read KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, CHEERFULNESS. These are the characteristics by which people remembered her when she celebrated her 100th birthday on January 3, 2019.

Since she entered the Congregation in 1937, this "Jill of all trades" has taught first grade (thirteen years), Home Economics in high school (ten years), was a high school principal, Directress of Grace Institute, Director of Retirement for the Sisters of Charity, Director of College Services at a junior college, Assistant Administrator at a retirement home, and finally, a volunteer assistant in a hospital gift shop. At the age of 92 she "finally" retired. For the past three years, she has been a resident at Cabrini Nursing Home in Westchester.

Throughout all those years—in the field of education, at the hospital, at the retirement home for Sisters—students, fellow employees, hospital visitors, and elderly Sisters have all been recipients of that kindness, generosity, and cheerfulness.

As a youngster growing up in the Yorkville section of Manhattan, Catherine Genevieve and her three sisters, Margaret, Julia, and Helen,

inherited from their Irish-born parents "a prayerful faith and a great sense of humor." That sense of humor is, she says, essential in the world today.

She tells a sweet story of how her parents, Catherine Reilly and James Smith, had been schoolmates in County Cavan. He would carry her books to school, and she would bring him a sandwich for lunch. When they met again as adults in New York, it was certain that their marriage would be inevitable.

Catherine "knew" she wanted to become a sister since her grammar school days at Our Lady of Good Counsel School and she points to Sr. Assumpta Mary and Sr. Mary Claudine because of their "kindness" as major influences in that decision.

At Cathedral High School she met Sr. Alphonse Mary, who also had a significant impact on her decision. Once again, it was a Sister's "kindness and generosity" that seemed to appeal to young Catherine.

Perhaps the most significant influence on her decision though was the sudden death of her eldest and her favorite sister, Margaret, who died of rheumatic fever a week before her 21st birthday. Even today, Sr. Catherine speaks in a subdued voice when she recalls kneeling at her sister's casket and deciding to enter the convent.

After she entered the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1937, she received the religious name of Sr. Miriam Magdalen. Following the Novitiate, she began her teaching career at St. Paul School in Brooklyn (which she still claims as her "all-time favorite" assignment). Today some of those "babies" still keep in touch. One of those students, Fr. Mychal Judge, whom she remembers as a "special boy" who "always wanted to help his mother," often came to visit her before the tragedy of September 11th.

While she was in Brooklyn, she would bake cakes for the other Sisters, and it became known that she had a certain talent in the kitchen. So, along with going to NYU for Home Economics courses, she began to teach at Bishop McDonnell High School. Though today she readily admits it was "a bit frightening," she ended up enjoying it.

Her next assignment, as a high school principal at Blessed Sacrament in Manhattan, was a bit more challenging. Her first thought was, "This is crazy," but, as she has done so often in her life, she "depended on God" and she came "to love" that assignment as well. It was there that she met Sr. John Jimenez, who was to remain a close friend until her death in 2018.

There were times when her "sense

of humor" and "God's sense of humor" were in alignment, she says, for her next assignment to Grace Institute was indeed nothing she expected. But it was there that she again met Sisters who became lifelong friends. Among them was Sr. Elizabeth Quinn.

It was also during those years, after Vatican II, when the decision was made to modernize the Sisters of Charity habit, that Sr. Catherine became a member of the Habit Committee. That was also the time when she met Sr. Marie Morris, a young sister then, who was willing to wear a new habit as an experiment. Since those days—almost 50 years ago—they lived together.

Her years as Retirement Director, at Elizabeth Seton College, at the Convent of Mary the Queen, and at St. Joseph Hospital, she says, were helped by her earlier experiences. "All of my years as

an educator and administrator enabled me to improve my ability to work with and for others." Probably the most significant part of that quotation is: "with and for others," for that truly has been her mantra during the past 79 years as a Sister of Charity.

Friends and family have been significant forces in her life. Since her earliest days in religious life, she has remained close to many of the women with whom she has lived or worked.

