

Salt

Fall 2014 • A Publication of the Sisters of Charity, BVM



*Mission
Bonded in
Charism*

Mission Statement: We are the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a community of Catholic women called to live the mission of Jesus through our core values of Freedom, Education, Charity and Justice.

SALT is published three times per year for friends and family of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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2014-15 Calendar of Events

October

- 19 Mass for Benefactors, Chicago
- 15-20 Arizona Immigration Immersion, Nogales, AZ/Nogales, Mexico
- 19 Chicago Benefactors' Mass
- 25 Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Garden, Dubuque, IA

November

- 2 Mass for Benefactors, Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa
- 13 Working Boys' Center, 50th Anniversary Celebration, Quito
- 14-15 Dubuque's Got Sisters, Discernment Retreat, Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa
- 21-23 SOA Watch Vigil, Benning, Ga.

December

- 16 Mary Frances Clarke Birthday Party, Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

March/April 2015

TBD Ecuador Immersion Experience

For more information, visit:

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On the cover: This issue of **Salt** unfolds with a tribute to BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke, whose many written letters helped her to carry on the business of the BVM congregation and encourage her sisters in ministry. As you turn the pages of this magazine, you'll experience the evolution of the many ways in which words are used to continue to shape BVM mission.

SEASONing

Prepare yourself for a breathtaking tour! As you turn the pages of this issue of *Salt*, the authors will take you on a trip around the BVM world—with cultural stops in Viet Nam, China and Ecuador—and St. Paul, Minn.; Chicago; Ozora, Mo.; Los Gatos, Calif.; and Dubuque, Iowa. This issue explores the theme of our recent BVM Senate meeting: “Bonded in Charism: Breaking Open the Many Faces of Mission.”



BVM leadership team members are (l. to r.) Mira Mosle, Teri Hadro and Kate Hendel.

But first, a little history:

After Vatican Council II (1962–65) urged religious communities to return to the charism of their founders, BVMs embraced the task with openness and vigor. As a result, post-council *Constitutions* (1984) succinctly present the charism of Mary Frances Clarke:

We believe God has called us to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in community. A spirit of inner freedom, characteristic of Mary, Mother of the Church, and of Mary Frances Clarke, our foundress, continues to animate us in our mission of freedom expressed in ministries of education, justice and peace. (Constitutions #2)

The BVM Constitutions further explain:

Our choice of ministry is in keeping with our BVM mission: being freed and helping others to be free in God’s steadfast love. (Constitutions #10)

We are called to live in any part of the world where there is promise of furthering the mission of Jesus through works of education, justice and peace. (Constitutions #16)

Charism can be understood as a particular gift given by God to an individual or group for the benefit of others. In our BVM context, charism is contagious, energetic and unbounded. Charism is

contagious—we do not keep it for ourselves, but rather pass it on to others through personal contact or witness as Mary Frances Clarke and her companions did.

Charism has an energy all its own—it is at one and the same time a centering force because it draws persons together, and an outward propulsion because its nature is to be given away. Charism is unbounded—it follows the will of its initial giver (our Trinitarian God), not its earthly stewards.

The authors of the articles you are about to read illustrate how the charism of Mary Francis Clarke has propelled BVMs outward to touch lives in all parts of the world. Our charism’s centering force will be evident as you meet our golden and diamond jubilarians and read of BVM associates who’ve joined us in mission.

As for unbounded, we’re not sure how Pope Francis came into contact with the charism of Mary Frances Clarke, but author Deanna Marie Carr’s presentation of our new Pope convinces us that it may have happened!

As you read, we hope you will open your hearts to the contagious charism of Mary Francis Clarke, feel the energy of its expression in the lives of the BVMs described in the articles, and discover anew that your friendship with the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary engages you in partnership with us in mission through your friendship, prayers, encouragement and gifts.

Fasten your seatbelts, your whirlwind tour of the many faces of BVM mission is about to begin!

Teri Hadro, BVM

Mira Mosle, BVM

Kate Hendel, BVM



Pope Francis: Infallibly Making Waves!

by Deanna Carr, BVM



Last autumn, *America* magazine published “A Conversation with Pope Francis.”¹ Many will have read and pondered the exchange between the Pope and Antonio Spadaro, S.J. which quickly “went viral,” to use the expression of the day!

In the course of the exchange the Pope remarked informally on a broad range of topics including Puccini, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Marc Chagall. Though he did not mention T.S. Eliot by name, in reading and reflecting on the Spadaro interview a line from Eliot’s “Four Quartets” stubbornly persists in memory. Behind the explosion of ideas and topics, Eliot can be heard insisting: “Old men ought to be *explorers*.”²

Francis Inspires New Vision, Creativity

How different is our modern stereotype of the old! Once the productivity and accomplishment of youth and middle age begin to fade, the old tend to recede with the years and yes, to be of diminishing interest. While demographic profiling encourages useful generalizations about population, the pattern (think only of a Mary Frances Clarke, of a Nelson Mandela) tends to be more complicated than one might suppose. And then along comes a Francis: visionary, almost contagiously alive, at once amusing and profound.

If we are reflecting in this issue of *Salt* on the “bonds of a charism” we can perhaps hear the language of our BVM vocation in the language of this Jesuit contemporary and brother. If ours is a “pioneer heritage,” his is also a life lived “on the frontier”—“the border.”³ If we struggle to be attentive to the Spirit “speaking in the exigencies of the times,” Pope Francis, too, struggles to be present

to the moment, listening, discerning, bidding his time and even seeming to take a puckish pleasure in the unpredictability of his lifelong quest!

For those “of a certain age,” the language of this papacy challenges one to fresh depths of thought, to more creative and productive use of one’s flagging energies, to a daring excavation of new roads despite the rugged terrain and that annoying touch of sciatica. The explorer-Pope embraces the prophetic nature of the religious vocation, wryly admitting that it is not always entirely in sync with the institutional agenda. If there is bound to be tension, then let the tension be resolved in ways that demonstrate openness, respect for differences, and a holy passion for giving love an edge over judgment.

Church, Community Can Flourish Through Exploration

Using a familiar scriptural image, Pope Francis likens the charism of women and men in religious communities to yeast. What is needed on the part of both the institutional church and the charismatic community is not a cautiously scripted dialogue but genuine ferment. Frank exchange. No matter if this occasionally results in a mess. In the long run, the church will thrive upon the bonds forged from the DNA of community charisms and the stability of structure. (A Pope who is both Jesuit and Pontiff walks a fine line indeed!)

