

Vision

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

VOL. 23, ISSUE 4 *Now in Our Third Century of Living Lives of Love* AUTUMN 2019



From the President

Dear Friends,

"It's too bad that the Sisters are not in education anymore."

This is a sentiment often expressed by our friends, relatives, and even some of our sisters. And while it is true that except for a few sisters, the Sisters of Charity no longer staff the schools within the Archdiocese, we have indeed not abandoned education.

The ministry of education lives on in our sponsored ministries. Immigrants learn English and train in job skills within the programs offered at Casa de Esperanza in Yonkers. The New York Foundling partners to operate the Mott Haven Charter School for at-risk pre-K through eighth-grade students in the South Bronx. The John A. Coleman School provides community and center-based special education and therapeutic programs to children with complex medical diagnoses at both its White Plains and Yonkers campuses. The Barbara Ford Peacebuilding Center in Guatemala offers programs of all types to individuals, families, and communities to empower them to be agents of change.

Education is alive and well at the College of Mount Saint Vincent where they combine a robust undergraduate core curriculum with a full array of majors. They even offer a course that focuses on the Sisters of Charity and their history! A variety of educational classes occur at most of our affordable housing sites. Sisters sponsor an English language program for adults in the Riverdale area for non-native speakers. Our farmer at Sisters Hill Farm in Stanfordville, N.Y., educates apprentices in the art and science of organic farming.

Education lives on, but "Behold, I am making all things new."

The Sisters of Charity can look back on our history as educators with pride. Since 1822, when we took charge of the girls' department of St. Patrick School on Mott Street, we have staffed hundreds of parochial schools in New York, educating tens of thousands of students. Often, we did this in partnership with other religious congregations. Specifically in this issue of *Vision*, you will learn about our collaboration with the Brothers of the Christian schools who celebrate the 300th anniversary of the death of their founder, John Baptiste de La Salle.

There is little doubt that the Sisters of Charity have made a lasting impression on the students whom they have taught over the years. One has only to read the comments posted on social media and our website upon a Sisters' passing to realize the lasting effects of their contributions. Here are just a few of the comments from former students:

"Sr. Mary Regina Caulfield was a kind, gentle and fierce woman who was light in a dark world. Her dedication to education and healing changed countless lives for the better, mine among them. I can recall running up to her for a hug as a child and 'knowing' that I was loved. I hope she knows how much she was loved, too."

"Sr. Georgette Dircks will always be known as an excellent and talented teacher, a humble and unassuming person, and a great friend to many. May she rest in peace and joy. Amen."

"Sr. Mary Edward Zipf was truly a gifted mentor and scientist that demonstrated daily passion for biology and her pupils. I'm truly blessed to have had her as a teacher."

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of *Vision* which focuses on our commitment to education.

Blessings,



Sr. Donna Dodge, SC



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



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of CHARITY
NEW YORK

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St. Gabriel Parish in Riverdale, Bronx, was established in 1939, and construction of St. Gabriel School began immediately thereafter. The new parish location was selected when the original St. Gabriel's church, school, and convent buildings at Second Avenue and 37 Street were condemned to allow for the construction of ramps for the new East River tunnel.

Cardinal Spellman dedicated the new school building on November 23, 1941, appointing the Right Reverend Monsignor Francis W. Walsh to lead the parish. The student population included boys and girls, from first through eighth grades. The new school, situated between 235 Street and Arlington Avenue, was built of tapestry brick and included 16 classrooms, two recreation rooms, a complete kitchen, and a lunchroom to accommodate 200. The school also featured separate gymnasiums for boys and girls with showers and locker rooms, teachers' room, projection room, coat room, and offices for the principal, clerks, doctor, and nurse. The large auditorium seated 750 guests, and at one time, was used for Sunday Masses with an anteroom as sacristy. The cost for construction was \$325,000.

The Sisters of Charity of New York were initially asked to teach the six elementary grades at the new Riverdale School, as a continuation of their charge at the original St. Gabriel and, importantly, because of their recognition as superb teachers. The six faculty members in 1942-1943 at St. Gabriel School were Sr. Mary Perpetua Collins, 5A; Sr. Elizabeth Mercedes Hooke, 4A; Sr. Vincent Miriam Healy, 3A; Sr. Constance Mary Hottenroth, 2A (also school principal); Sr. Mona Mulvey, 1A; and Sr. Mary Melita Rooney, Kindergarten. There were 178 students, 85 boys and 93 girls. The Archives of the Congregation notes that 78 sisters taught at the school between 1941 and 1979.

From 1941 to 1979, a succession of nine Sisters of Charity served as principals of the school. Sr. Constance Mary Hottenroth led the school for the first three years until her reassignment to the College of Mount Saint Vincent. Her successors were: Sr. Mary

Claudine Sullivan, 1944-1945; Sr. Miriam de Sales Ryan, 1945-1946; Mary Perpetua Collins, 1946-1958; Sr. Marita Paul Neylan, 1948-1963; Sr. Mary Constance Mayer, 1963-1965; Sr. Miriam Luke Burke, 1965-1967; Sr. Marie Genevieve Cunningham, 1967-1971, and Sr. Patricia Walsh, 1971-1979.

Serving the longest term as principal, Sr. Mary Perpetua enhanced the school's resources by expanding its library, establishing an orchestra and children's choir, and starting the school's paper, *The Angelus*.