At the risk of unintentionally slighting others, one could name those with whom she made yearly trips to the outlets in Redding, PA: Srs. Mary Elizabeth Kelly, Rita Gushue, Kathleen Cassidy, Marie Morris, and Katherine Talbot. Those "shopping days" were always joyful occasions, filled with laughter and many, many purchases, for Sr. Catherine truly loved to shop. That love for shopping

Above left: Sr. Catherine with friends (from left) Srs. Marie Morris, Rita Gushue, and Florence Mallon. Above: Sr. Catherine (sitting at right) gathered with her extended family to celebrate Christmas, c. late-1980s.

was satisfied again when, as part of her position at the hospital Gift Shop, she attended trade shows at the Jacob Javits Center.

Her nieces Ann and Catherine, and nephew, Edward, and their children have a special place in her life. For many years vacations were spent at Edward's place in Vermont, and she still calls him her "favorite nephew," even though he is her only nephew.

Since she has been at Cabrini, many family members have joined her on each Thanksgiving and Christmas Day to celebrate and, in her usual efficient manner, Sr. Catherine has organized

Continued, see page 15



Above: Sr. Catherine with Sr. Marie John Jimenez (left) and niece Ann Domkowski. Left: Sr. Catherine joined Sr. Miriam Anne Brennan to celebrate her 50th Jubilee at Mary the Queen.



Left: Sr. Jane Iannucelli (right) and Carmen Jirau-Rivera, Chief Program Officer at the New York Foundling, (far left) traveled to Puerto Rico in December to visit the Foundling's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Assistant teacher Rosa Ida Rodríguez (center left), and teacher Yadirka González (center right) welcomed the enthusiastic visitors to the San Antonio Head Start Center in Coamo. Since 1984, the programs have provided services to 1,470 children and their families in 44 centers. The goal of the program is to increase social and education competence of young children and low income families in the most impoverished communities on the island. Sister Jane was also on hand for the presentation of Mission Awards and the Employee Recognition Awards for 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service. The staff was honored to have Sr. Jane present on their special day.



Eric Rosenbaum, Coordinator of Project L.I.G.H.T. (left), Emily Gutierrez, Assistant Coordinator (kneeling), and the devoted volunteers who donate their time to the English as a Second Language classes gathered for the Fall 2018 graduation ceremony. After a festive dinner, students received certificates of completion.



Pascual Ortiz (left) was recognized for achieving United States citizenship. Sr. Lorraine Cooper, one of several who helped Mr. Ortiz prepare for the exam, was on hand to celebrate his success.

Sister Mary Caulfield, a Sister of Charity since 1949, lives at Kittay Senior Apartments in the Bronx. With the help of Sr. Arleen Ketchum, Sr. Mary created a little Christmas joy for the twenty-two Sisters in the Kittay community by purchasing stockings for them. Together they filled the stockings with cookies, candy, popcorn, ornaments, and pens. There is a special meaning behind the gift of Christmas stockings for Sister Mary, which she shared with her Sisters.



Sr. Mary Caulfield with her special gifts.

When little Mary Caulfield was just two, her dad died, and her mom had to find work to support herself and her two young daughters. Because she had no one to care for Mary and her four-year-old sister, she brought them to live with her mother in Ireland, who had very little of her own. Mary and her sister remained in Ireland with their grandmother until she was about ten.

Despite the great distance between them, Christmas was a special time for Mary and her sister. Both girls received a stocking filled with goodies from their mother in America, a gift that brought them so much joy.

This year, Sr. Mary was delighted to relive that memory with her community of Sisters, sharing the joy and cheer of that little girl long ago.



The Sisters at Mount Saint Vincent Convent were treated to an afternoon tea by Dr. Charles L. Flynn, President of the College of Mount Saint Vincent, on December 11. Above: Sr. Catherine Walsh (left), Thérèse Donnelly, and others shared a laugh with Dr. Flynn. Below from left: Sr. Suzanne Wallin, Theresa Capria, Rita King, and Ann Marie Lagan.



Above from left: Sr. Margaret Donegan, Kathleen Byrnes, Madeleine Mahoney (standing), Marie Tolle and Eileen Martin enjoyed the afternoon tea with Dr. Flynn. Below from left: Anne Hennelly, Administrator of MSV Convent, Patrice Griffiths, Assistant Administrator, and Paula Pereira, RN, were also on hand for the afternoon tea.



