THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

Living Lives of Love

Volume 17 • Issue 3 • Autumn 2013

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SISTERS of CHARITY NEW YORK Celebrating Our

Golden Jubilarians

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

As we end our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II, we recall that among its documents was The Declaration on Christian Education, which called educational institutions to act as "the leaven of the human community" and urged episcopal conferences to discern



these implications at the local level. And so in 1972, the United States Bishops published *To Teach as Jesus Did*, to flesh out the Council's call for schools to be a new environment enlivened by the spirit of freedom and charity. This watershed document in American Catholic school education articulated a threefold purpose of the educational ministry: to teach the message of hope contained in the Gospel; to build community "not simply as a concept to be taught, but a reality to be lived"; and to serve all from a sense of Christian community. This description linked education with justice. The threefold theme of message, community, and service revitalized the educational ministry in the United States and has helped to shape planning and programs in Catholic education.

For the Sisters of Charity this purpose of education is a description and validation of what we have tried to provide, from the time of our foundation when Elizabeth Seton sent Sisters to major cities to care for orphans and poor children. These orphanages provided a home and also doubled as the first formal schools for Catholic children. The reputation of the Sisters spread and they were asked to open and staff schools not connected with orphanages. Elizabeth Seton earned her reputation as foundress of the Catholic parish school movement in the United States.

Teaching and education have been part of our lives from the earliest days. Elizabeth Seton's legacy of providing quality education in a caring environment lives on wherever and whenever a Sister of Charity shares knowledge and expertise with others. Nowadays this legacy is visible in schools and other settings where our Sisters serve those in need. They spread a message of hope and build community with those they serve and partner with out of a deep commitment to justice, as you will discover in these pages of VISION.

You ask: Are our Sisters still in education? How can we not be?

Peace

Jane Iannucelli, SC President

Sr. Jane

Do You Share Your VISION?



When you finish reading your copy of VISION, we'd appreciate it if you would consider passing it along and help us spread the word about our work and history. Drop it off in your church vestibule, your local Catholic school, doctor's office or other waiting room, laundromat, community or senior center, or any other place you see a stack of magazines. You never know who might pick it up—perhaps a former student, friend, or colleague. Thank you!

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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From left: Sisters Andrea Dixon, Michelle McKeon, Lynn Ann Dalton, and Patricia Quinn celebrated their Golden Jubilee.

Golden Jubilarians

—Two Hundred Years of Loving Service Celebrated

Sisters Lynn Ann

Dalton (left) and Patricia Quinn

By Patricia McGowan, SC

n September 7, 2013, a glorious preautumn day in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mount Saint Vincent, Sister Jane Iannucelli welcomed all gathered and paid tribute to the four Golden Jubilarians by declaring, "Let the trumpet sound and re-echo throughout this day and year as we celebrate you, Sisters Lynn Ann, Andrea, Michelle, and Pat." The congregation united with Father Joseph Espaillat when he proclaimed, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Gratitude to the Jubilarians for their combined 200 years of service to Jesus Christ and to his people was expressed throughout the Liturgy and the reception that followed. Applause erupted when Father Espaillat acknowledged in

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The Sisters of Charity— Continuing the Tradition of Education

By Maryellen Blumlein, SC

or the past 204 years the Sisters of Charity have been pioneers in the ministry of education. From the establishment of schools and academies where both religious and academic studies were provided, to hospitals and health care agencies where personal care and hygiene were emphasized, to orphan-

ages and social service agencies where child safety and family values were stressed, the Sisters of Charity were involved in it all.

Today the number of Sisters in the congregation has decreased and there are fewer Sisters directly involved in schools and hospital nursing. But it is important to note that education itself extends far beyond the walls of the classroom. While some Sisters are still involved in traditional education—elementary, secondary, and college—many others have broadened their outreach into other forms of education.

English as a Second Language, citizenship preparation, and immigration outreach are important programs in a rapidly changing New York. Both the Sisters of Charity Multi-Service Center

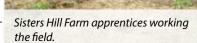
(Casa Esperanza) and Project L.I.G.H.T. provide instruction for non-English speakers and those wishing to become citizens of our country. Casa also provides help with legal problems for their clients. In addition, Life Experience Faith Sharing Associates

(LEFSA) reach out to the homeless and formerly homeless people of Manhattan. Members of the team provide both spiritual and material support for people and families in shelters, and bring sandwiches and clothing to those living on

the streets. Often the students from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, under the direction of campus ministry, partner with the senior Sisters in Mount St. Vincent Convent to make sandwiches and collect toiletries for the "Midnight Run" program. During these trips downtown, the students and members of the

Above: Sr. Mary Ellen O'Boyle teaching a Mount Saint Vincent class about trafficking. Below: Sr. Nancy McNamara teaching English language class.





LEFSA team visit the people on the streets, spend a little time with them, and distribute the sandwiches and other "gifts." In this way people learn of their own value to others around them.

The Anti-Human-Trafficking Project

seeks to educate the public about the evils involved in this modern day slavery. Providing information and encouraging participation in writing campaigns to legislators and active outreach in public demonstrations enables us to make people aware of the need to put an end to this exploitation of humanity. In help-

ing people to understand that our silence allows other human beings to be trapped in a web of slavery, the Sisters of Charity join with other groups to bring this atrocity to the attention of our world leaders in the hope that they will take the nec-

essary actions to end this grave injustice.