The Angelus.

In the early years of the school, the older pupils, as Knights and Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament, were guided to develop spiritual values and encouraged to participate in civic and social organizations including scouting groups.

In 1953, because of an increase in registration, double classes were first created. In the early 1980s, the school was recognized

for its innovative technology program to provide intensive training for seventh and eighth graders to write their own computer programs.

Sisters who recall their teaching years at St. Gabriel include: Sr. Mary Adele Henze, Sr. Wilda Asfour, Sr. Jean Bocian, Sr. Carol Finegan, Sr. Dorothy Metz, Sr. Angela Rooney, and Sr. Patricia Walsh.

Reflecting on her years at the Riverdale school, Sr. Dorothy Metz said, "I have such fond memories of my years at St. Gabriel. I am sure many lasting friendships were formed among the students because they always looked out for each other. There were many after-school activities and the parents were very involved. To top it all off, we had the best faculty—who enjoyed what they did."



May Crowning at St. Gabriel. Back row, left to right: Msgr. Francis Walsh; Sr. Rosalie Kaley, Sr. Mary Perpetua Collins, Principal, ca. 1948-1949

Recalling Our History:

St. Gabriel School Riverdale, Bronx

By Mindy Gordon, Archivist

With the exception of Mother Elizabeth Boyle, no one did more for the community, no one was more greatly loved than Mother Jerome. Elected Mother eight times during her fifty-eight years in the community, she spent in all twenty-four years in that difficult post. We owe to Mother Jerome far more than we realize: materially, because she opened at least two-thirds of the community's missions, and spiritually, because of her unmistakable influence upon that elusive yet tangible reality which we call "the spirit of the community."

Mary Ann Ely was born September 19, 1810, in Baltimore, Md. There were six children in the Ely family. Her father, John, was a Presbyterian and her mother, Margaret Ann Meyers, was Episcopalian. Mary played with a group of Catholic children who attended St. Mary Catholic School, and at the age of eleven, she sought permission to attend that school and to become Catholic. There is no record of her Baptism, but she received the sacraments and, in later years traced to her First Communion day the outstanding trait of her spiritual life, the profound realization of God's presence within her soul.

We do not know when Mary's vocation became clear to her; she petitioned in 1827. A quiet candidacy and novitiate followed for Mary Ely. She absorbed the spirit of the Valley and, above all, cultivated her abiding love for St. Vincent de Paul. She pronounced vows on March 25, 1830. The following year, Sr. Lucy Ignatius Gwynn was named Sister Servant for St. Peter, Barclay Street. Two Sisters accompanied her, one of whom was Sr. Mary Jerome Ely.

Upon arrival, the three Sisters took possession of a small, dilapidated frame house across from the church. Three years later, Sr. Mary Jerome, still only twenty-two, was appointed Sister Servant. At St. Peter she tirelessly extended her charity and zeal. We hear of her kindness to the poor, her care of the sick, as well as her interest in the children of the school. On Sunday afternoons she taught religious instruction in the basement of the church to all who came, young and old, until the group nearly equaled in size the gathering for Sunday Mass. It seems adults, most of whom were Irish, had very little religious education, as it was not possible in Ireland.

In 1846, the correspondence between Bishop Hughes and Fr. Deluol, Ecclesiastical Superior of the community at

Emmitsburg, concerning the care of boy orphans in New York, resulted in the establishment of the New York Motherhouse. Of the sixty-two Sisters in New York, thirty-three remained to carry on the work of three asylums, three academies, and three parish schools.

On December 31, 1846, the thirty-three Sisters gathered at St. Patrick Asylum and elected Sr. Elizabeth Boyle, Mother; Sr. Mary Angela Hughes, Assistant; Sr. Williamanna Hickey, Treasurer; and Sr. Mary Jerome Ely, Procuratrix.

The next task was to find a motherhouse. A trip to what is now Central Park revealed an old house. Only Mother Elizabeth and Sr. Mary Jerome thought it worthwhile to descend from the carriage to look at it. They soon convinced their skeptical companions and made the purchase. The responsibility of making the place habitable was given to Sr. Jerome, who every day after school at St. Peter, traveled by coach to McGown's Pass to check on the progress of the repairs.

In August 1849, Sr. Jerome was appointed Mistress of Novices and took up residence at Mount St. Vincent (McGown's Pass). The following December 8 she was elected Mother. Although only thirty-nine years of age, she had behind her the experience of eighteen years as Sister Servant of St. Peter and three years as a member of the first Council. Blessed with physical strength, tireless energy, and enthusiasm, she began her office. The poverty of the community at this time was real. There were no conveniences and no money to engage outside help.

Significantly, during her first term in office, 1849–1852, she opened no new missions but consolidated all the works in progress. It is possible to catalog the extent and the content

of her work; it is not so easy to demonstrate her influence. In her twenty-four years of administration, she seemed to move effortlessly through problems. Difficulties did not deter her; she dealt with them singly, with dispatch, and with few backward glances. Her primary concern was always the Sisters, whom she nurtured to the fulfillment of their calling. The phenomenal growth of the Community did not dazzle her; it called for more effort to make the mission alive. In conversation, Mother Jerome was unpretentious and straightforward; yet when addressing the Community, she could be eloquent because of the deep conviction and earnestness that lay behind her words.