Under the direction of ABC News Correspondent Linsey Davis (above with Sr. Florence Speth) and former New York Knicks star Alan Houston (below), the 2018 Fox House Christmas party was hosted again by "FISLL" (Faith, Integrity, Sacrifice, Leadership, and Legacy). The organization provided food, gifts, and a great time for Fox House families.



St. Raymond's Elementary School Honors the Sisters of Charity of New York

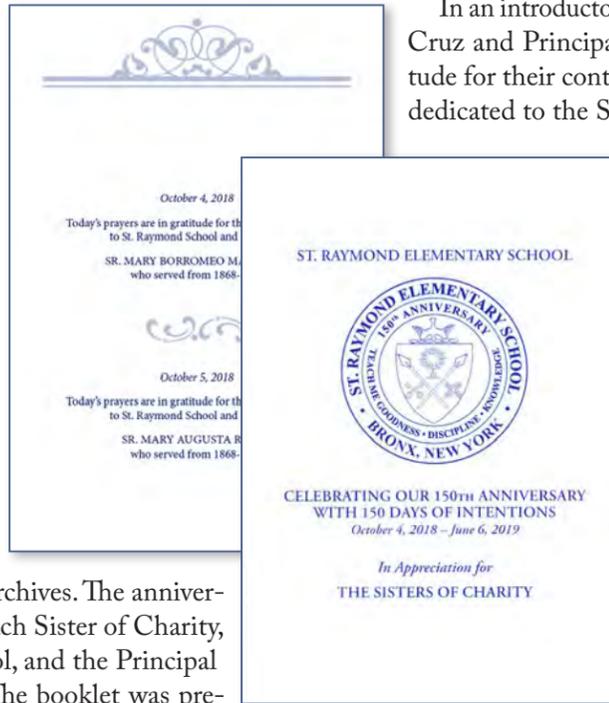
By Mindy Gordon, Archivist

In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Raymond Elementary School in the Parkchester area of the Bronx, the school will offer 150 days of intentions, one for each Sister of Charity of New York who taught at the school since its founding in 1868.

To acknowledge the significant influence of the Sisters, the publication, "Celebrating Our 150th Anniversary with 150 Days of Intentions, October 4, 2018–June 6, 2019," was prepared by Elaine Nole, the school's advancement director, using the resources in the Congregation's archives. The anniversary book features the name of each Sister of Charity, her years of teaching at the school, and the Principal of the school during that time. The booklet was presented to Sr. Helen McGovern, representative for the Congregation, at the Mass of celebration led by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, held in the school's auditorium on October 4, 2018.



Sr. Helen McGovern (left) accepted the commemorative book on behalf of the Sisters of Charity. Sr. Mary Cleary currently serves as Assistant Principal at St. Raymond School. Photo courtesy of Elaine Nole.



In an introductory letter in the booklet, Father James Cruz and Principal Eugene Scanlon wrote, "In gratitude for their contributions, this book of intentions is dedicated to the Sisters of Charity."

The first entry in the book honors the first principal of the school:

"October 4, 2018: Today's prayers are in gratitude for the service provided to St. Raymond School and Parish by Sr. Mary Borromeo Marshall, who served from 1868–1885."

During Sr. Mary Borromeo's term, eight Sisters taught elementary grades. As there was no convent in the Parish when the Sisters first taught at St. Raymond, they lived at the New York Catholic Protectory in what is now the Parckchester area.

When the school building was deemed inadequate in 1885, students were transferred to Public School No. 12. A new school building opened in 1909 and housed separate departments for boys and girls.

The Congregation will present a framed copy of the page noting the date of intentions in each Sister's honor to those Sisters still with us who have taught at the school. In addition to the current Academy Principal, Sr. Mary Ann D'Antonio, and the elementary school Assistant Principal, Sr. Mary Cleary, and Librarian, Sr. Ellen Dunne, retired Sisters of Charity teachers for whom intentions will be offered are Srs. Mary Elizabeth Clancy, Rosemarie Connell, Margaret Egan, Nora Hearty, Helen McGovern, Nancy McNamara, Theresa O'Connor, Clare Regan, and Monica Wood.