Those close to Pope Francis sometimes mention the impact Pedro Arrupe had upon him in the years following the Second Vatican Council. In the 1970s, at a particularly critical time of his life, Jorge Mario Bergoglio encountered the “short, wiry,” Basque,⁴ 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus. The defining experience of Arrupe’s life had been Hiroshima. He was there. Bergoglio was in the process of being humbled and shaped by his own

defining experiences. From Arrupe he heard: “What is it to be a Jesuit? It is to know that one is a sinner, yet called to be a companion of Jesus . . .”⁵ As all must eventually do, Bergoglio faced his own truth. Might I be tethered to a course of action that could limit my freedom to follow Jesus? What of the prophetic voice, the leaven, the seed? In those post Vatican II years he was being led, Eliot might say, “Into another intensity, for a further union, a deeper communion.”⁶

If this is a particularly troubling time in society, in the church, among religious—in these times Pope Francis reminds companions of Jesus of all stripes and generations that the call of baptism, of religious profession, is lifelong. It requires enduring faith, creativity, an occasional change of course, and fresh resolve with fluctuations of the barometer and the compass. But the beckoning Spirit persists, calling us to step lively; to act. The bonds of charism nudge us to “initiate processes not just occupy spaces.”⁷ We could do worse than to walk in the company of an old man who is an explorer!

Notes:

¹ Antonio Spadaro, “A Big Heart Open to God,” *America*, Sept. 30, 2013, 15-38.

² T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets* (New York: Harcourt Inc. 1943), 32.

³ Spadaro, *op. cit.*, 36.

⁴ Steven V. Sundborg, SJ, “Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J.: The Man Who Was There,” (Mass for the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Pedro Arrupe, Seattle University, Seattle WA, Nov. 18, 2007), 1.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 1.

⁶ Eliot, *op. cit.*, 32.

⁷ Spadaro, *op. cit.*, 30.

About the author: Deanna Marie Carr, BVM (Bernita) lives in Dubuque, Iowa, and is assistant archivist in the Mount Carmel BVM Archives.



BVMs Explore the Changing Faces of Mission

by Mary Martens, BVM

Quaker Rufus Jones wrote, "I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles in which vital and transforming events take place." In mid-July, 98 BVM Senate members and 100-plus other BVMs and associates gathered in Dubuque, Iowa, to focus on the theme **"Bonded in Charism: Breaking Open the Many Faces of Mission."**

Celebrate, Discuss, Decide

It was around circular tables of six or eight persons over a five-day period that each day began with reflective prayer, music and symbols, all nuanced in preparation for the day's agenda. Scriptures and the letters of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke held a prominent place, while prayer and music asked, "O living breath of God, awaken us . . . to trust, to hope, to joy, to risk, to dream . . ."

Captions:

Senate continued on page 6.



All who were present entered into deep discussions which explored a changing concept of mission. They listened as BVM leadership issued an inspirational call “to move into the future responsive to the Spirit speaking in the exigencies of the times,” expressed in BVM *Constitutions*.

Current Congregational Representatives provided a question and answer session in preparation for an election process to begin in the fall. Senators, acting as the “living voice” of the congregation, dealt with congregational affairs and policy decisions. Formulations for a corporate stance against violence and human trafficking were approved. (See sidebar.)

Special celebrations included a community-led liturgy on July 16, feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and a Saturday evening Eucharistic liturgy on July 19. Following the Mass, a reception hosted by the BVM development office welcomed former BVMs and friends.

Realize Potential

The Senate of 2014 was facilitated by Mary B. Jordan, FMSA (Franciscan Missionary Sister of Africa). She began with a quote attributed to the medieval mystic Hildegard of Bingen, “At birth, our divine potential is folded up in us like a tent. It is our life purpose to unfold that tent.” Stressing the importance of “presence” to self, others and God, Mary encouraged each participant to “unfold the tent of potential” individually and congregation-

ally by being grounded in prayer, giving to and receiving from others, appreciating relationships and hospitality, moving from “doing” toward “being”—in a word, being present, and listening to the wisdom of the group.

Asked to define “mission” using artwork rather than words, each person used colored markers to draw a personal representation of mission; each table then combined the individual images into a poster-size drawing. When all drawings had been mounted on the walls, participants viewed and described what they saw. Mission had been imaged as sourced in, and connected with God; it was symbolized as energetic, involving everyone, and radiating outward or upward through

circles and spirals; it was depicted as being inclusive and driven by BVM core values of freedom, education, charity and justice.

Images of mission in today’s world were different from what might have been drawn 40 years ago. All involved in the process agreed that BVMs have become more attentive to gifts of the heart and have embraced a broader world view than might have been true of the congregation in years past.

God’s Mission is BVM Mission

BVM President Teri Hadro and Vice-presidents Mira Mosle and Kate Hendel shared their own reflections on mission in what has become known as the “Team Talk.” Taking their cue from a recently published book entitled *God’s Mission and*



Post Modern Culture: The Gift of Uncertainty by John Sivalon, the three chose “to focus on how we live into the future from this moment on in this ever-changing world, and to explore a notion of mission that balances ‘being in mission’ with ‘doing mission.’”

The mission is God’s, rooted in the Trinity. Participants in the mission of God respond, according to Sivalon, “stepping forward as messengers without certainty, but with faith and imagination to grasp the unfolding mystery of the Trinity in creation and history.” For BVMs, this means appreciating the importance of relationships and being able to trust God enough to live without fear of the future.

It is Sivalon’s thesis that mission is the presence that communicates the love of the Trinity, and that contemplation is the portal to understanding mission. Discerning God’s will for the congregation in contemplative prayer was a familiar concept for Mary Frances Clarke. It remains so for her sisters today.

‘Gift of Uncertainty’ Inspires Faith, Trust

Alert to contemporary reality, BVMs have an understanding of the dimensions of human suffering locally and globally. Reality includes diminishing numbers and an aging of membership, and yet mission remains a dynamic, exciting reality because it is grounded in the self-giving love of the Trinity.

Reflections and discussion following the talk focused around embracing “the gift of uncertainty,” as BVMs open their imaginations to receive answers perhaps not expected. Contemplation can be understood as “a great letting-go” in the face of risking change in everything. There is even “the gift of death” which, in a death-denying culture can give witness to a death-accepting life, both individually and communally. In all situations, BVM mission is a call to show God’s love to others in ordinary and simple ways.

Together, the Leadership Team and participants affirmed that “From this moment on as BVMs and associates we witness and proclaim: We will see our mission as participation in God’s mission.”

About the author: Mary Martens, BVM (Loras) lives in Dubuque, Iowa. She serves on the board of National Farm Workers Ministry (NFWM) and is the BVM representative for the Loretto Community Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

BVM Associate Reaches Milestone

On the opening evening of the Senate, Associate Co-Coordinator Nancy McCarville Nancy acknowledged Tess Malumphy for her 40 years of being a BVM associate.



On being an associate, Tess shares, “I am so very grateful for the many, many gifts BVM association has given me. I have learned how much God loves me, just as I am. I am truly blessed!”



Senate participants affirmed their commitment to nonviolence and human trafficking.

Nonviolence is a value lived by Jesus and his faithful followers. Reading the signs of the times, BVMs grieve the level of violence throughout the world. Therefore, “The Sisters of Charity, BVM affirm

our belief in and our commitment to nonviolence, striving to deepen our vision of nonviolence and sharing that vision with others . . .” articulates the intent of a statement on nonviolence.

The practice of human trafficking worldwide is violent, inhumane and incompatible with Gospel values. Therefore, “The Sisters of Charity, BVM in accordance with our mission and core values oppose the trafficking of human persons for any purpose whatsoever. We stand in solidarity with all who work to eliminate this tragic evil . . .” summarizes the statement against trafficking.