Sisters Hill Farm, an organic farm in Dutchess County, raises healthy fruits and vegetables while instructing both shareholders and apprentices in the nutritional value

of the produce. Farmer Dave Hambleton works side by side with his team of volunteers and apprentices who are hoping to begin their own farms. The apprentice program has become very well known for training young farmers. This is a real extension of the ministry of the Sisters of Charity to educate others.

POTS (Part of the Solution), founded as a soup kitchen in a storefront in the Bronx in 1982, has blossomed into so much more. POTS not only serves meals 365 days a year, but it provides many other services: a food pantry to help needy families, and showers, clothing, and barbers to help people regain their



self-respect. Legal services are available for those facing eviction, immigration difficulties, and other legal problems. Social workers and individual counselors are also available for those who are in need of these services. Sisters have worked or volunteered in POTS over the years and have brought both students and other adults to help in various ways. The benefit to both the clients of POTS and the volunteers is enormous—everyone seems to learn more about themselves and those whom they meet.

The Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center and John A. Coleman School provide education, life skills, and a compassionate environment for children and young adults with extreme disabilities. An outgrowth of a program in the New York Foundling Hospital, the Pediatric Center provides schooling, nourishment, safety, and much love for these children. And the adults who work with

them or volunteer at the Center learn the value of a gentle touch and the love this communicates to the children.

The College of Mount Saint Vincent has several Sisters of Charity on staff. Academics are of utmost importance, but so is a sense of service and giving back to the community. Several

students have received the Seton Service and Leadership Scholarship. The Sisters of Charity pay their room and board and each student is required to donate a number of hours of service each semester. Many of the students are motivated to give service in various ways, both on campus and in the larger community. The students learn by the example of adults and their fellow students.

Three Sisters are now living in Stanfordville, New York. In addition to their other ministries, these women are actively involved in the lives of the people in the surrounding area. One Sister, a nurse practitioner, helps to facilitate workshops on how to live a healthy life with a chronic illness and acts as a resource and a comfort for people dealing with a difficult medical diagnosis and those who must make the transition from independent to assisted

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John A. Coleman Teacher Receives NYS Award



Sr. Marie Morris (left) and John A. Coleman teacher, Lisa Cantwell

The New York State Council for Exceptional Children has awarded John A. Coleman School teacher, Lisa Cantwell, with the 2013 Excellence in Leadership Award. This accolade recognizes Ms. Cantwell for her outstanding contributions and support for education and school life of students with disabilities.

Her passion, understanding and empathy for children with disabilities comes from challenges she has faced in her own life. Growing up blind made for speed bumps in Lisa's life, but she has overcome them all, making her a stronger person and a better educator. From her coordinating field trips for children with profound medical issues to her kindness and patience with the children, it is clear there was no better choice for this award.

SC Commitment to Catholic Education

By Jane Iannucelli, SC

he Sisters of Charity of New York are responsible for the development of the Catholic education system in New York. While very few Sisters are actually in the classroom today, our support for Catholic Education has not changed.

The number of lives directly and indirectly impacted by Catholic education in New York and beyond is immeasurable. With faith as our common ground, quality Catholic education was available to children in all socio economic levels in New York, including the children of immigrants who came to New York with very little or nothing beyond their Catholic faith. Parents placed their hopes and dreams for their children in our hands and we accepted that challenge and responsibilty, committed to providing faith-based values and quality education as inseparable tools to prepare them for their own future, as well as the future of our society as a whole.

Due to the economic situation today, Catholic education is not readily available to children of immigrants and those who struggle to make ends meet, much to our dismay. As a Congregation dedicated to educating and improving the lives of those living on the margins, this reality pains us but does not diminish our commitment. In every way possible, we continue to commit ourselves to making Catholic education more available and in so doing, we have taken concrete steps to make that commitment real.

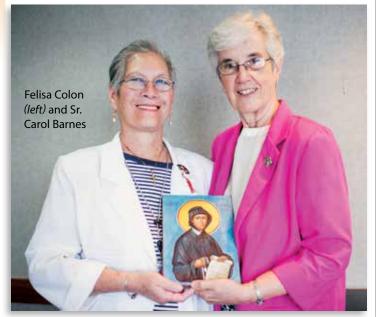
The Sisters of Charity Congregation has provided funds to former SC schools by means of journal and event support; has provided ministry grants enabling regional schools with higher tuition to assist children from schools that were recently closed; and just last year we conducted an essay contest that provided scholarship funds for the winners.

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Images of St. Elizabeth Seton Reflect the Light of God

By Regina Bechtle, SC

picture is worth a thousand words"—so goes the saying. But often the story behind a work of art is as significant as the picture itself. Such is the case with two images of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—one an icon, the other an etching in wood—that recently came to our attention.



Felisa Colon first met the spirit of Charity in her hometown of Havana, Cuba, where the Daughters of Charity ran La Casa de La Beneficencia for single mothers, orphans, and abandoned children, and where she and her family regularly brought donations. When Felisa came to this country and began to work at the New York Foundling, she was happy to learn that the Sisters of Charity here had the same mission of caring for children as the Daughters in her native Cuba.

Felisa wrote her first icon in 2002, at her parish, St. Mark's Episcopal, in Queens, and has written several others since then. She described the process as "an amazing spiritual experience." For example, she noted that the reflection of light is one of the most important qualities of an icon. "An icon is a window that invites us to another place, perhaps that place is within ourselves." Iconographers use a series of colors applied in many layers to evoke the light from within. "While we wait for our paint to dry," Felisa says, "we meditate in the layers of our lives, the layers of our personalities, the layers of our faith.... And hopefully we will reflect the Light of God."