Cont'd, see page 10



Mother Mary Jerome Ely



Elizabeth Vermaelen, SC

CMSV Course: Catholicism in New York & the History of the Sisters of Charity

By Maryellen Blumlein, SC



Tim Donnelly, CMSV Class of 2020, conducts research at the Congregation's archives for the Catholicism in New York and the History of the Sisters of Charity class. Tim's mother graduated from CMSV; Sr. Mary Ann Cronin (dec. June 27, 2013) was Tim's great-aunt.



The students at the College of Mount Saint Vincent (CMSV) and the Sisters of Charity share much more than just our beautiful campus; they share life through ministry, service, and social encounters. Years ago, several professors and Sisters gathered to discuss how to provide students the opportunity to learn who the Sisters of Charity are, and what they have done throughout their more than 200 years in New York. The students were aware that the Sisters founded CMSV, but they wanted to know more about them.

From the discussions and planning was born a 300-level course: "Catholicism in New York and the History of the Sisters of Charity." Originally an interdisciplinary course for the History and Religious Studies Departments, it was first taught in the spring semester of 2011 by Dr. Daniel Opler, professor and chair of the History Department, and Sr. Constance Brennan, Sisters of Charity Archivist.

Enrollment exceeded all expectations. The course was offered three more times: in 2014, 2017, and 2019. For each offering, the registration was "over the top." It seems the students had more than just a casual interest in learning about the Sisters who share their campus.

The course content enables the students to learn about the Catholic

immigrants who came to New York and how the Sisters of Charity have served their various needs since 1817. In addition to learning the history through lectures, the students interview Sisters or perform service projects. Subsequently, they write a reflection paper on how a Sister's story or their service project brings the mission and ministry of the Sisters to life.

The principal component of the course is the students' opportunity to conduct research about the Sisters, utilizing the Sisters of Charity Archives. Topics are provided by Dr. Opler and Sr. Maryellen Blumlein. They range from institutions founded and staffed by the Sisters throughout New York, as well as the United States and foreign missions.

Some students choose to research the lives of particular Sisters who are noted for significant contributions to the Congregation, the Archdiocese, and countries throughout the world. It is a rare opportunity for undergraduate students to have an archive at their disposal on their college campus. At Mount Saint Vincent, Boyle Hall houses the Archives of the Sisters of Charity of New York. The Congregation's rich history and heritage provides interesting research for our students and the papers they produce are both thought-provoking and insightful. The SC Archives has been located in Boyle Hall since 1982 and

has been available for class and personal visits since that time.

In the spring of 2019, 33 students came to know the history and many contributions of the SCNY, both through their research and their interactions with Sisters still living or working on the campus. Dr. Opler and Sr. Maryellen are hoping to compile the students' research and publish their work in booklet form in the near future.

This particular course has provided the opportunity for the students to increase their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation for the women religious who founded their college, helped to build the Church in New York, and continue to minister through prayer and service. It has also enabled students to meet and talk with Sisters who now live on their campus and have spent many years in the ministries of education, healthcare, childcare, and social services. The Sisters have also come to know the college students and better understand them and their "culture."

Part of the rule of the Sisters of Charity is to provide "any service in our power," and this is brought to life on our campus through the teaching of this course. History, understanding, knowledge, and relationships have been formed and have grown between the Sisters of Charity and the CMSV students.

Celebrating Our Jubilarians

We honor, we celebrate, we thank our Sisters who celebrated milestone Jubilees on September 8, 2019.

THIRTY-FIFTH

Sister Ann Citarella

FIFTY-FIFTH

Sister Kathleen Byrnes
Sister Carol De Angelo
Sister Carol Finegan
Sister Vivienne Joyce
Sister Suzanne Ellen Wallin

SIXTIETH

Sister Anne Denise Brennan
Sister Sheila Brosnan
Sister Mary Catherine Cleary
Sister Rosemarie Connell
Sister Mary Carmel Craig
Sister Loretto Thomas Donohue
Sister Kathleen Gilbride
Sister Regina Murphy
Sister Florence Speth
Sister Noreen Joan Sugrue
Sister Eileen Patricia Walsh

SIXTY-FIFTH

Sister Yolanda Bonitch
Sister Margaret Brick
Sister Theresa E. Capria
Sister Gloria De Arteaga
Sister Robert Marie Fimbel
Sister Ann Marie Lagan
Sister Eileen McGrory
Sister Anne O'Connell

SEVENTIETH

Sister Joan Burbage
Sister Mary Eucharia Carrigan
Sister Rita McIvor
Sister Cecilia M. Reeves
Sister Mary Christine Rogers
Sister Mary Lou Steele

SEVENTY-FIFTH

Sister Marion Hunt
Sister Catherine McGlynn
Sister Grace Anne Troisi

EIGHTIETH

Sister Frances Devine



What do an Arabic Bedouin ode, an ancient Chinese song, and a Mayan creation myth have in common? Each has stimulated conversation among eager-to-learn elders in nine different sites throughout the metropolitan area, in groups facilitated by Sr. Anne Denise Brennan, SC.

Sister Anne Denise brings a lifetime of experience as a gifted and energetic educator on elementary, high school, and college levels. She also assisted in the Formation program for young women in Guatemala as they discerned their vocation.