A Time for Celebration!

On Saturday evening the Development Office hosted a social for BVMs, former BVMs and associates. Following liturgy, guest celebrated the opportunity to reconnect with one another.

More coming...



'Family of Families' Celebrates Fifty Years

by Judy Callahan, BVM



Working Boys' Centers Provide:

- Basic education from preschool through adult
- Skilled job training in high demand trades for youths and adults
- Three daily meals, six days a week, for 2,000 people
- Bathing facilities
- Medical and dental care
- Religious instruction and faith sharing for all members
- Cooperative house construction
- Opportunities for family socialization and recreation
- Daily liturgy and celebrations of religious and other cultural events

In 2014 the Working Boys' Center (WBC)

—A Family of Families, in Quito, Ecuador, celebrates 50 years of ministry, helping to “transform lives from poverty to prosperity.” A three-day event marking this milestone and honoring the founders, volunteers, workers and supporters was held at Marquette University in Milwaukee Aug. 8–10.

Quito, the capital of Ecuador, lies in a 35-mile long, sprawling valley and has a population of over 3 million, with pockets of incredible poverty.

In 1964, John Halligan, SJ began a ministry—the Working Boys' Center, for shoeshine boys in the center of Quito—boys who were not in school because their work was needed to sustain the family or they could not afford books, supplies and uniforms.

In 1967, Mary Miguel Conway, BVM joined him, and they initiated a ministry in the attic of La Compañía Church, where the boys received meals, basic education, and medical care. The two learned, however, that in order to have success, they needed to work with the entire family. Thus, in 1974, the mission became the WBC—A Family of Families.

Education, Job Training Eliminate Cycle of Poverty

The Center serves more than 400 families of working children annually at three locations in Quito. As a result of its program, over 30,000 individuals have left poverty behind. Students work in the Center's own shops and stores—learning all aspects of the bakery and restaurant trades, and training in the fields of cosmetology, carpentry, metal mechanics, auto mechanics, toy-making, industrial sewing, and sales and marketing. The

education and technical job training provided are designed to equip families with self-reliance skills that empower them and succeeding generations.

In its 50-year history, the WBC has been generously supported by the BVM congregation, not only financially but also by the personal service of BVMs. Many sisters have visited since its inception and others have served in longer ministries at the Center and creatively contributed services and ideas.

Innovations Reflect BVM Commitment to WBC

BVMs have been instrumental in shaping various programs at WBC and promoting the Center's mission to serve working children and their families. Some highlights include:

- 1971:** Anna Priester, BVM (Joseph Ann) initiated an art education program.
- 1973:** Miguel Conway, BVM and Peace Corps volunteers introduced an adult education program.
- 1974:** Cindy Sullivan, BVM, then a Peace Corps volunteer, originated a program for girls. Four years later, she entered the congregation, and returned in 1981 as Center director, a position she still serves in today.
- 1981:** “Longer-term” BVMs arrived to minister at the Center: Julia Pittman (Adelma), Peggy Nolan (Timothy Maura), former BVM Frances (“Nan”) Aid, Theresa Gleeson (Dorothy), and Paulette Skiba.
- 1982:** Judy Callahan, BVM (Eugene Mary) and Nan Aid started a technical education and English program for girls. Evelyn Romero, a lay volunteer, initiated the cosmetology program.
- 1983:** Peggy Nolan introduced a faith sharing program which has evolved into a community wide faith reflection program for children, teens and adults.
- 1984:** BVM Sheila O'Brien (Mary Trea)'s efforts helped to achieve legalization of



The Immersion Experience: Bridging the Generations

by Associate Kimberly Emery

My teenaged daughter Lucy and I recently returned from a BVM-sponsored immersion trip to Ecuador. We were one of three mother-daughter pairs making this journey. Our hope was that the experience in Ecuador would allow us to grow spiritually, to better understand the difficult economic conditions others face daily, to explore a new culture, and to support the work of the BVM sisters ministering in Quito and Guayaquil. In the end, this eight-day trip brought the two of us together in ways that we never expected, as we witnessed and supported those living the BVM charism.

Our time in Quito was spent at the Working Boys' Center (WBC), which for the past 50 years has provided services to poor working children as well as their families. During our stay in Quito we participated in a minga (house building) and learned firsthand the realities of being poor including long bus rides, no running water or electricity, and many people sharing a cramped space.

In Guayaquil we had the privilege of visiting Damien House, which serves people suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy). There we were able to connect with the patients and discover how they find joy in their lives even as they live with a chronic disease.

the adult education program.

BVMs Saskia Alquina Cahuatijo, Eileen McGovern (James Leone), LuAnn Brown, Ann Credidio, Roberta Anne White (Caritas) and others provided significant contributions in short and long term ministries in Quito. Saskia was the first Eucadorian to enter the congregation.

For many years, Katherine Ann Beckman, BVM (Leonardette) regaled everyone she knew with her creative fundraising. Students at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, where Katharine ministered in various roles, barely finished drinking a can of pop before she whisked it off for recycling for Quito! And no one got special rates for the Ecuadorian artisan products that she sold for WBC benefits.

Mary Marius Mei, BVM was tireless in her fundraising efforts, presenting talks about WBC in various parts of the country.

Hundreds of young people devoted one to three years of volunteer service at WBC, and now carry this experience and concern for the poor forward in their own lives. They and their children act as leavening agents in raising consciousness of the marginalized throughout the world. Who can measure the effects of this kind of reverse mission?

Echoing the words of Pope Francis—" . . . organizations should instead work to create the social conditions that will promote and protect the rights of the poor and enable them to be the builders of their own future"—the WBC demonstrates a track record of helping over 6,000 families and their succeeding generations escape the cycle of poverty.

About the author: Judy Callahan, BVM (Eugene Mary) lives in Dubuque, Iowa, and serves as information technology volunteer tutor at Mount Carmel. She is the BVM representative on the Board of the WBC.

Service Inspires Self-Examination, New Perspectives

Watching how individuals and families, through the services provided by the Working Boys' Center and Damien House, were able to reclaim their dignity and make better lives for themselves inspired us to reconsider our own lives. We questioned what was most important to us, examined our prejudices, and fought to overcome our cultural biases.

The work of the dedicated volunteers and our own participation in the minga taught us about compassion, empathy, gratitude and responsibility to others. These are experiences that will stay with us and inspire us throughout our lives. We both learned that even small contributions make a difference in the lives of others. After returning home from Ecuador, Lucy wanted to support the work of Damien House, so she donated her birthday money to the clinic in Guayaquil. She also talks of returning there as a yearlong volunteer after she graduates from college.

Participating in an immersion trip is an enriching way to spend time together as a family. The experience gave us new perspectives, provided positive role models, and encouraged an ethic of service. As a mother-daughter team we had the opportunity to bond through volunteer work in a place and culture very different from our own.

The trip changed our lives in many ways. We each learned something different, but encountered it together. Lucy's eyes were opened to fresh possibilities for her future and she gained a greater appreciation for what she has. Immersing ourselves in another culture allowed us to find new meaning in our lives and to share community in an alternative way.