She was drawn to write an icon of Mother Seton because of the many ways that her life has crossed and connected with the saint's, and because she has a deep sense of Elizabeth's presence. About this icon, written at The Oratory, Rock Hill, SC, in February 2013, Felisa says, "It was written for Sister

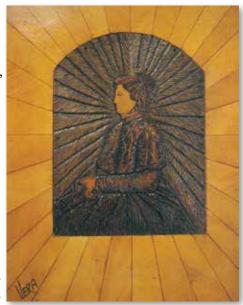
Carol Barnes, from the order of the Sisters of Charity, as a humble sign of appreciation for the often forgotten and unappreciated work they have done throughout the years and throughout the world."

Felisa dedicated the icon to Sister Carol and to the Sisters of Charity because she wants them and all religious to "know that their work matters. Their concerns and prayers matter. It matters to God and it matters to the people we serve. And it matters to me."

Adelfa Vera-Angel and her four siblings first met the Sisters of Charity as a student at Manhattan's Sacred Heart School on 51st Street, where Adelfa was taught by Sr. Martha Cummings. Later she attended Cathedral High School; now she serves her alma mater as a Board member.

In a conversation with Sr. Margaret Egan, also a Board member and Cathedral alumna, Adelfa her sister, Rosario mentioned a family treasure that they all cherish: an image of St. Elizabeth Seton, etched on wood. She explained that their father, Armando Vera Ojeda, had created it 45 years ago, using no paint, only a hot implement. The face and hands are natural wood; tiny slivers of wood produce the saint's eyes, brows, lips and division of her fingers.

What led their father to create the image? "He had a fondness for Mother Seton," the Vera sisters explained, "not only because of her tremendous work and dedication to those in need, but he admired her strength as a wife, mother, widow, and woman who saw harshness and poverty and did something about it. In



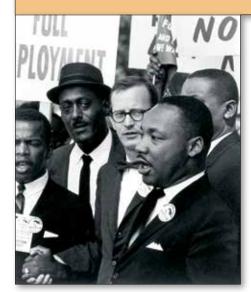
Family treasure of the Vera Family

many ways Elizabeth

Seton was a very modern woman and Dad admired and respected strong women like his mother and our mom."

Thanks to Ms. Colon and Ms. Vera-Angel for sharing the stories of these two beautiful images, created with skill, love, and faith, as well as to Sisters Carol Barnes and Margaret Egan.

WHERE WERE YOU?



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Matthew Ahmann, executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Inter-racial Justice, at a civil rights march in Washington, DC

n August 28, 2013, thousands gathered to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the *March on Washington For Jobs and Freedom*. How were Sisters of Charity and Associates aware of and involved in the Civil Rights Movement? We asked that question of the Congregation.

Sister Donna Dodge recounted that as novices, her group was sent by bus to Washington for the May 1968 Poor People's March on Washington. Sister Ellen O'Connell remembers that her Jesuit brother, Ed O'Connell, SJ, went to the August 1963 March and her brother Ken, a priest in the Archdiocese of New York, went to Selma in 1968.

Attending the March as a young DeLaSalle Christian Brother at the time, Associate Steve Sweeny has shared his reflection.

"We Shall Overcome," the anthem of the Civil Rights' movement, rang out as never before on that August day in 1963 as 250,000 people locked arms and insisted that equality and justice prevail for all our people. America would never be the same. Dr. King evoked the dream and called America to a national



The Harlem March in April, 1965, which many Sisters of Charity attended. Mother Superior Loretto Bernard Beagan (fifth from left) led the Congregation in the march.

examination of conscience. People of faith, so many of the March participants, affirmed that in each other we encounter God, and, in honoring basic human dignity for all, we were in fact reverencing the God in each of us. And black and white, rich and poor, old and young, believers and non believers fell in line behind Dr. King in a march that mirrored the very dream of which he spoke. It was for the nation and for me a transformative moment. That I walked that day with Dr. King became one of the privileged moments of a lifetime. The images are so many and so crisp, but, still to this day, 50 years later, it is difficult to find the words to adequately describe it.

I was at the time a DeLaSalle Christian Brother, as I was for fifteen years, and an undergraduate at Catholic University. The March organizers wisely depended on the enthusiasm and energy of college students and faculty. Houses of religious at the University had a unique contribution to make as thousands of religious, seminarians, and student priests made themselves available, even to providing lodging to the travelers joining the March. I continue to be moved by the memory of poor share-croppers from the deep South joining religious communities throughout the

Washington area. Knowing full well that they would not have homes to return to because of their audacity in joining the March, they gave great witness to us who had very little to sacrifice in the effort. At DeLaSalle College, we were deeply committed to being part of the March. The house superiors, far ahead of the curve in the matter of change, like so many leaders of religious formation of the time, encouraged us to respond to our call to be prophetic even with resistance from superiors and Brothers back home in New York.

As chance would have it, as the March formed, a few of us were able to take our place in the first block of the March. Dr. King was always clearly in our view. Nearby were the monks from St. Anselm's Benedictine Abbey. So clear in my mind's eye is an image, worthy of a Pulitzer Prize photo, of the Abbot sharing his lunch with the children of a very grateful family just before we started. By the looks of it, Father Abbot's face conveyed that he was getting much more out of the encounter than the lunch his new friends got from it. And so we began to walk. There was no doubt history was being made. How exactly, we weren't quite sure. As the stage party moved up

Continued— see page 15, bottom right

A Burning Bush Is Afire in New Orleans

By Margaret Comaskey

... they work to take their pain and move it to purpose over the course of their journey to healing.

gles to recover from Hurri

From left, Sr. Claire Regan, SC-NY, Sr. Monica Gundler, SC-Cincinnati, and Sr. Renee Rose, DC-St. Louis

In 2010 in New Orleans the Sisters of Charity Federation opened a House of Charity. The three Sisters of Charity who live there, Sr. Monica Gundler, SC-Cincinnati, Sr. Renee Rose, DC-St. Louis, and our Sr. Claire E. Regan, invite young adults to share their community lives and work in rebuilding the city's neighborhoods.