Provided by Melissa Camardo, SC-L

Working Together to Fight Human Trafficking

Since its founding in 2007 by Joan Dawber, SC-Halifax, LifeWay Network has emphasized the power of collaboration in creating the slavery-free future envisioned by all. Its members believe in bringing people together to form community and address a global issue with significant local impact. Human trafficking occurs around us. It affects people in our neighborhoods. Everyone must join together to end slavery today and empower survivors to reclaim a life of freedom.

Vision & Mission

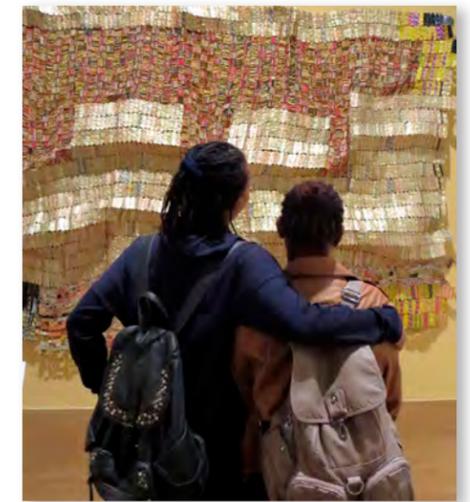
LifeWay Network envisions a world in which human trafficking is abolished and every survivor is strong, connected, and free. LifeWay Network joins the global movement against human trafficking by providing safe housing for women who have been trafficked and offering education about trafficking to the general public.

Accomplishments

Education Program: Since its inception in 2007, LifeWay's Education Program

has been raising public awareness about this crime that should have no place in the 21st century. To date, LifeWay has educated and reached over 13,500 persons through educational workshops and outreach events, and their impact continues to grow. In 2017, LifeWay provided a total of 51 educational workshops and reached over 1,700 persons.

Safe Housing Program: LifeWay's Safe Housing Program began in 2009 with two short-term, 30-day, emergency beds. Since then, the program has expanded to include two long-term safe houses, LifeWay House 1 and LifeWay House 2, providing a total of twelve beds where women can reside for up to twelve months. LifeWay Network is one of only two organizations in the New York Metro area providing safe housing specifically for women survivors of human trafficking. What sets LifeWay's Safe Housing Program apart is its community living model. It goes beyond offering shelter by welcoming each woman into a supportive, caring environment that helps them recover from their trauma, regain their sense of self-worth, and



Two safe house residents reflect on artwork from an African exhibit during a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with the entire house.

enables them to move from isolation towards reclaiming their independence.

Since opening the Safe Housing Program, LifeWay Network has had the privilege of welcoming over 90 women from 34 different countries, including the United States, into a home they can call "their own."

Since 2011, Sr. Mary Ellen O'Boyle has represented the Congregation in NYC-STOP, a coalition of 37 religious congregations working to end human trafficking. The coalition is currently transforming its efforts to provide stronger support to LifeWay Network. As Coordinator of anti-trafficking efforts, Sr. Mary Ellen endeavors to keep SCNY Sisters, Associates, and Companions informed, and regularly offers suggestions to be involved in this effort. Several Sisters and Associates of the Sisters of Charity of New York work as volunteers at the safe houses, providing companionship, support, and guidance, thereby conveying God's never-ending love to every survivor.

For more information, visit LifeWay's website at: lifewaynetwork.org

Left: Attending the LifeWay fund raiser held annually in May are Sr. Pat McGowan (sitting) and (from left) Srs. Rosemary Petrucelli, Margaret Egan, Mary Ellen O'Boyle, Karen Helfenstein, Peggy McEntee, and Florence Speth.

In addition to his duties, now as acting CEO of Saint Vincent's, Steve and his business partner, Mark Toney, are founding members of ToneyKorf, LLC, a financial consulting firm that provides interim management and management consulting services to troubled companies in healthcare and other industries.

In his spare time, Steve enjoys playing keyboard and drums. For ten years, Steve enjoyed performing with Bankrupt Talent, which was founded by gifted performer Randa Karambelas in 2009. Bankrupt Talent is a collection of gifted musicians who also happen to be prominent insolvency professionals. Together they performed an annual music concert for charity. Their final concert in November 2018 raised \$100,000 for the Make a Film Foundation, which grants film wishes to children who have serious and often life-threatening medical conditions. The Sisters of Charity of New York were fortunate to be the beneficiaries of Bankrupt Talent's 2014 concert.