About the author: Associate Kimberly Emery lives in Charlottesville, Va., and is assistant dean at the University of Virginia Law School.



BVM Dream Realized in Chinese Sisters' Visit

by Patricia M. Bombard, BVM



"I used to think of leadership as a burden. I was angry that I had been chosen to lead. Now I see it as a gift, a blessing through which I can grow to be a better person and improve all of my relationships."

That is how one of the 24 Catholic sisters from China summed up her four-week experience as a participant in the Chinese Leadership Initiative (CLI) held at DePaul University in Chicago June 21–July 19.



The group of sisters, most of whom range in age from 40–51, are leaders in their respective congregations, located in and around Beijing, with a few from other parts of China. Their congregations range in size from 15 to nearly 300 members. Most of the congregations were founded in the 1990s, following the establishment of an open door policy by the Chinese government.

The sisters' experience is part of a multi-year initiative coordinated by Patricia Bombard, BVM, and Hugh O'Donnell, a member of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincetians). The program is now in its third year. In 2012, the CLI hosted 12 priests and in 2013 another 18 priests at DePaul. This year, the CLI received a BVM Ministry Grant to support hosting the sisters.

CLI Rekindles Historic Mission Bonds

The opportunity for involvement in CLI by the BVMs helps to fulfill a mid-20th century dream to assist the Catholic Church in China, and also renews a partnership with the Vincetians that dates back to 1883.

China was on the mind of Mother Mary Gervase Tuffy, BVM, and Mother Mary Josita Baschnagel, BVM, who both attempted to send BVMs as missionaries to China. The BVM archives contain correspondence beginning in 1937 between Mother Mary Gervase and Rev. Ralph Reilly, OFM, toward an agreement to open a school in Shasi, China, in 1938. Their plans were thwarted by the Japanese-Chinese War.

In a letter dated May 22, 1948, Mother Mary Josita wrote again to Rev. Reilly of the fervor for China that continued in the community: "Ever since the correspondence on this subject was opened in 1937, Shasi has been the center of many community aspirations and hopes." She assured Rev. Reilly of the many "volunteers for China" listed in community files. However, in the intervening years, the community had established missions dedicated "to the expansion of our work for Negro children" and two new schools in Hawaii. The demands of these efforts as well as the continued political chaos in China, explained Mother Josita, led her to now withdraw the offer to staff the Shasi school.

Vincentian and BVM Connections Renewed

Meanwhile, since 1883 in the Chicago area, BVMs had staffed the elementary and high school at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Lincoln Park, founded by the Vincentians. The high school closed in 1921 after the opening of The Immaculata HS, but BVMs staffed the elementary school until 1976.

The Vincentians have a long history in China, dating back to 1699. Following the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, all foreign missionaries were expelled from Mainland China, and indigenous religious congregations were disbanded.

In 1994, following the inception of the Chinese government's open door policy, some religious congregations were revived and new ones established. Shortly thereafter, Hugh O'Donnell, CM, who grew up in St. Vincent de Paul Parish and proudly admits to being taught by the BVMs ("The BVMs sent 70 boys to the Vincentians from that school."), joined his congregation's Asian Province, living and ministering in Taiwan. He is now the Vincentian liaison to China and divides

his time between Taiwan and Mainland China.

Prior to attending the CLI, the sisters were asked to fill out a survey aimed at identifying their experiences of success and disappointment; joys and sorrows; hopes and challenges; desires for themselves as leaders and for their sisters as religious; and finally on specific areas of desired growth. Their challenges fell into three areas: affirming their religious identity, finding their place in the church, and finding their place in a socialist society.

During their first week in Chicago, Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM, led the sisters in conversations related to religious life and identity. Patricia Bombard, BVM led them in conversations on the spiritual and relational challenges of leadership. Grace Chen and Kevin McClone, both adjunct professors at Catholic Theological Union (CTU), helped the sisters explore community building, self-care and pastoral ministry.

Afternoons, evenings and weekends included conversations with other religious women, visits to local congregational motherhouses and ministry sites,

and tours of Chicago, St. Louis and the University of Notre Dame. Fr. Francis Li, pastor of St. Theresa Chinese Mission in Chicago's Chinatown, organized visits with parishioners and other exchange outings.

A surprise outcome of the summer program this year at DePaul was an invitation for Pat to come to Beijing in late August. As a result of Pat's leadership presentations to the Chinese sisters, she was asked to serve as facilitator for one of the Chinese congregation's retreats prior to their elections.

In addition to DePaul University and the Vincentians, the CLI is co-sponsored by the Faith Institute for Cultural Studies, founded by Fr. John Baptist Zhang, in Shijiazhuang, Hebei, China. Fr. Zhang is also the founder and director of Faith Press and the Catholic Social Service Center, Jinde Charities, which is the first Catholic non-governmental organization (NGO) in China.

About the author: Patricia M. Bombard, BVM lives in Brookfield, Ill., and is director of Vincent on Leadership: The Hay Project at DePaul University and program director of the Chinese Leadership Initiative.

Vietnamese Sisters: Making New Friends at Mount Carmel



Lien Nguyen, LHC (l.) and Xuan Tran, LHC (r.) work Rita Mary Zander, BVM (Magdalene) while doing "Cut-ups."

Two Vietnamese religious sisters from Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa, visited Mount Carmel on their summer break. Lien Nguyen, LHC and Sr. Xuan Tran, LHC are both working for a degree in intercultural studies at the missionary-oriented, coeducational seminary comprised of many international students. When they return to Divine Word in the fall, Lien will be a junior and Xuan a sophomore.

Lien shared, "Sisters warmly welcomed us and we enjoyed talking and laughing with them." Xuan adds, "I love the community life and peacefulness of Mount Carmel. Sisters here are like my sisters in Vietnam."

While at Mount Carmel, the sisters slipped easily into the resident sisters' daily routines, joining the cut-ups group in making decorations, working in the courtyard garden, dining and visiting with various sisters and volunteering for any odd jobs that beckoned. With their surplus of energy, enthusiasm and love, they made new friends at every turn.

After Lien and Xuan receive their bachelor's degrees, they will return to Vietnam to serve in ministry in their home country.

Sacred Heart Students: 'Alive in Christ'

by Mary Nolan, BVM

After returning from a sabbatical in Ireland in 2000, Agnes Marie ("Dee Dee") Keena, BVM (Richard Agnes) interviewed for the principal/teacher position at Sacred Heart School in the small rural town of Ozora, Mo. Opened in 1898, the little school on a hill, surrounded by a corn-field and a cemetery, served the farming community for 116 years.

When asked what her first impression of Sacred Heart School was, Dee Dee says, "I saw beauty and possibility in the place." As she drove away that day, she adds that she "fell in love with the idea of being a part of the community."

Field Trips Teach Students 'Community'

Fourteen years later, Dee Dee celebrates her ministry, made visible in the lives of her students, teachers and families. Her motto, inspired by Mary Frances Clarke, is "Always listen to the voices of the children." Her mission was to continue the school and instill in the students the mantra, "Alive in Christ." Dee Dee and the faculty, consisting of two lay teachers, dedicated themselves to carrying out this goal in ways that were visible, transformative and service-oriented. In addition to providing an excellent learning environment, Dee Dee recalls two activities offered that the children loved: a field trip and quilt-making.