Sister Claire tells us about some programs that have been initiated to solve ongoing problems as the city still struggles to recover from Hurricane Katrina.

net-Α work Catholic religious men and women was formed, led by the Sisters of the Holy Faith, in response to the ongoing gun violence in the city.

Children were being killed in cross fires, family based killings, gang related murders, and even large scale shooting into crowds. Network members feared becoming accustomed to these horrible tragedies and linked arms in compassionate webs of response and witness.

A group of about 40 met regularly to pray and to consider where God was calling them to intervene. They began, led by Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, who used the image in Scripture of the Burning Bush on Holy Ground, and pondered in prayer what might be the meaning

and call of this time in New Orleans' history to their role as vowed religious.

Sister Claire was elected to a Steering Committee of five, which proposed three directions for the group's response: bereavement support, mentoring, and public witness. Prayer was considered by all to be included in each direction. The proposal was ratified by the members.

One of the groups, to which Sr. Claire belongs, is the "Helping Mothers Heal" support group. She is a certified bereavement counselor and she assists the efforts of a social worker and Episcopal priest, Rev. Patricia Watson, who leads the group and uses a cognitive behavioral approach to expressing and resolving the matters related to tragic loss. The mothers are encouraged to tell their stories when ready, and they work to take their pain and move it to purpose over the course of their journey to healing. The group recently celebrated their first anniversary/reunion at which they addressed their concerns with public officials from the Mayor's office, the District Attorney, and the Police Department. Sr. Claire offered the opening prayer and students from Dominican High School assisted with the food preparation and serving as part of their community service to the mothers' group.

There are many ways the Burning Bush initiative will be working in the months ahead as mentors, pastoral companions, and in public witness with prayer. The gun violence in New Orleans is a deeply complex issue with a long history. It will take committed action and prayer from all segments of the community to begin to resolve it. The network of religious men and women is clearly willing to be part of the solution.

Elizabeth's Seton's Other Family: The Bayleys

By Mary Mc Cormick, SC

ne of the many blessings bequeathed to us from Elizabeth Seton was the fact that her family experienced many of the same joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams as do ours. How she navigated the often painful aspects of her relationships with them provides for us a model of grace under pressure. In the end, her loving kindness toward those who were sometimes not very kind to her helps to explain why she is a saint for our times.

Elizabeth's parents were Richard Bayley and Catherine Charlton. He was an up-and-coming physician, and she was the daughter of an Episcopalian clergyman, well loved by his congregation.

Elizabeth was three and her older sister Mary nine, when in 1777 their mother died giving birth to her third daughter, Catherine, who did not long survive her.

In June of 1778, Dr. Bayley remarried, in part to provide a mother for his daughters. He was 35, and his wife, Charlotte Emilia Barclay, daughter of Helena Roosevelt and Andrew Barclay, was only 18. During the course of their often troubled marriage they had seven children.

We know something of the lives of these half-brothers and sisters of Mary and Elizabeth, and can read between the lines of some of the family dynamics at work in their relationships. Between 1779 and 1790 six children were born; the seventh and youngest, Mary Fitch Bayley, was born in 1796. It is little wonder that the second Mrs. Bayley was not able to give Mary and Elizabeth the loving attention they needed, and why they spent so much of the time before their own marriages (Mary in 1790 and Elizabeth in 1792) with relatives on Staten Island and in New Rochelle. Eventually Charlotte's marriage to Richard disintegrated, and they lived apart during their later years. Dr. Bayley died in 1801, alone except for Elizabeth, the result of contracting yellow fever from immigrant patients he attended at the quarantine station he established on Staten Island. Charlotte died in 1805. She and Elizabeth had reconciled, and during her final illness Charlotte sent for her step-daughter to be with her.

Here then is some of what we know about Elizabeth's other family:

Two of the girls, Emma and Helen, married brothers-William and Sam Craig, related to one of Elizabeth's closest friends, Eliza Craig Sadler.

Richard Bayley Jr., the oldest son in the family, had little business sense—he speculated and lost \$10,000 of his mother's money. He died as a result of a horse and carriage accident in 1815 when he was 34.

Another son, Andrew Barclay, pursued a mercantile career, which led him to the British West Indies.

He had been engaged for several years to Harriet Seton, Elizabeth's sister-in-law, but was unable to earn enough money to marry her. He died in Jamaica at age 29. Harriet, a convert to Catholicism, accompanied her sister Cecilia to Emmitsburg, and died there in 1809.

Guy Carlton Bayley was 19 when he went to the port in Leghorn to welcome his sister and her husband to Italy. Employed by the Filicchis at the time, he was able to greet them but not come in contact with them before Elizabeth, William, and Anna Maria were ordered into quarantine.

Guy Carlton was always supportive of Elizabeth's decision to embrace the Catholic faith. One of his sons, James Roosevelt Bayley, became a Catholic, was ordained a priest, and eventually became the Archbishop of Newark. He

founded Seton Hall University and was responsible for establishing a branch of Elizabeth Seton's community, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, at Convent Station, NJ.