The very mention of Sr. Anne Denise's name to any College of Mount Saint Vincent graduate who took her world literature classes brings a warm smile and a torrent of memories. Now retired from the classroom, Sr. Anne Denise still conveys her passion for literature from all eras and cultures. "When I taught literature," she said, "I always included a values/reflective piece connecting literature to life."



A Feast of Life at Sister Anne Denise's Table

Recently she has offered "Literature and Life" sessions to Sisters of Charity and Franciscan Handmaids of Mary at The New Jewish Home (Kittay and ALP); Sisters at the Mount Saint Vincent Convent and St. Patrick Villa; CMSV

Staff; Sisters and residents of Seton Village, Nanuet; Dominican Sisters, St. Dominic's Convent, Blauvelt and Our Lady of the Rosary Convent, Sparkill; and Sisters of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine, Nyack. She is gratified when participants "make connections with their own experience and the human condition," or when they comment, "I can really identify with the piece even though it's from a completely different culture and/or time period," or "I want to pray with this."

Previously she offered similar sessions to novices in the Intercommunity Formation Program at Mariandale, N.Y.; to Carmelite and Jesuit men in formation, and at an Associates' Afternoon at Mount Saint Vincent.

A lyric by composer Marty Haugen captures the abundance for heart, mind, and spirit that Sr. Anne Denise provides at her table of literature and life: "Plenty of bread at the feast of life, plenty of bread to share."

By Regina Bechtle, SC

Rooftop class photo of seventh grade boys, Ascension School, Manhattan, 1927



Brothers & Sisters — Side by Side in the Mission

By Steve Sweeny

There's an appropriateness and a near symmetry to it: across the great nave of St. Patrick's Cathedral the shrines of Elizabeth Seton on the south side and John Baptist de La Salle on the north face each other. Through the charism of their religious families, the people of New York have been gifted with access to faith-filled educational opportunities, very often with the Sisters of Charity and the Brothers of the Christian Schools (the de La Salle Christian Brothers) walking side by side in the same parochial and diocesan schools.

This year the Brothers remember the 300th anniversary of the death of de La Salle, their founder. The Sisters, of course, are in their third century of service in New York. Over these years of grace, the Brothers and Sisters have shared the same commitment to education as the way to touch and improve lives. They have seen the schools as the privileged tool for conveying the Good News. They have shown a special bias for the poor and those bypassed by society's structures. They have found the field for ministry in diverse neighborhoods and in parish after parish. Where there was a need, schools opened, and parishes flourished.

The convent was an essential part of the parish pastoral plan. And for the teeming parishes, often where immigration was burgeoning, there was a concerted effort to get the Brothers "for the boys."

Parishioners were accustomed to find themselves in parishes with "the black caps" and the "ten commandments." The histories of the two communities trace the joint presence of the Sisters and the Brothers in many parochial elementary and high schools and diocesan high schools (the Sisters taught

boys and girls in the early grades and often the Brothers began teaching the boys in the 5th or 6th grade).

Amusing today but part of the culture of the times were the two entrances at many parish schools with "Girls" above one front door and "Boys" over the other. And the Sisters and Brothers moved with the demographics of the New York population from lower New York to upper Eastside and Westside, to the Bronx and Yonkers and, of course, to Staten Island. In more recent times, the Brothers and Sisters even shared a co-institutional high school in Shiremanstown, Pa.

Those of us who have been part of New York these past sixty years or so will remember finding the Sisters and Brothers side by side in Holy Name, Ascension, Incarnation, and St. Augustine in Manhattan; St. Mary in Yonkers; St. Raymond in the Bronx; St. Peter in Staten Island; Cardinal Spellman High School; beyond the Archdiocese in St. Gabriel in East Elmhurst; and even Trinity in Shiremanstown.

The College of Mount Saint Vincent and Manhattan College shared with both student bodies an enviable cooperative program for decades. The more distant past found the two communities at the Catholic Protectory, the schools of the Cathedral (old and new), and parish schools too numerous to mention here.

Today, Elizabeth and de La Salle face each other across the Cathedral. We know more importantly that they now both assist together at the Great Eternal Liturgy, and with them, hundreds and hundreds of their sons and daughters who affected and transformed lives with generous service in education.





Associate Day 2019



Above: Sr. Ann Citarella, sponsor of her friend and new Associate, Selina Herrera-Nicholas; Sr. Andrea is also a long-time friend.
Right: Sr. Donna Dodge affixed the Associate pin on Selina.



Above from right: Sr. Pat McGowan, sponsor of her colleague John Keanna; his parents, John and Audrey
Left: Sr. Donna Dodge (center) and Associate Coordinator Maureen Russell on the altar with John



Associate Day, held on September 7, 2019, brought together Associates, Sisters, family, and friends to welcome new Associates Selina Herrera-Nicholas and John Keanna. Renewing their commitments were LeeAnn Brathwaite, Courtney Cahill, Christina Clohessy, Lilly Cross, Todd Gable, Jr., Gillian May, Maureen Noonan, Kathryn O'Loughlin, Marie O'Shea, Maureen Reiser, Stephanie Rodway, Nizarys Vargas, Katelyn Wentworth, and Patricia Yeager. Associates Anne Merwin and Diane Valek made lifetime commitments.

Photo left: Associate Jim Landy was on hand as his niece, Gillian May, renewed her commitment.

ASSOCIATE RELATIONSHIP

Called by the Spirit, Associate Relationship with the Sisters of Charity offers women and men, regardless of marital status or religious affiliation, a way to live their call to the Mission of Charity.