Steve credits his parents, Robert and Diane Korf, for planting the seed of service in his life. Steve and his wife, Cathy, live in Nassau County, NY, with their daughter, Emily. A student at New York University and a talented musician like her dad, Emily joined Steve on stage for the last Bankrupt Talent song of the evening, Green Day's *Good Riddance* (aka *Time of Your Life*). Concertgoers reported seeing a few tears in Steve's eyes as he proudly performed with his daughter.

In recognition of his dedication to the mission of the Sisters of Charity and his generous spirit, the Congregation



Steve Korf, Patricia Tursi, CEO of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, and Jennifer Coffey, SC Ministry Network Board member and SVCMC General Counsel, at the 2017 Sponsorship Conference.

will proudly honor Steve Korf with the 2019 Grace Strazziere Humanitarian Award at the Spring Benefit on May 16.

Note: Saint Vincent's continues to operate two businesses, Queensbrook Insurance LTD, a Cayman Island based Insurance Captive that is being dissolved, and Uniformed Services Family Health Plan, a Managed Care Program run for the Department of Defense under a contract that runs through 2023. Once that contract ends, Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers Corporation will be dissolved.

Associates' Day

Continued from page 3

themselves from the pages of books and newspapers and take on the names and faces of the most vulnerable, our friends on the margins of society. The principles of the charism and mission of the Sisters of Charity have changed me in both big and small ways."

One of the more unusual ministries is that of funeral services. Bobby Soto met the Sisters of Charity through his work at Flynn's Funeral Home. Inspired by memorial services and encouraged by his co-worker Associate Nizarys Vincenty, Bobby decided to become an Associate himself. He sees his work as a natural extension of the charism of charity to those in need. Associate Nizarys Vincenty was also the catalyst for another new Associate and Mount graduate, Krista Di Girolamo. For Krista: "Service has always been a part of my life.

From a young age, my mother raised me to seek opportunities to help others...I realized my own passion for supporting our youth to connect with God and encourage them to serve. Gospel and the charism of the Sisters of Charity invite me to be part of the journey, keeping me in tune with my ministry of presence."

Finally, Mary Gregory, a journalist and member of the College's Alumni Council spoke what many Associates feel: "Through my relationships with the Sisters of Charity, I have come to know a level of generosity, kindness, and openness to help others that I admire. My desire to be an Associate comes from my wanting to belong to that group of spirited and spiritual women—women who, as Vincent said, have the Spirit of God and His holy workings residing in them."

Sister Jane concluded with a challenge to all: "By your commitments, you are calling each and every one of us to consider our gifts to be placed at the service of the mission. Those who live on the margins call us to transformation—they truly challenge us to live lives of love. Together, Sisters, Associates, and Companions can truly make a difference in our world.

What do we mean to each other and how can we be together for the mission? How will we be with and for our brothers and sisters? My heart tells me—it is from our communion of hearts—that our relationships in mission enable us to continue the story of Charity. May we respond to the call for transformation in such a way that all can recognize the face of God in their reality and find a place of belonging."



School Children Join LEFSA Sock Drive

The Spirit was alive and singing when Sr. Peggy McEntee visited second and third graders of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Shrub Oak, NY.

Sister Peggy went to the school to visit with the children and to receive the socks they collected during a drive that they held to benefit LEFSA (Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates). The children were excited to meet Sr. Peggy and had prepared a few songs to sing for her. Sister Peggy told them the story of LEFSA's beginnings

and what their collection of socks was going to mean to the men, women, and children who would be the recipients of their generosity.

Not to be outdone by the second and third graders, the entire school community will hold another sock drive for LEFSA after their food drive for needy families. These children certainly know the charism of charity, and we can count on them to carry on the ministry of giving to those in need.

By Anne Marie Gardiner



Left: Sr. Peggy McEntee chatted with 2nd and 3rd graders at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. Above left: Children collected socks for Sr. Peggy to deliver to LEFSA. Above right: Third-grade teacher Mrs. Barbara Campiz coordinated the children's sock drive.