Little is known of another son, William Augustus, except that he died in Batavia in 1817. And the youngest of the children, Mary Fitch Bayley, married an Englishman, Sir Henry Bunch, and relocated with him to Nassau, Bahamas.

Births, deaths, marriages, estrangements, reconciliations: the story of this family can be replicated in many of today's families. Elizabeth comes down to us through the intervening centuries as a woman filled with hope in the midst of all the events of a life lived not for herself but for others. Her legacy of charity lives on!

Photo: James Roosevelt Bayley, nephew of Elizabeth Seton, became archbishop of Newark, NJ.

Jubilarians Continued from page 3

a specific way the local missions where each of the Sisters have ministered during the years and the importance that the people in those ministries played in the lives of each Jubilarian.

The Jubilarians expressed gratitude to God for the many gifts of their families and friends, the Congregation's leadership past and present, Sisters, Associates, and Clergy, and all who have been their colleagues in ministry.

On this Jubilee day the number 200 seemed significant. If we go back in time 200 years, as Father Espaillat reminded us, we would land right back in the days of Elizabeth Seton, who taught her Sisters to "do the will of God in the manner He wills it" in their daily work, the very work these Sisters have been doing consistently for that same number of years.

Meet Our Golden Jubilarians

ister Lynn Ann Dalton (Sister Maureen Francis) made the acquaintance of the Sisters of Charity at a very early age. She was born in St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island, to Madeline and Howard Dalton and was raised on the Island with her sister and two brothers. She attended St. Peter's Elementary and High School and was taught by the



Sisters of Charity for all 12 years. In September 1963, at the age of 17, she entered the Sisters of Charity. It had always been her dream to be a teacher and becoming a Sister of Charity completed that vision. While in formation, she attended the College of Mount Saint Vincent and received a degree in English in 1969. After her Juniorate year, she was assigned to St. Peter's in Yonkers, where she taught first grade and eventually stayed for 25 years, having taught every grade during that time. While teaching full time, Sr. Lynn Ann was also the Parish Director of Religious Education, coordinated the After School Program, taught in the Parish Youth Program, coordinated the liturgical life of the School (the altar servers and the choir as well), worked in the summer programs, and served as a member of the Parish Council—all spread out over that quarter of a century.

Sister Lynn Ann received a Masters Degree in Education from Boston College and a Masters Degree in Religious Education from Fordham University. In 1992 she left her beloved St. Peter's and accepted a teaching position in Theology at St. Catharine Academy in the Bronx, a school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy (Elizabeth Seton's daughter was a Sister of Mercy). Sister Lynn Ann was named Chairperson of the Theology Department in 1995 and currently holds this position. In 2012 she celebrated 20 years of service at the school and finds energy in teaching the young women who have become part of her life.

The highlights in her life have been the day that her Dad was ordained a Deacon for the Diocese of Trenton and the births of her niece and nephews. Over the years, her parents' home at the Jersey Shore has been a source of relaxation and retreat, and even though "Sandy" did major damage there, it still remains a place of comfort and peace.

Sister Lynn Ann has worked with many wonderful priests, principals, and teachers in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Trenton and values those relationships and experiences. She is grateful to God, her parents, family, colleagues, the Sisters of Charity, and the Sisters of Mercy for having been a blessing and support during these golden years.

orn and raised in the Bahamas, Sister Andrea Dixon arrived in New York City on June 8, 1963 to enter the Sisters of Charity, a group of women who had made an enormous impression on her from an early age because of their presence in the Bahamas. New York was a new world and a new culture, and because of the Second Vatican Council that had begun the year before, the Church



was approaching something new. The Vatican Council documents began to influence the formation of the Sisters at that time. Change was the constant in formation as attempts were made to integrate all that was being made available.

Sister Andrea's first mission experience was at Our Lady of Angels Convent in the Bronx where she lived as she completed her college education before beginning ministry. This was another of the wonderful changes that happened at that time. After graduation Sr. Andrea began her ministry as a first grade teacher at St. Paul's School in East Harlem, where she taught for 16 years. During these years Sr. Andrea earned a Masters Degree in Education from Bank Street College of Education. These were years of tremendous change in all areas of life: religious, the church, and the world.

As the needs in her neighborhood changed, Sr. Andrea turned to work with families and began to explore ministry in Social Work in the Incarcerated Mothers Program as a Counselor and Court Advocate and then in the STEPS To End Family Violence Program, working with incarcerated women in New York City jails and prisons and in the upper counties. This led Sr. Andrea into her long-time work with battered women, child witnesses to domestic violence, and domestic violence defendants. Sister Andrea has a Masters Degree in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social

Work and is a trained Certified Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist. For 16 years she worked at St. Luke's/Roosevelt Crime Victim Treatment Center, providing trauma treatment to survivors of violent crime and has been in private practice since 1994. Along with the many changes that have occurred during these past 50 years there is one constant—Sr. Andrea continues to live in East Harlem, in a shelter for homeless women and children. As a Sister of Charity, she is nourished by living and working among the most marginalized of this city. Sister Andrea Dixon is grateful to the many people who nurtured, educated, and challenged her throughout the course of her life: family, friends, colleagues, and the Sisters of Charity.

ister Michelle McKeon (Sister Maria Terence), is the oldest of five children born to Lorraine and Inspector Terrence McKeon (NYPD). The Sisters of Charity greatly influenced Sr. Michelle at Incarnation Elementary School. After graduating from Aquinas High School, she entered the Congregation and began preparation for ministry in education. To enhance this ministry, Sr. Michelle achieved two Master Degrees, one



in Education from Hunter College and one in Religious Education from St. Joseph's Seminary, and a Certificate of Administration and Supervision from Manhattan College.