From left: Anne Merwin, Maureen Reiser, Stephanie Rodway, Lilly Cross, Nizarys Vargas, Courtney Cahill, LeeAnn Brathwaite, Patricia Yeager, John Keanna, Selina Herrera-Nicholas, and Gillian May



CMSV Students Lead Professors, Staff, Sisters, Associates, and Others in 1st Climate Walkout on Friday, September 20, 2019

More than four million participants across the world in over 3,600 locations demanded that those in power fight for the communities most affected by climate change. Over 100 enthusiastic college students, faculty, staff, Sisters, and Associates on campus joined the global Youth Climate Strike calling on lawmakers to take action on the climate crisis in our world.

Sarah Stevenson, Ph.D., CMSV Provost, commented, "We are so proud of our students' commitment to advocacy on behalf of the climate crisis. I look forward to working with Sr. Eileen Fagan and other members of the Faculty Senate to ensure that the students' recommendations are disseminated so that we may begin to work together as a college community to bring about the necessary changes to create a better world together."

Sister Carol De Angelo, Director of the Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, addressed the crowd, reminding them that Pope Francis issued an encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, that calls all to care for our common home.

Mary Ann D'Antonio, SC

Sr. Carol De Angelo and Wantoe Teah Wantoe. Wantoe and Jennifer Puac are co-directors of the CMSV Millennial Campus Fellowship, which organized the gathering.



From left: Sisters Margaret Donegan, Katie Aucoin, and Claire Regan joined the 1st Climate Walkout on the Great Lawn at Mount Saint Vincent.



LEFSA Holds Annual Picnic in Central Park

Hundreds attended Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates' annual picnic in Central Park on Saturday, August 10, 2019. Team members, volunteers, and Sisters Mary Sugrue and Carol Ruf were on hand to serve several dishes of food, snacks, and desserts.



THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK



*Celebrate the Founding Sisters
& All Sisters Who Served At*
THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING



“When the Sisters of Charity opened its Greenwich Village brownstone doors as a home for abandoned children in 1869, they likely had no idea that their work would lay the foundation for The Foundling to serve the hundreds of thousands that have since passed through our doors and benefited from our programs in the 150 years since,” said Bill Baccaglini, President and CEO of The New York Foundling. “Our programs and services have grown and changed with the times, but our core mission remains as true today as it did 150 years ago: strengthening children, youth, adults, and families, and helping everyone to reach their full potential, the heart of The Foundling’s legacy.”

Courtesy of The New York Foundling

Photos from top, left to right: Sisters Teresa Vincent McCrystal, Anna Michaela Bowen, Mary Irene Fitzgibbon, Foundress; Second row: Sisters Teresa Kelly, Cecilia Schneider, Carol Barnes; Bottom photo: Sisters Teresa Kelly, Eileen T. Feore, Kathleen McHugh, Marilda Joseph Aiello, Jane Iannucelli, Helen Murphy, Mary Christine Rogers, Katherine King, Rosemarie Galligan, Loretto Thomas Donohue; Sisters Sheila Normoyle, Mary de Sales Collins, Marie Liguori Leyer, Frances Dwyer; Sisters Rita Nowatski, and Sheila Finucane

Mother Mary Jerome Ely *Cont'd from page 4*

Throughout her life, she suffered from severe headaches, probably migraines. An early biographical sketch mentions that “Mother Jerome died of an insidious disease of long standing,” which by this time had significantly depleted her strength. We know little of these last months of suffering, but we can surmise that twenty years of pain had taught her courage and patience.

When she first became Mother in 1849, the Community had forty-seven members, eight houses, and a fledgling mission in Halifax. When she died on April 28, 1885, the Congregation numbered over nine hundred, with eighty houses, forty-seven of which she opened.

Material for this article was taken from *The Sisters of Charity of New York, 1960*, by Sr. Marjorie Walsh; *Lives of Our Departed Mothers*, ca. 1950, by several authors; and *Pioneers of the Sisters of Charity*, by Sr. Anne Courtney, ca. 1990.

Missions Opened During Mother Mary Jerome Ely's Leadership

- 1849 St. Mary School, Halifax, NS
St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan
- 1853 St. Patrick Asylum & School, Newark, N.J.
St. Peter Select & Free School,
Jersey City, N.J.
St. Peter School, Staten Island
- 1854 St. John Orphanage, Paterson, N.J.
St. Lawrence Academy, Manhattan
St. Ignatius School, Manhattan
- 1864 St. Ann School, Manhattan
St. Peter School, Brooklyn
St. John the Baptist Orphanage,
New Haven, Conn.
- 1866 St. Matthew School, New Rochelle
- 1867 Immaculate Conception School,
Providence, R.I.
St. Mary Asylum, Clifton, N.J.
St. Mary School, Staten Island
St. Stephen Home, Manhattan
St. Angela Academy, Manhattan
- 1868 Our Lady of Mercy School, Port Chester
Assumption School, Brooklyn
St. Mary Hospital, Brooklyn
St. Aloysius Academy, Yonkers
St. Joseph Home for the Aged, Manhattan
St. Raymond School, Bronx
- 1869 The New York Foundling Hospital, Manhattan
St. Charles Borromeo School, Brooklyn
St. Mary Academy and Free School,
Jersey City, N.J.
- 1876 Sacred Heart School, Staten Island
St. Patrick School, York, Pa.