Collecting Socks For People Who Are Homeless



We can use any kind of socks, as long as they are new and in their original packaging, bags or fasteners:

- White, black or colored socks
- Work socks or dress socks
- Socks for men, women, children and infants
- Special socks for people with foot pain or diabetes

You also have the option of collecting cash donations to be used for purchasing socks.

When you have completed your sock drive, you can drop them off at our office (if you're in the New York City area) or ship them to us at:

LEFSA/SISTERS OF CHARITY
1991A Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10035

If you have questions, please contact us by e-mail at hello@scny-lefsa.com or call us at 212-987-0959.

Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity Ministry Network

Responding to Clerical Abuse

Seeking to Build a Church of Healing, Justice, and Mercy

The dark cloud of the ongoing clerical abuse scandal in the Church hangs heavy over all the Catholic faithful—indeed, all of us who love the Church. With each new report or revelation, we try to absorb the awful news. We listen to the pain of abuse victims and hold them in our hearts and prayers. We also share the pain of many of our brother priests who have lived good, selfless lives, never violating the trust of those they serve.



It is clear that the structures by which priests and bishops are chosen, formed, supervised, and held accountable need a complete overhaul, along with a culture that has valued secrecy and protection of the institution over protection of those most vulnerable to abuses of power. As the Vatican Press Office stated, “Both abuse and its cover-up can no longer be tolerated and a different treatment for Bishops who have committed or covered up abuse, in fact represents a form of clericalism that is no longer acceptable.” (10/6/18)

In our time of crisis, many wise voices remind us that the people of God have survived terrible times before.

Servant of God Dorothy Day calls us to be both honest and hopeful: “No matter how corrupt the Church may become, it carries within it the seeds of its own regeneration.”

J. Patrick Murphy, CM, writes, “In 1625, Vincent founded the Congregation of the Mission. To serve the poor he had to engage the church and parishes. To engage the church he first had to reform the ignorant and corrupt clergy. When he approached the clergy for help he found that they were not literate, chaste or sober... Vincent began in earnest to serve the poor by reforming the clergy.” (Mr. Vincent, DePaul International, Inc., 2015, http://www.vincentianfundraising.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Mr_Vincent_8x10_approved_octo12015.pdf)

Saint Vincent with others of like mind found a way to make a difference and to change the system for the better. By the time he died in 1660, seminaries—which had not existed until that time—were in place, with programs of solid spiritual and theological formation for priests.

Saint Vincent’s partner in the mission of Charity was St. Louise de Marillac. Co-founder with Vincent of the Company of the Daughters of Charity, Louise offered women a radically new way to serve God by serving persons who were poor. When her Sisters confronted obstacles, brick

walls, and the slow pace of change in people and organizations, Louise counseled them (and us): “Do not be upset if things are not as you would want them to be for a long time to come. Do the little you can very peacefully and calmly so as to allow room for the guidance of God in your lives. Do not worry about the rest.”

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton became a Catholic when the young Church in New York was going through its own troubles. One priest at St. Peter’s was known for drunkenness; another was accused of improprieties with a woman. We don’t know whether Elizabeth, still struggling with her decision early in 1805, was aware of any of these scandals when she wrote, “I seek but God and his church and expect to find my peace in them, not in the people.”

In her day, Elizabeth was able to overlook this less-than-exemplary behavior of priests. Today, I can imagine her responding with passionate agreement to the strong words of the Congregation’s Leadership Team who wrote on Oct. 18, 2018:

...We need to commit ourselves to foster attitudes which allow those who have been victimized to speak freely and to create safe places where positions of authority are never used to coerce or harass. New structures, new attitudes, new vigilance must be combined with our genuine sorrow and distress for all who have suffered and are still suffering...

Our prayer needs to acknowledge the need for repentance within our Church for the structures that allowed this abuse to continue for so long and in so many places....

Let us be the compassion of God as we strive with others to create the Church we are called to be. May integrity and service be the hallmarks of hierarchy, clergy, religious and members.... Let us, as Church, pray and act into the new and real solutions we so desperately need.