For the past 45 years Sr. Michelle has ministered in SS. Peter and Paul School and Parish in the South Bronx. She has served as teacher, director of sacramental programs, and director of adult education and youth ministry programs. For the past 24 years Sister has been principal of Saints Peter and Paul School.

Sister Michelle is past president of C.S.A.A.N.Y.S. (Catholic School Administrators of New York State). She

has been active in prison retreat ministry at Green Haven Prison, has addressed parish and college audiences on ministry in the South Bronx, and has published a presentation on "Catechizing the Poor." Above all, Sr. Michelle is most grateful to the Lord and to the Sisters of Charity to be a cancer survivor for over 46 years.

ister Patricia Quinn, her twin brother, Mike, and three siblings, Peg, Bill, and Jim, were born to Mary and William Quinn in Manhattan. Sister Patricia attended Ascension Elementary School and Blessed Sacrament High School. Inspired by the witness and ministry of the wonderful Sisters of Charity whom she encountered, she entered the Congregation soon after graduation in 1963.



After completing the Novitiate and Juniorate, Sr. Patricia lived for one year at St. Joseph's Convent in Yonkers and studied each day at the Mount. She was then assigned to SS. Peter and Paul School in the Bronx where she taught kindergarten through fourth grade for 35 years. She was blessed to have lived with older Sisters who were compassionate and who generously loved and served the poor. During that time, in addition to teaching, Sister directed the Religious Education Program and prepared children for First Communion and Confirmation. She also taught English as a Second Language. Currently Sister is teaching first grade at St. Peter's School in Yonkers with an excellent staff of professional educators and wonderful children. Her Master of Science Degree from Hunter College, Masters Degree in Religious Education from the Archdiocesan Catechetical Program, and ongoing education have prepared her well to give the best to the children whom she enjoys so much.

2013 Jubilarians

70 ith love and appreciation for their lives of loving service, we honor all our 2013 Jubilarians. Added together, our Jubilarians have dedicated 1,885 years to making God's love visible in the lives of others. God bless our Jubilarians!

75 Years

Sister Cecilia Marie Haley, SC Sister Kathleen Hanrahan, SC Sister Ruth Marion McCullough, SC

Celebrated Jubilee in February 2013

Sister Marilda Joseph Aeillo, SC Sister Marita Regina Bronner, SC Sister Marietta Joseph Mackin, SC Sister Elizabeth V. McLoughlin, SC Sister Marie Schutte, SC Sister Mary Whamond, SC

65 Years

Sister Marie Irene Breheny, SC Sister Gloria Degnan, SC Sister Rita King, SC Sister Patricia Lawlor, SC

60 Years

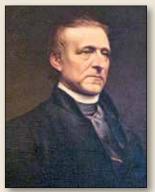
Sister Immaculata Burke, SC Sister Alice Maureen Darragh, SC Sister Therese Maria Dunne, SC Sister Monica Griffin, SC Sister Madeleine Maria Mahoney, SC Sister Eileen Martin, SC Sister Kathleen McAvoy, SC Sister Margaret McEntee, SC Sister Gabriel Miriam Obraz, SC Sister Theresa Rybarik, SC Sister Katherine Seibert, SC Sister Helen Maureen Wade, SC Sister Mary Edward Zipf, SC

An Archive Experience

By Constance Brennan, SC

Life in the archives of the Sisters of Charity is never dull. As master archivist Sr. Rita King so often stated, "Every task is a new learning experience." Sister Maryellen Blumlein and I were informed by Turlough McConnell, the head of an archive exhibition committee, that an exhibit of

St. Patrick's Cathedral will open in March 2014 at the Consulate General Exhibition Hall of Ireland, located near St. Patrick's Cathedral. John Hughes, famed archbishop of New York and brother of Mother Angela Hughes, third Mother General of the Sisters of Charity of New York, will be featured in this exhibit. When Mr. McConnell and his colleague, Elizabeth Martin,



visited the archives they were entranced with the handwritten meditations that Archbishop Hughes had written to his sister, Angela, in the 1860s during her term of office. Needless to say, the handwriting was visible but fading. Mr. McConnell desperately wanted this manuscript for his exhibit. He arranged for Elizabeth Martin to drive Sr. Maryellen and myself with the treasured book to archival photographer Frank Poole's studio in Hamden, CT. Mr. Poole handled the book with exquisite care and the results of his work produced a digital copy of the

cover and five pages, which were as readable as the morning newspaper. Sister Maryellen and I were thrilled with the outcome, especially since we are receiving a digital copy for the our own museum.

We are looking forward to the exhibit in March 2014 with pride!

At left: Archbishop John Hughes and Mother Superior Angela Hughes



Continuing the Tradition of Education Continued from page 5

living or nursing home care. She also gives vocation and mission presentations. Another Sister offers scripture sharing once a month and days and evenings of reflection in local parishes. The third Sister offers scripture study on both the Old and the New Testament. This fall she will present a four-part series on "Catholic Worship—Revisiting Vatican II" as well as workshops for lectors. In Advent and Lent, two of the Sisters provide reflection and sharing on the Sunday scripture before the liturgy.