Cont'd, see page 15

A Place of Hope

By Mary Mc Cormick, SC

Outreach to immigrant families has always been a priority for the New York Sisters of Charity. Compassionate and effective efforts in education, health care, and social services enabled our Congregation to reflect the gospel imperative of loving service to all in need, especially those seeking a place of refuge for themselves and their children.

Casa de Esperanza, a multi-service center in Southwest Yonkers, is an example of such outreach.

Responding to the call of Vision 2000, Sisters Jean Bocian, Terese McElroy, and a cadre of Sister and lay volunteers began Casa literally on a shoestring budget and a prayer. Their dream was to provide a place of “Esperanza—hope—” to women and men eager to learn the language and customs of what they hoped would become a place of belonging for themselves and their children. Many had fled from countries where systemic violence and poverty were their daily realities.

Casa provides a safe space for immigrant parents to learn English and receive help with immigration issues. It’s a place where Sisters Jean and Terese are a listening and respectful presence to the adult learners who try to cope with their worries and problems in a land that is alien and sometimes hostile to them.

“Cottage industries” and food preparation provide outlets for the creativity of many women who come to the program, as well as a small monetary remuneration for their labor.

Casa is one of a long line of initiatives started by Sisters of Charity since their beginning efforts in New York City to be of service to our immigrant sisters and brothers. It is a place of welcome and loving service.

Casa is well named, for above all it is *a place of hope*.



Top left: Sr. Jean Bocian; **below:** Sr. Terese McElroy teaches English as a second language; **Above top:** students from Sarah Lawrence College participate in Casa de Esperanza programs; **above:** Mary Cryan volunteers her time at Casa to teach English as a second language.

Right Foot Left Foot

By Margaret Egan, SC



There are two beautifully crafted statues that have meaningful connection with New York City. One of these is the Statue of Liberty, generous gift of France, now located in New York Harbor. The other is a sculpted statue of Elizabeth Seton, entitled *Hazard Yet Forward*, designed and created by Sister Margaret Beaudette, Sister of Charity of New York. Both statues share a striking commonality.

What is this striking commonality? Notice the right foot of the Statue of Liberty (*Lady Liberty*) and the Left foot of Elizabeth Seton (*The Strong Lady**). Each foot is in mid-stride. Both statues depict a determined movement—onward and outward. Each provides a message of compassionate urgency to all who reflect upon its amazing beauty.

In 2017 Dave Eggers** wrote a children's book that portrays a powerful message of compassionate love for all. In Egger's book the illustrator, Shawn Harris, highlights a possibly unnoticed feature of the Statue of Liberty. Upon close view, one can see that the right foot of the statue is in mid-stride...moving, not stationary. Lady Liberty cannot wait to welcome the "...tired and poor and huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Instead of waiting, there is courageous outreach and, as the author noted, "...unwillingness to rest." Not only does "she" welcome the needy to her shores; she moves forward...out to the sea to meet all.



In 1997 Sr. Margaret Beaudette (dec. March 5, 2017) sculptured a statue of Elizabeth Seton that portrayed a powerful message of compassionate love for all. Upon close view of the statue, *Hazard Yet Forward*, one can see that the left foot of the statue is in mid-stride...moving, not stationary. The Strong Lady cannot wait to reach out to God's people—those who are tired, poor, yearning to be free. Instead of waiting, there is courageous outreach and unwillingness to rest. Not only does she embrace those who are needy, but she moves forward...out to all.

Let us draw inspiration from the symbolism present in both artistic creations—one representing the love and gratitude of one nation for another, as well as a responsive reaching out to all in need, the other representing the mission of loving, determined outreach specific to all who share the spirit and mission of charity. More importantly, both statues represent the call to all God's people to love courageously and compassionately.

** Eggers, D. (2017). *Her Right Foot*. Chronicle Books LLC.

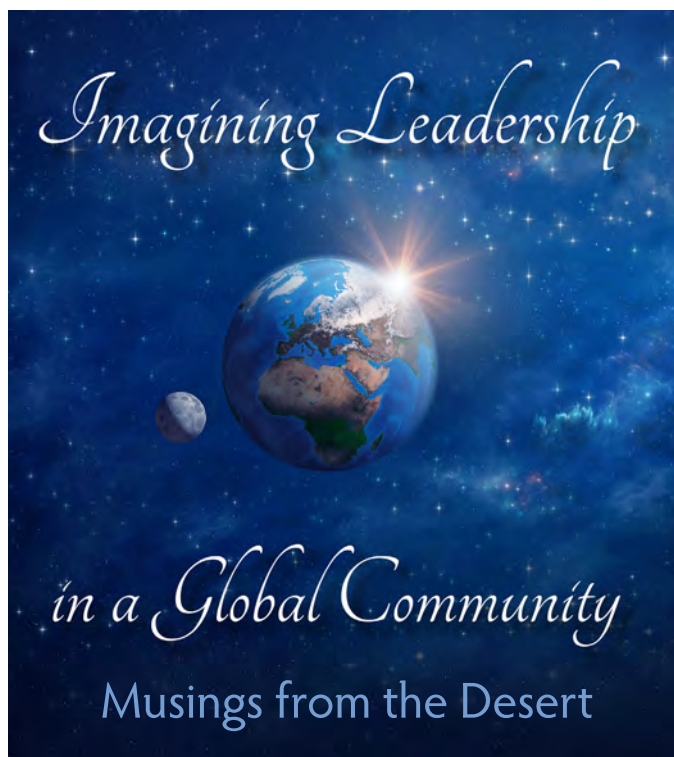
* Hann, C. (2017). *The Strong Lady*. Seton Hall Magazine

In August 2019, approximately 1,800 of the 1,350 members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in the United States gathered in Scottsdale, Ariz., for their annual conference. Founded in 1956, the Conference assists its members in carrying out their service of leadership to further the Gospel mission in today's world.