In this painful, difficult time for both the Church and the world, let St. Elizabeth Seton have the last word: “Hope, always awake, whispers Mercy for the future, as sure as the past.”

Regina Bechtle, SC

With Love and Appreciation We Remember...

Sister Maureen Alexander, SC (Sister Thomas Marietta)
Entered: 1955 + Date of Death: 11/24/18 + Age: 80



The first sixteen years of Sr. Maureen’s ministry were in education, teaching at St. Brigid, Manhattan, and Resurrection, Rye, elementary schools, and St. Barnabas High School, Bronx. After earning certification in medical technology, Sr. Maureen worked at St. Vincent Hospital, Manhattan, Yonkers Professional Hospital, and St. Joseph Hospital, also in Yonkers. She retired in 2011 after serving in health care for thirty-four years. Sister Maureen volunteered for several years at Sharing Community in the Getty Square section of Yonkers where she did clinical work, helped raise funds for the soup kitchen, drop-in center, and day shelter, and assisted with the volunteer program. Sister Maureen also advocated for affordable housing for families.

Sr. Catherine Smith Celebrates 100 years

Continued from page 7

the complete day: booking a room for their use, ordering the food, and most of all, reveling in their company.

Most college students today are forewarned that their career paths will be diverse. It would be most unusual for them to work in the same field throughout their lives. Sister Catherine’s lived experiences certainly gives credence to that advice.

During her lifetime (remember, she was born just seventeen years after the Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote), she has followed the advice she often gives to young people: “Be true to yourself, and you will discover God’s will in your life.” God’s will has become an essential part of her vocabulary and, as it would say on her ecclesial shield if she had one, she still manifests that spirit for others through “kindness, generosity, and cheerfulness.”



Sr. Catherine volunteered at St. Joseph Medical Center from 1989 to 2010, and for a time, worked in the gift shop.

SAVE THE DATE

SISTERS OF CHARITY ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

THURSDAY,
MAY 16, 2019
6PM—9PM

Business Attire
Cocktail Hour & Dinner

Honoring

Steven R. Korf

Senior Managing Director
ToneyKorf Partners, LLC

and

Marianne DiTommaso

Vice President
Saint Joseph’s Medical Center

THE LIGHTHOUSE AT CHELSEA PIERS

Pier 61, Chelsea Piers
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New York, NY 10011





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“Show How Happy You Are as a Sister or Lay Person”

By Eleanor La Prade

Sister Nancy McNamara, who became a Sister of Charity in 1954, first met the Sisters at Ascension School in Manhattan. It was the Sisters who were her 7th- and 8th-grade teachers who won her over with their kindness, their sense of humor, and their love for their order’s founder, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. (Back then, the majority of teachers were Sisters, not just the 7th- and 8th-grade teachers.)

“The biggest challenge I faced as a Sister of Charity was having to wake up at 5 am,” she said. “I didn’t like waking up early!”

But her greatest joy, she said, has been teaching children. She also enjoyed learning about other people’s cultures and sharing her Irish heritage with her students. She recalls teaching her students Irish folk and step dances. They even won first place in a competition!

Sister Nancy says her students and the people she worked with taught her about the presence of God.

“My ministry gave me the privilege of working with God’s very special people who lived in poverty. I was the teacher,



Clockwise from above: Sr. Nancy, formerly Sr. Peter, in her early days as teacher; as teacher in the Project L.I.G.H.T. ESL program, Sr. Nancy helps adult students learn the language of their new home; Sr. Nancy posed for this photo on a friend's motorcycle, but dared not drive the vehicle.

the principal, but they allowed me to share in the mission of religious education that they created,” she said. “I trained the catechists, but they truly taught me about the presence of God in my own life. I experienced the human God through them. They were creative, and they brought God to life for so many. After this experience, I knew that our faith was in good hands.”

Sister Nancy now volunteers as an English as second language teacher with Project L.I.G.H.T., as well as at Mount

Saint Vincent Convent, the Sisters of Charity’s retirement home.

Her advice: “Show how happy you are, as a Sister or as a lay person. I took being a Sister of Charity very seriously. I thought it was important for people to witness and experience the joy I felt as a Sister of Charity. I was always smiling, and I still am.”

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