In Guatemala, several Sisters are involved in formation work, helping to train new members of the Sisters of Charity. Other Sisters are teaching the people how to live a healthier lifestyle. Still others are involved in trying to help the people to find peace amidst their difficult lives.

Through all of the sponsored works and the involvement of the Sisters of Charity, it is God who calls us to work side by side with all of His people. We are called to educate all in the dignity of the human person, the beauty of the planet, and the delicate nature of all of God's creation. And so, while there may

not be as many Sisters who stand in front of a classroom of students, there are many who stand up to provide valuable life lessons.

Our mission as Sisters of Charity is to share in the ongoing mission of Jesus by responding to the signs of the times Our response in today's world leads us to provide help for women, the homeless, the hungry, the enslaved, and the immigrant. Our outreach to others in order to educate and prepare them for a better life is meeting the needs of our times. As from Elizabeth Seton's time the Sisters of Charity have been educators, nurses, social workers, and provided any service for which they were needed, this charism continues today

The heart of our ministries of education and childcare extends to all of creation as we carry on the charism of our foundress and the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul. We walk among the people of God proclaiming the good news of Jesus, who taught in many different venues. Education is involved in every activity and moment of our day. We shall never stop learning and teaching until God calls us home.

Sr. Jane Continued from page 5

The Sisters of Charity have also made a commitment to Catholic higher education by granting scholarships to students at the College of Mount Saint Vincent for the past three years. (See Education article on page 5.) In addition to fulfilling their obligations, these young adults have joined us at some of our Congregation events at Mount Saint Vincent and their presence has been truly inspirational and heartwarming.

In light of the closure of twenty-six schools this past summer, the Sisters of Charity Leadership Team reached out to all closed schools founded or staffed by the Congregation, expressing our mutual sense of loss and offering our prayers and moral support to the faculty, staff, and families.

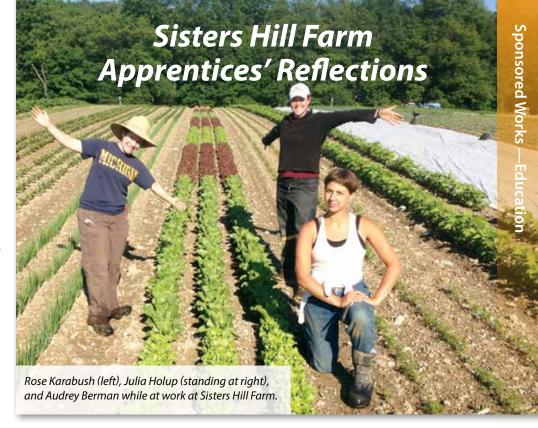
On an individual basis, Sisters and Associates are committed to tutoring children, teaching English language classes to adults, mentoring young adults, and so much more.

The desire to provide the means to empower and enrich the lives of all our sisters and brothers will continue to be at the core of who we are as a Congregation. It is our calling, it is our faith, and it will never end.

Then it comes to the Sisters of Charity presence in education today, Sisters Hill Farm is a thriving example. Training the next generation of farmers is a vital part of the mission of Sisters Hill Farm and so every year Farmer Dave Hambleton and Sr. Mary Ann Garisto, director of the farm, accept three apprentices who are eager to learn organic farming methods. Part of the apprentices' contribution to the program is to write a reflection for the weekly newsletter that is distributed to members along with their bountiful share. The following are excerpts from the weekly newsletters.

6-1-13 by Julia Holup: A warm hello to all our members! My name is Julia Holup, one of three new apprentices this year. This week I found myself falling into new rhythms. Our days, formerly filled with planting and soil prep are now organized around harvesting, and this week was all about refining these new skills: cutting through a row of spinach balancing care and alacrity, slicing at the root of a head of lettuce so it pops up whole and unblemished, wiggling unwilling turnips from the soil to preserve their delicate—and tasty—leaves, and washing radishes to reveal a ravishing red.

The wildlife surrounding the farm seems to have found a new rhythm, too. Twice this week we've stopped the van for turtles. Once to pick up a painted turtle on the path, and another time to urge a snapper to cross the road (despite her protest). Friday morning we found a fawn nestled in the grass near the pepper beds. She appeared to be only a day old as she wobbled and yelped when we drove her away. Even the weather has changed modes. Hit with harsh heat, we harvested at sunrise one day, and I learned how a fresh, peppery radish at that hour will wake you up as much as a cup of coffee. Despite the sweat, farming in the high heat has its rewards. Never does a cold drink taste as good as after a hot afternoon planting tomatoes. Evenings also seem richer, the cooler temperatures like an earned reward.



6-8-13 by Rose Karabush: Hello, all! My name is Rose Karabush, and this week I have the pleasure of bringing you the second of our three apprentice introductions.

Since arriving at Sisters Hill Farm two months ago, we apprentices have met so many kind new neighbors. Everyone we have met here—Farmer Dave, the Sisters of Charity, fellow farmers, and members of the communityhave made us feel so welcome. I've really enjoyed meeting many of our wonderful CSA members (and if I haven't yet made your acquaintance, I hope to do so soon!). But, when living and working on a farm, the wealth of new neighbors doesn't end there....

This week, the family of coyotes that live down the hill has been singing at the top of their lungs each nightsuch strange and surprisingly beautiful sounds. We've met mama spiders with their babies in a big white ball on their back, patrolling our lettuce and broccoli, and we've eaten lunch with our neighbor the woodchuck at the next table over (although his table looked more like a compost pile with some tasty radish scraps, really...). Recently, I was lucky enough to get a tour of the bustling beehive that shares one of our fields, and

even helped these industrious neighbors with a little spring cleaning.