The entire school, 15 students and three teachers, shared a field trip to a neighboring farm that harvests sap to make maple syrup. Walking through the woods, they saw hundreds of buckets hanging from trees. The farmer showed them how he taps the trees without harm-



ing them. Each person tasted the sap as it came out of the tree and then they watched him boil it. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of pancake syrup! And one tree might yield 10 gallons of sap in a month. As they were leaving the farm, the children each received a jar of maple syrup, prompting one student to say, "God sure knows how to surprise us!"

Dee Dee discovered that many of the women in the parish quilted. She invited them to teach the fifth graders. First they learned to do cross-stitching for the parish quilt social. After a lot of practice and encouragement, each student was given a block of material to create their own cross-stitch pattern on, reflecting something about themselves. After finishing the individual pieces, a quilting frame was set up where they learned from mothers, grandmothers and great aunts how to quilt!

As they quilted, Dee Dee talked about what it takes to create a quilt and compared it to life's journey: "Look at all the shapes, colors and designs that are appearing; each different; each beautiful; each unique. Sometimes it's easy to push the needle through and sometimes it's not. Life, with its ups and downs, is like this. Fingers get pricked and thimbles become good friends." Whether the learning

experience was collecting sap for syrup or stitching a quilt, the children learned community.

BVM Changes Hats

Due to demographic changes, Sacred Heart School, kindergarten through grade five, closed at the end of the 2013–14 school year. But as families, parishioners, friends and BVMs gathered at the closing school Mass, they witnessed students equipped with a strong educational foundation, wearing "God's Team" caps, receiving award medals, and preparing to go forth to proclaim their mantra, "Alive in Christ," to other schools in Ozora.

Agnes Marie will wear a new hat in the fall, serving as pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Parish, working with Father Jim Schaefer, pastor. Looking ahead, she says, "I hope to engage parishioners in deepening their prayer lives and reaching out beyond our parish to people in need. Who knows, maybe the children's annual Christmas cantata, inspired by my Xavier HS teacher, Frances Dolan, BVM (Franciscus), might grow into a parish cantata."

About the author: Mary Nolan, BVM (Patricia Mary) lives in St. Louis and ministers as a home care companion.



WEEC Closes, BVM Values Continue

by Marion Murphy, BVM

The Sisters of Charity, BVM have been a presence in Chicago since 1867, when they opened St. Aloysius School in Holy Family Parish at the invitation of Fr. Arnold Damen, SJ. BVMs continue to minister in Holy Family Parish to the present day.

From its beginning in 1981, Westside Employment Education Center (WEEC), an outreach of Holy Family Parish, has had a long relationship with BVMs, through personnel and later, sponsored ministry. Many dedicated sisters have taught at “Westside” and served on its Corporate Board through the years, fostering BVM core values of charity, education, freedom and justice—helping to improve the quality of life for economically and educationally disadvantaged adults of Chicago’s Westside.

Education, Job Skills a Priority

Program focus changed as needs changed. BVM Kathleen Doherty (Patrick Louis), one of the Center’s founders through her ministry at Holy Family Parish, began classes for women who had graduated from high school, but needed additional clerical skills to obtain employment. Another focus was on “job clubs” for persons in the Westside public housing development as they searched for employment. Basic education skills and preparation for the GED exam were crucial. An English as Second Language (ESL) pro-

gram was later added for a few years. For over a decade, classes were taught in the former St. Aloysius convent, the home of many BVMs in 1903 and following years.

Westside moved from St. Aloysius convent to the Holy Family Campus of Children of Peace School in 1995, and became a BVM-sponsored ministry in 1996, supported for a number of years with BVM ministry grants. Holy Family Campus closed in 2001. BVMs continued the Westside ministry at this site until 2005, when Westside returned to the St. Aloysius convent location.

Over the last 33 years, BVMs Francilla Kirby, Marion Murphy (John Patrice), Otilie Sana and Mary Angela Buser were dedicated longtime volunteers. Other BVMs, associates, and other religious volunteered in this outreach ministry over the years. Collaboration with lay women and men has also been a vital part of WEEC. Many talented and experienced educators have shared their goodness and gifts as clerical workers and tutors.

BVM Jacquelyn Rice (Vianney) served on the Corporate Board for 11 years, succeeding BVMs Diane O’Donnell (Joanella) and Mary Ellen Zimmerman (Ellenmae). BVM Barbara Gaul (Charles Mary) has served on the Board of Directors for the past three years, replacing Kathleen Doherty in that role.

One Era Ends, New One Begins

The number of students from the parish area has recently declined, although staff and volunteers increased recruiting efforts. At the same time, WEEC began enrolling students from Mercy Home for Boys, located just a short distance away.

These young men had numerous needs served by WEEC.

At the May 2014 Board meeting, after considering the above factors and noting that the number of neighborhood residents would not likely increase, the Westside Board of Directors made the decision to close WEEC. The Board’s unanimous decision to close came “after a lengthy evaluation of the program that included many positives, as well as current and future concerns,” Jacquelyn Rice says. Expressing gratitude to all whose dedication, expertise and compassion have enabled countless adults to reach educational and life skills milestones, she notes, “This has been an enriching and life giving ministry for all involved.”

Board members believed that Mercy Home would have other options for their young men. However, when WEEC volunteers learned of the Board’s decision, they expressed their willingness to tutor students from Mercy Home. Mercy personnel were pleased, and John Chandler, of St. Ignatius College Preparatory, which owns the building that WEEC uses, agreed that Mercy Home could continue to use the current space.

Thus the BVM charism and core values will remain alive in the space that began as home to BVMs in 1903, living out the words of Mary Frances Clarke, “If God is served, it is no matter by whom.”

About the author: Marion Murphy, BVM (John Patrice) lives in Chicago and has ministered with Holy Family Parish and WEEC since 1995. She currently volunteers with the Holy Family Parish Food Pantry.





Our Lady of Peace: Engendering Lives of Mission

by Associate Mary Maas

In the spring of 1951, I completed fifth grade in the “old” St. Luke Grade School in St. Paul, Minn. During that summer, the Sisters of Charity, BVM prepared the classrooms for high school-aged young women. That fall, 115 freshmen began their high school careers at Our Lady of Peace (OLP). A new wing was added in 1953. By the time I entered in the fall of 1954, it was the first time OLP had all four classes.

The sisters and teachers at OLP saw potential in me that I hadn’t even dreamed of, inspiring and encouraging me. I loved the sisters and their zest for life. The August after graduation, I took the train to Dubuque, Iowa, and joined the BVMs—continuing my relationship with faith-filled, spirit-filled women.

On Aug. 9, the BVMs sponsored an OLP all school reunion in St. Paul at the William Mitchell College of Law. Congregation President Teri Hadro, BVM (class of ’64), provided the welcome for over 500 alumnae. I had the opportunity to interview three graduates of OLP who shared the influence that OLP has had on their lives.