A significant effort is being made by the Conference to move in new directions because our world is increasingly marked by pluralism, complexity, and almost instantaneous communication. The global scene tests the very meaning and purpose of religious life. Pervasive malnutrition, daily struggles for the basics of life, destruction of life and livelihood, pollution, war, millions of trafficked women and children are just a few of the areas that call for our solidarity and action.

The membership of LCWR has changed dramatically in recent years, reflecting the fact that in many congregations, members have become culturally diverse. The spirit has been expansive in sharing the gift of new charisms in the United States and throughout the world. Sisters are discovering creative ways to share the charism of vowed life and ministry, while being faithful to the charism of distinctive foundations.

Sister Pat Murray, IBVM, the keynote speaker, suggests that "widening the tents of your heart" is a helpful image for



religious life today. This image speaks of both flexibility and rootedness, unbounded hospitality, and secure identity. She concurs with Pope Francis in his encouragement to be a church which moves out to new frontiers, to a wounded landscape, to the borderlands. In our contemplation, in our prayers, in our outreach, we need to live prophetically in the in-between space where we can carry people across the divides of culture, religion, gender, race, and ethnicity.

Sister Pat urges us to understand religious life in the United States from the perspective of the Pascal Mystery, the passion, death, and resurrection, at a personal and organizational level. How might sisters grow more

deeply connected to the global sisterhood? What does it mean to live without frontiers and be at a crossroad today? How can we be present physically and spiritually in today's borderlands?

Above all, do we believe that God is preparing the way for something new in our lives, in the life of the world?

Participants concluded that ultimately, you and I are being called to be communities of change, faithful to the ongoing and unending quest for God in this changing place and time. The journey continues, and God's grace accompanies us.

The desert flourishes even in the intensity of August heat!

By Sheila Brosnan, SC

New Novillero Lab Honors Sisters

Dr. José Miguel Vásquez, director of the medical clinics in Sololá, shared photos of their new laboratory in Novillero. The added equipment allows for greater efficiency in diagnosing and treating patients. The official dedication of the lab took place on May 31, 2019, when Sr. Mary Ann Daly, who served as Regional for the missions in Guatemala for eight years, was visiting. In appreciation for their support, the staff at the clinic hung portraits of Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Jane Iannucelli, President of the Congregation from July 2011 to July 2019.



Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto Mount Saint Vincent



Altogether, it is a spot, once seen, never to be forgotten. There candles burn constantly, and symbols of devotion and petition often speak for Mary's patrons in the form of floral bouquets, notes, and monetary offerings.

Mary's patrons are many—neighbors, returning graduates of CMSV, students, Sisters, groups that come to pray the Rosary, especially during May, men and women of all ages who come to speak to Mary of their deepest concerns. One such person, a businessman, has made a visit almost daily for 50 years. He remembers gratefully the kindness of Sr. Agnes Carmel Anduze (dec. June 19, 1969) who during the great depression met his mother there and helped her provide for the family's needs. No doubt there are many such memories in the hearts of many who share them with Mary at the grotto.

The grotto of Our Lady at Mount Saint Vincent has a long history. Dedicated on December 8, 1874, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, it is one of the oldest outdoor shrines of Our Lady in the United States. The setting of the grotto speaks of serenity, peace, and natural beauty. It is a simple gray, cave-like structure, situated on a tiny island in the center of a small pond where ducks, goldfish and frogs happily conspire under the bridge that provides access to the island.

At the center of it all, in the rough cave, are statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette. The words "I am the Immaculate Conception" stand out in gold letters, and at the foot is a tiny marble font with the inscription, "Go to the fountain and drink." A handsomely ornamented gate protects the entrance without, however, obstructing the view of the interior.

College of Mount Saint Vincent students at the grotto of Our Lady, ca. 1880–1890.

Below: The grotto as it appears on a typical summer day.



The material for this article is taken from a brochure created in ca. 1995 to raise funds for the grotto renovation. Original article by Sr. Catherine Hunt (dec. November 24, 2003).

With Love and Appreciation We Remember...

Visit our website at www.scny.org/news for complete biographies

Sister Ann Marie Lafferty, SC (*Sister Elizabeth Ann*)

Entered: 1962 • Date of Death: July 19, 2019 • Age: 78

Sister Ann Marie Lafferty spent 23 years of her ministry in elementary education as a teacher and principal. After she earned a degree in finance, she worked in the finance office at the Sisters of Charity Center and in 1992 was named Treasurer of the Congregation. Sister Ann Marie then offered her skills and service to the College of Mount Saint Vincent, first as Assistant Director in the Finance Aid Office and then as Assistant Comptroller at the College. Assuredly, she enjoyed her reconnection with students and helped many young people continue and graduate from her own alma mater. Sister Ann Marie received the religious name, Sr. Elizabeth Ann, because Elizabeth Ann Seton was beatified at the time Sr. Ann Marie was receiving the habit and religious name in 1963.