Lifelong Learning Fosters Ministries



Susan Coler, BVM was known during her high school years as “Sue.” She graduated from OLP in 1966. Inspired by the OLP faculty’s sense of mission and relationships,

Susan, too, wanted to be an energetic and mission-oriented woman. She was encouraged to be “someone more than I thought I could be” and entered the BVMs in 1966.

Susan says that “OLP gave me a solid foundation for lifelong learning.” While recently in Dubuque, Iowa, for a BVM meeting, Susan visited with one of her

former teachers, Mary John Thomas Hackett, who taught her Latin. Susan told her how she uses her Latin every day in her current ministry as a lawyer.

Besides the influence of Latin, Susan recognized that she learned how to think and write well. In theology classes, she was taught how to understand and interpret Scripture. And through the opportunities of art history, music, drama classes and film studies, she developed a sensitive appreciation of the arts. Encouraged to hone and expand her musical skills, Susan majored in music, which she taught for three years at Xavier HS in St. Louis, and for 10 years at Mundelein College in Chicago.



Faith, Self, Community Instilled

Pauline Elizabeth Zibley graduated in 1970 from OLP. “Overall, my education at OLP opened my

eyes to a much broader world,” she says. “Coming together with other young women from other communities in the Twin Cities introduced me to a very diverse group of friends.”

Pauline feels that her OLP education helped her to find relevance in her life for spirituality, faith and religious practice. “My faith has helped me through some very difficult times as well as helping me to recognize and be thankful for the blessings in my life,” she shares. OLP taught Pauline that if she applied herself, she could do anything. “This lesson carried into my career aspirations . . . I was never hesitant to prove that I was capable of more and was fortunate to work for people and companies that allowed me the freedom to perform and rewarded me for it,” she says.

She also felt a strong sense of community in many of her OLP activities. “This has carried through my own personal life as I have been involved in the American

Heart Association Heart Walk, the Annual Pink Swing Golf Tournament, coaching sports for Special Olympics, and was past president of the Women’s Club at Guardian Angel Parish.”

Worldview Perspective



Alumna Patricia Hartshorn graduated from OLP in 1958 as Patricia McCabe. Pat shares, “When you graduate you don’t realize what you have received from your high school

education.” One of those realizations came when she started college and saw that she was better prepared educationally than many of the other students.

Coming from a girls’ school, Pat was empowered by the teachers at OLP as well as the other students, enabling her to develop leadership skills. She found it helpful over the years to keep in touch with her fellow students.

“Because of the solid background we received at OLP, we looked at things from a broader perspective . . . not just Catholic . . . there’s a whole world out there we have to relate to.” Pat is thankful she attended OLP. “It helped form the person I am today.”

OLP Legacy Continues

Our Lady of Peace closed in June 1973 due to declining enrollment. Many of the classes still gather at different places in the Twin Cities to celebrate their 5th, 10th, 25th, and yes, their 50th reunions. OLP graduates continue to keep the BVM charism of mission—found in a life of purpose—alive for generations to come.

About the author: Associate Mary Maas is a former BVM (Alcuin). She lives in Brooklyn Center, Minn., and is employed with Amicus/Volunteers of America, Minnesota, working with men and women with a criminal background. She volunteers in her free time.



Jubilees Reflect Lives Lived, Seeds Sown

by Jody Iler

Sharing memories, affirmation and affection, 17 Sisters of Charity, BVM celebrated their golden and diamond jubilees at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, in July and September 2014.

Golden Jubilarians

Ten sisters celebrated 50 years in religious life on Sunday, July 13. A liturgy in the Motherhouse Chapel was followed by dinner. These sisters entered the BVM congregation on July 31, 1964, and professed their first vows on Feb. 2, 1967.

The Set of 1964 was the first group to have a choice of novitiates (Mount Carmel in Dubuque and Guadalupe College in Los Gatos, Calif.). Their jubilee celebration marked the first time they gathered together in the same place. They were the last postulants to receive religious names and the last novices to make first vows wearing the religious habit.

BVM Frances (Fran) Donnelly, in her homily reflections at the liturgy, shares, “Even though we began our religious life on the cusp—the ‘first of,’ the ‘last of’—we were grounded in Mary Frances Clarke’s vision and sense of what it meant to live in community and to be of service to God’s people.”

Donna Bebensee, BVM was born in Clinton, Iowa, and professed her final vows on April 6, 1975. Donna taught elementary and secondary school in Iowa City, Iowa; Chicago and Rock Island, Ill.;

Jubilees continued on page 15.

Phoenix, Ariz.; and San Francisco. She is now retired and living at the Mount Carmel Motherhouse in Dubuque.

Barbara Brooks, BVM is a native of Des Moines, Iowa, and professed her final vows on Jan. 9, 1972. In Fridley and St. Paul, Minn., she taught secondary school and served as librarian, media coordinator, librarian director, and technical services librarian. She is currently librarian at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minn.

Fran Donnelly, BVM was born in Media, Pa. She professed her final vows on April 28, 1973. Frances taught secondary school in Mundelein, Ill., and St. Paul, Minn. She served as religious coordinator and pastoral minister in St. Paul and Stillwater, Minn.; and as director of ministry personnel for the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. Since 2008, she has been director of life transition ministries for The Catholic Cemeteries in Mendota Heights, Minn. “My ministries have brought me blessings of friendships, learning, maturation, insights and wisdom,” she says. “And my 50 years have been blessed by love, affirmation, challenges and encouragement of my sisters. Where one BVM is, we all are present.”

Ann Marie Dress, BVM is a native of Dubuque. She professed her final vows on June 2, 1974. Ann Marie taught elementary school in Rock Island, Ill.; and Stockton and Santa Clara, Calif., where she still ministers as vice principal, teacher and religion coordinator.

Mary Diane Forster, BVM was born in Rockville Centre, N.Y., and professed her final vows on April 2, 1972. In Iowa, she ministered as high school music teacher in Des Moines and West Des Moines; and as elementary school music teacher in Worthington. She also taught elementary school music and was involved in parish liturgical music in Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Kansas City, Mo.

She served as secretary for the BVM congregation. Diane currently teaches elementary school music in Petersburg, Iowa. “Teaching elementary music has been my favorite ministry,” Diane says, “but I have also loved teaching high school music and directing church choirs.”

Mary Anne Hoopes, BVM is a native of Chicago. She professed her final vows on Dec. 27, 1971. Mary Anne taught

were grounded
in Mary Frances
Clarke’s vision
and sense of what
it meant to live in
community and be
of service to God’s
people.—Fran Donnelly, BVM

at Mundelein College in Chicago. In Kumasi, Ghana, she ministered as director of the Centre for Spiritual Renewal and served in pastoral care for the Wayne Renewal Center. “To be a BVM is to live a life centered on Christ and to share one’s life and gifts with those in need, especially the poor,” Mary Anne says.

Since 2007, she has continued her ministry as director of the Centre for Spiritual Renewal. “One of my most cherished experiences was the 40th anniversary of the Centre—its ministry was so affirmed and the special contribution of the BVM congregation recognized.”

Janice Mary Pertle, BVM was born in Chicago and professed her final vows on Aug. 5, 1972. She taught elementary school in Casper, Wyo., where she was also religious education coordinator and principal. She taught elementary and secondary school in Cicero and Chicago, Ill. She served as associate administrator for the congregation at Wright Hall in Chicago, and as director of religious education in Elgin, Ill. She is now retired and lives in Chicago. “I am profoundly grateful for the warmth, kindness, acceptance and love I have received in every mission and ministry,” Janice Mary shares.

Regina M. Qualls, BVM was born in St. Louis. She professed her final vows on Dec. 9, 1972. She taught secondary school in St. Louis, and Mundelein and Chicago, Ill. She was a college teacher and

registrar in Dubuque, Iowa. Regina served as administrative assistant to the BVM Council and as secretary of the congregation, a position she has held since 2004. She shares: “I have loved every place and every ministry. It is hard to choose a favorite because I had wonderful students and co-workers in every ministry. I have been enriched and blessed and have happy memories of each place.”

Victoria Smurlo, BVM is a native of Glendale, Calif. She professed her final vows on Feb. 2, 1973. She taught secondary school in Wichita, Kan.; Glendale, Calif.; and Rock Island, Ill. She worked at a special needs community housing center in Denver, and as YMCA senior program planner in San Francisco. She served as associate administrator and administrative assistant for the congregation at Wright Hall in Chicago. She was high school academic counselor in Glendale, Calif.

Since 2000, Vicki has ministered as hospice social worker in Los Angeles. “Each ministry was a favorite because I was in the right place at the right time of my life,” she says. “And as God has led me through each ministry to transition to another, I have been lovingly supported by my BVM sisters in each mission and that has been a special blessing!”

Maria van Werkhoven, BVM was born in The Hague, in the Netherlands. She professed her final vows on Sept. 23, 1973. She worked as medical technologist and chemistry lab supervisor in Dubuque. She was medical technologist and manager of the laboratories in Mound Bayou, Miss. She worked as medical technologist in Papua New Guinea.

In Memphis, Tenn., Maria received a fellowship in administration, and has served as manager and vice president of planning and business development, project specialist, and director of administration, all in health care facilities.

Currently she is the director of the Office of Medical Research, Regional Medical Center, Memphis. “The places where I have ministered have each been object lessons in discovering how God is calling me to live in relationship with my BVM sisters and the people with whom I work and live. Having always worked in the area of healthcare . . . I have had professionally enriching opportunities,” she shares.



Incarnata Gephart



Elizabeth Welter



Veronica J. Burke



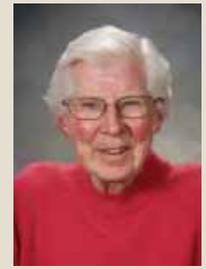
Anne Marie Dolan



Muriel McCarthy



Isabel Miller



Margaret Mollan

Diamond Jubilarians

On Sunday, Sept. 7, seven sisters at Mount Carmel celebrated their diamond jubilees with a liturgy of thanksgiving in the Motherhouse Chapel followed by dinner.

The following diamond jubilarians entered the BVM congregation on Feb. 2, 1939. They professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1941, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1946.

Incarnata Gephart, BVM was born in Fort Lupton, Colo. She taught elementary school in Boulder, Colo.; San Francisco, Sacramento and Granada Hills, Calif.; Butte, Mont.; and Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., where she also served as principal. In retirement she has served as staff assistant and volunteer in Marian Hall.

Elizabeth Welter, BVM

(Prudentia) is a native of Chicago. She taught elementary and secondary school in Dubuque, Iowa; Casper, Wyo.; Tucson and Phoenix, Ariz.; and Los Angeles, Pasadena, Burbank and Tujunga, Calif. She also worked in accounting in Mission Hills and N. Hollywood, Calif.

The following diamond jubilarians entered the BVM congregation on Sept. 8, 1939. They professed first vows on March 19, 1942, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1947.

Veronica J. Burke, BVM (Timothena) was born in San Francisco. She was superior, principal and teacher in Des Moines, Iowa, where she also served as BVM provincial of the St. Joseph Province. She taught elementary school in Butte and Missoula, Mont.; San Francisco and Sacramento, Calif.; and Chicago. She

was counselor in San Francisco and education services officer at Fort Davis Education Center in the Canal Zone.

Anne Marie Dolan, BVM (Cyrilita)

is a Chicago native. She taught elementary school in Dubuque and Jesup, Iowa; Casper, Wyo.; Milwaukee, where she was also superior; and Chicago, where she ministered as HS teacher/counselor and was active in hospital and parish ministry. She also served as formation director/postulants and novices for the BVM congregation in Dubuque and Los Gatos, Calif.

Muriel McCarthy, BVM (Baptist)

is a native of San Francisco. She taught elementary school in Kansas City, Mo.; and Chicago. In California, she taught elementary school in Santa Ana, San Francisco, Petaluma, Los Angeles and Tjunga. She also served as superior/principal in Los Angeles and Tujunga. In San Francisco, she served in parish ministry/outreach to the elderly and as office assistant and teacher aide.

Isabel Miller, BVM (Acarda)

was born in Davenport, Iowa. She taught elementary school in Waterloo, Boone, Des Moines, Council Bluffs and Muscatine, Iowa; Chicago, Maywood and Rock Island, Ill.; Hempstead, N.Y.; Butte, Mont.; Lincoln, Neb.; and Clarksdale, Miss. In retirement she volunteered as hospital receptionist in Chicago.

Margaret Mollan, BVM (Laurice)

is a native of Chicago. She taught elementary and secondary school in Des Moines, Iowa; Mundelein and Chicago, Ill.; Kauai, Hawaii; Lincoln, Neb.; Butte, Mont.; and San Jose, San Francisco and Glendale, Calif., where she also served in parish ministry.

About the author: Jody Iler is communications specialist at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

We pray for the following BVMs who passed away prior to their Diamond Jubilee celebration.



Mary Joel Kramer, BVM was born in LeMars, Iowa. She passed away on July 13, 2014. Sister Mary Joel ministered in food service at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa. She taught elementary school in Council Bluffs, Fort Dodge, Manly and Sioux City, Iowa, where she also served as part-time LPN and volunteered for many years in hospice and home health care. She was an elementary school teacher in Rapid City, S.D.; Kauai, Hawaii; and Chicago.



Mary Francile Luking, BVM was born in Casper, Wyo. She passed away on May 7, 2014. Sister Mary Francile was principal at St. Jude ES in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She taught elementary and secondary school in Iowa City, Iowa; Memphis, Tenn.; and Mundelein and Rock Island, Ill., where she was also principal. She was assistant principal in Kansas City, Mo., and principal in Jackson, Miss. She served as Montessori school volunteer in Jonestown, Miss.