Sister Theresa Mary O'Connor, SC (*Sister Miriam Patrick*)

Entered: 1947 • Date of Death: August 23, 2019 • Age: 90

Sister Theresa served in varied ministries with 38 years in elementary education. She taught at St. Francis of Assisi, Mount Kisco; St. Margaret of Cortona, Bronx; St. John the Evangelist and Immaculate Conception, both in Manhattan, and St. Mary, Yonkers. She served as Principal at St. Margaret of Cortona and St. Peter, Haverstraw. Sister Theresa also taught Math on the high school level at York Catholic, York, PA; Cardinal Spellman and St. Barnabas, both in the Bronx. She served as Guidance Counselor at St. Raymond HS for Boys, Bronx, and Cardinal Spellman. Sister Theresa applied her Nursing Home Administration License to serve at Schervier Nursing Care Center, Bronx, and Maryknoll Nursing Home, Ossining. She followed this with fourteen years as a caregiver in her family and in volunteer work.



Sister Mary Edward Zipf, SC

Entered: 1953 • Date of Death: August 11, 2019 • Age: 84

Sister Mary Edward Zipf began more than 60 years in education as an elementary school teacher, high school teacher, and college professor. During that time she, too, was a student of doctoral studies. For 50 of those years, Sr. Mary Edward taught at the College of Mount Saint Vincent where she served as Chair of the Biology Department and Superintendent of the Science Hall. In 1990, Sr. Edward received the Sears-Roebuck Foundation "Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award." In 2010, she was the recipient of the distinguished Ad Laudem Dei medal of College of Mount Saint Vincent for her lasting contributions to the field of biology and for embodying charity in her unique spirit of giving. Above any other activity, her greatest interest rested with contact among her beloved students as a mentor.



Sister Mary Regina Caulfield, SC

Entered: 1949 • Date of Death: September 2, 2019 • Age: 90

Sister Mary Regina served 55 years of ministry in elementary education, religious education, and hospital work. In the Bronx she taught at St. Peter and Paul, Blessed Sacrament, and St. John Vianney; Elizabeth Seton Academy, in Yonkers; and five years in Nassau, Bahamas, at St. Francis Xavier and Xavier College. In 1972, she became the Director of Religious Education at St. John Vianney, Bronx. In 1979 Sr. Mary Regina began 30 years of ministry at Lincoln Hospital, Bronx, as a Patient Advocate, then as Director of Volunteers and Chaplaincy, and finally as the Associate Director of Community and Public Affairs. She received awards and citations from the Assembly of the State of New York and the Chancellor of the New York City Public Schools. The nurses at Lincoln Hospital appointed her "Honorary Nurse."



Sister Georgette Dircks, SC (*Sister Marie Campion*)

Entered: 1947 • Date of Death: August 13, 2019 • Age: 94

Sister Georgette spent 59 years in the ministry of education. For 47 years she was a classroom teacher at Cathedral HS, Manhattan; St. Gabriel, New Rochelle; Holy Cross Academy, Manhattan. Her last 30 years were spent at her alma mater, St. Barnabas High School in the Bronx, where she also served as Chair of the Religion Department. In 1997 she stepped out of the classroom and dedicated the next 12 years to volunteer services — all twelve to St. Barnabas Development Department. Concurrently, she also volunteered for eight years at Casa de Esperanza, in Yonkers, N.Y. In 2009, Sr. Georgette retired at Mount Saint Vincent Convent and in 2014 she moved to form a retirement community with her Sisters at The Jewish Home in the Bronx, first in the Assisted Living Program and then at Kittay Senior Apartments.



Mother Mary Jerome Ely

Cont'd from page 10

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| 1876 | St. Peter School, Manhattan |
| 1878 | St. Monica School, Jamaica, Queens |
| 1879 | St. James Home, Manhattan |
| | St. Vincent's Hospital, Harrison |
| 1880 | St. Boniface School, Manhattan |
| 1881 | St. Alphonsus School, Manhattan |
| | St. Joseph School, Yonkers |
| | St. Mary of the Snow School, Saugerties |
| 1882 | All Saints Academy, Manhattan |
| | St. Monica School, Manhattan |
| | St. Bernard School, Manhattan |
| 1883 | St. Joachim School, Beacon |
| | Resurrection School, Rye |
| 1884 | St. Peter School, Haverstraw |
| | St. Agatha Home, Nanuet |



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2019 Fall Luncheon at Xavier's X²O

By Mary Ann D'Antonio, SC

"A good time was had by all" was the sentiment at the sixth Annual Fall Luncheon on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at Xavier's X²O on the Hudson. Sister Donna Dodge, President of the Sisters of Charity, welcomed guests and introduced the Leadership Team who assumed their new positions on July 1.

Sister Donna reflected on why this event is wonderful: all the ministries of the Sisters of Charity benefit in some way from the funds raised at the Annual Luncheon. She added, "Please believe that we are extremely grateful for your continued support. We cannot do what we do without you." Sister Donna concluded her brief presentation with a blessing for the food and on all in attendance.

We hope you plan on joining the "good time" in September 2020!