'Sister' Sisters Honored

At the Gael Gala held March 1 at Holy Family HS College Preparatory in Glendale, Calif., **BVMs Suzanne (Carmelita) and Mary Jeanne (John Edward) Stopper** were presented with engraved glass awards which read: "In recognition of your years of continued support of Holy Family High School College Preparatory. We are grateful for your love, service and dedication to our school." Together, biological sisters Suzanne and Mary Jeanne have served at the school for over 75 years, as teachers and in volunteer service after retiring.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa

Catherine Dunn, BVM (Catherine Michele) was among five Dubuque, Iowa, women honored July 17 for their contributions to the community in an inaugural "Wonder Women—Celebrating the Heroines of Dubuque" event presented by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Catherine is former president of Clarke University and current volunteer development officer and advisor at Clarke. The event featured a silent auction and a viewing of the documentary: "Wonder Women: The Untold Story of American Superheroines."



Dedication Celebrated

BVM Loretta Hubl received The Patricia Smith Education and Service Award at the Precious Blood School Fundraiser Dinner March 29 in Los Angeles. Loretta has helped with their school accounts for over 10 years. She lives in Montrose, Calif., and works with inner city schools in the LA area.



A 1930 photo of Sister Mary Justitia Coffey, BVM, the first president of Mundelein College, her desk, and an art deco lamp from the Mundelein College library are on display in the new Loyola University Museum of Art exhibition, *Crossings and Dwellings*.

Photo: Loyola University Chicago

LUMA Exhibit: Crossing & Dwellings

Chicago area BVMs attended the opening reception of "Crossings & Dwellings" at Loyola University Chicago Museum of Art (LUMA) July 30. Depicting the story of 19th century European Jesuits and women religious who arrived on America's western frontier to serve indigenous and immigrant populations, the exhibit includes the role of the **Sisters of Charity, BVM** in building Chicago educational institutions.

On Sept. 23, the program, "**New Frontiers: The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**" was presented at LUMA. **Dr. Ann Harrington, BVM (St. Remi)**, professor emerita of history at LUC and author of *Expanding Horizons: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1919–1943*, discussed BVM connections with the Jesuits, the city of Chicago, Mundelein College and Loyola University. She summarized BVM history and shed light on the pioneer women found in *Crossings and Dwellings*.



Photo: Chicago Coalition for Homeless

Chicago Coalition for Homeless



Rose Mary Meyer, BVM (Sebastian) and the **Sisters of Charity, BVM** were recognized June 26 by the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) at its Scholarship Awards Ceremony at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Director of Foundation Relations Anne Bowhay presented the award to **Rose Mary**, who represented the BVM congregation. Rose Mary wrote the letter of reference for the Annual Ministry Partnership Grant presented to the CCH scholarship program by the BVMs. Five homeless youth who successfully completed high school were awarded a scholarship at the ceremony. The BVMs are proud to partner with other donors and CCH to help youth break the cycle of homelessness through education



Immaculata HS — Madonna

The Madonna statue that once stood above the entrance to the **Immaculata HS** in Chicago from 1921–81 has been resurrected from three decades of storage in the Smart Museum at the University of Chicago. Opened in 1921, the Immaculata was the second high school founded by the BVMs in Chicago. Members of an Immaculata alumnae committee initiated a movement to return the statue to the Kalo Foundation, Park Ridge, Ill., which owns the building that housed lanelli Studios, in which the statue was created. The Madonna was reassembled and restored in its permanent, original home at Kalo in Park Ridge on Aug. 6, and can be viewed during regular studio weekend hours.

Sarah's Circle

The **Sisters of Charity, BVM** were honored at a donor recognition event Aug. 3 at Sarah's Circle in Chicago, which is dedicated to helping women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness rebuild their lives. BVMs have supported Sarah's Circle since its founding in 1979. Carol Cook, BVM (Conrad Ann) served as program director in 1999, BVMs Rita Benz (Borgia) and Mary Fran McLaughlin (Virginia Mary) served as board members in 1992, and many others have volunteered time, raised funds, and donated personally. Sarah's Circle received BVM Ministry Focus Grants for over 10 years. BVMs have also participated in Sarah's Circle's annual Winter Walk every year since it began in 1993. **Margaret McGinn, BVM (Daniel Ann)**, a current volunteer and longtime supporter of Sarah's Circle, received the award on behalf of the Sisters of Charity, BVM.

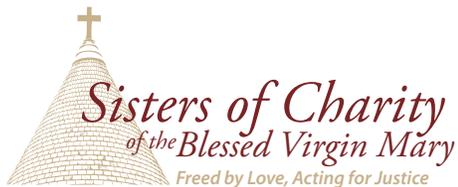


BVMs present for the recognition ceremony at Sarah's Circle include (standing, l. to r.) Theresa Gleeson (Dorothy), Lois Dolphin, Margaret Haas (St. Leonard), Sheila O'Brien (Mary Trea), Mary Alma Sullivan (Robert Emmett), Ann Harrington (St. Remi), Dorothy Dwight (John Edmund), Nancy McCarthy (Josephine Mary), Mary Jo Keane (Martin Mary); (seated, l. to r.) Margaret McGinn (Daniel Ann), Carol Cook (Conrad Ann) and Gwen Farry (Leontia).



Happy Birthday, Sister Grace!

Sister Grace Andrea Carolan celebrated her 100th birthday on Aug. 15. We are grateful for her many years of ministry teaching music, piano, singing and French.



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DUBUQUE'S
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Discernment Weekend

Are you interested in checking out religious life?

You are invited to quiet, to prayer and to learn how you might experience God's truth within you. Join us for a day, or two, of input and reflection.

Friday, November 14
at 5 pm to
Saturday, November 15
at 6 pm

To register or for more details,
contact Sr. Kathy Carr, BVM
at kcarr@bvmcong.org
or call 563-588-2351 ext. 5133.

Sponsored by Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Dubuque Franciscan Sisters, and Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters.



IN LOVING MEMORY

"Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not taken away."

Pray for the Sisters of Charity, BVM and Associates who have died May – August 2014:

Rose McNamee (Rose Angela)
Dec. 14, 1926–June 1, 2014

(St.) Edith Dunn
Jan. 1, 1924–June 12, 2014

Frances Loretta Berger
July 10, 1918–June 20, 2014

Patricia Galhouse (Casia)
Feb. 12, 1926–June 30, 2014

Mary Clare Sweeney (Clarita)
May 16, 1930–July 8, 2014

Mary Joel Kramer
July 17, 1921–July 13, 2014

Eileen Galvin (Matilda)
July 13, 1921–July 24, 2014

Lorraine Marie Baller (Charlita)
Aug. 21, 1922–Aug. 2, 2014

Mary Lou Larkin (Mark)
Sept. 18, 1929–Aug. 29, 2014

Associates

Patricia O'Connell
March 9, 1936– May 23, 2014

Ruth Bertels
Oct. 14, 1927– May 31, 2014

Richard Nilles
Nov. 19, 1920– June 6, 2014

Clara McChristy
May 22, 1922– July 12, 2014

Ann Michalski
Dec. 21, 1932– July 19, 2014



To read a sister's obituary or her funeral reflection, visit: www.bvmcong.org. A memorial fund has been established for the sisters. If you would like to add to this memorial, please send your gift to the BVM Development Office or visit our website for online giving.