6-15-13 by Audrey Berman: Hello Sisters Hill Farm CSA members, Audrey here the last of the three apprentices to introduce myself. My experience on the farm has been unimaginably informative with plenty of welcome challenge. I'm slowly learning the skills I'll need for my future farming goals, which excites me to no end. It's a very special time and Dave is a generous teacher; I feel honored to be learning from him. As of late my thoughts and energies have turned towards understanding how to cultivate balance. In the beginning of the season we spent most of our time hashing out a crop plan, preparing fields through fertilization, plowing, and rototilling, in addition to seeding in the warm air of the greenhouse (a pleasant task for those cool spring days). I couldn't have anticipated how inviting and full of life the greenhouse could be, jumping at the chance to drop itty bitty seeds into flats of potting mix. Slowly we transitioned into getting our newly sprouted crops into the ground, adequately watered and weed-free. Tickling (weeding) young plants has become a time for the team

Continued—see page 14, bottom right

With Love and Appreciation We Remember...

Sister Margaret Rose Curry, SC (Sister Elizabeth Marietta)
Entered: 1937 + Date of Death: 8/11/13 + Age: 95

"... will be remembered with love by those whose lives she touched, in the classroom, hospital, and in the adventures of daily life."



Sister Margaret's first missions were St. Francis Xavier and Incarnation in Manhattan. In 1944 she volunteered for mission in the Bahamas. She continued her education ministry as she served as teacher at St. Francis Xavier as well as head mistress at St. Anselm, Fox Hill. Led by her heart, she was a frequent visitor to the Lazaretto, a leper colony in Nassau, where her desire for nursing

flowered. In 1971 she became a licensed practical nurse.

From the many children she taught, to the various persons she cared for in the Bahamian leper colony, to the elderly whom she nursed when back in the U.S., the memories of Sister Margaret Rose will always reflect her good and gentle ways.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Kenny, SC (Sister Thomas Maureen) Entered: 1946 + Date of Death: 8/27/13 + Age: 86

"... was a master teacher with a special gift for relating to students on all levels. She inspired them with a love for knowledge and achievement."



Sister Mary's first mission assignment was teaching seventh grade at St. Agatha Home in Nanuet. She then taught at St. Charles Borromeo, Brooklyn, St. John the Evangelist, Manhattan, and St. Barnabas, Bronx. In 1962 she was assigned to Bishop McDonnell High School in Brooklyn and then to Blessed Sacrament High School in Manhattan where she became chair of the History

Department. She also served in that role at Cathedral High School, Manhattan, St. Gabriel High School in New Rochelle, and St. Barnabas High School in the Bronx. In 1987 she became an administrative assistant at the Convent of Mary the Queen. In this position she showed the same love and belief in the Sisters as she had with her students. She is warmly remembered for her wonderful sense of humor by all who were blessed to know her.

Sister Anne T. Golden, SC (Sister Marian Peter)

Entered: 1942 + Date of Death: 10/30/13 + Age: 91

"At Cabrini she worked with homeless women, where she saw a great need for compassion as she witnessed their suffering."



Sister Anne's first ministry was in the field of education. She then served as a nurse at several hospitals including St. Joseph Hospital, Yonkers; St. Vincent Hospital Harrison; and St. Vincent Hospital, Manhattan. She also was the infirmarian at Mount Saint Vincent Convent and staff nurse at the Convent of Mary the Queen. She worked in the Health Conservation Department of Metropolitan

Life and in the Cabrini Health Care Center. At Cabrini she worked with homeless women who were waiting placement in nursing homes or alcoholic rehabilitation centers where she was known for her great compassion.

Visit www.scny.org/memoriam.html for complete information about the Sisters' ministries.

Chef Jean, sc

Chef Jean Recommends...

Sausage and Rice Stuffed Baked Apples



Serves 4-6

Ingredients

4 baking apples, such as Gala or Winesap

8 ozs chicken or pork sausage, removed from casing ½ cup diced sweet onion ½ cup diced celery

1/3 cup diced carrot
2 alors garlie mineral

3 cloves garlic, minced

½ cup cooked rice ¼ cup chicken stock 1 teaspoon fresh marjoram, chopped ½ teaspoon sea salt ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper ¾ cup apple cider



Preparation

Preheat the oven to 375°. Slice the top off each apple. Use a melon baller to core the apples (discard core) then scoop out the flesh, leaving about a ½-inch thick shell. Place the apples

into an 8x8-inch baking dish. Dice the scoopped-out flesh and set aside.

Heat the oil in a large sauté pan set over medium-high heat, add sausage, onion, celery, carrot, garlic, and diced apple. Sauté until the sausage is browned and cooked through, about 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in marjoram, salt, and pepper.

Pour the apple cider into the bottom of the dish. Fill each apple with the sausage mixture. Bake uncovered until the apples are tender, about 35 to 45 minutes. Serve with the cooking liquid and drizzle some on top. Enjoy!

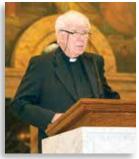
Apprentices' Reflections

Continued from page 13

to connect with each other, sing songs, and ask Dave innumerable questions about farming. Now we're in harvest mode, clear-cutting bok choi and snipping kohlrabi for two distributions a week. Admiring each head of lettuce has become a pastime of mine, gawking at how beautiful and unique each one is, and periodically stopping to take mental snapshots of our gorgeous beds before we pick them clean. In this time of harvesting, I've gleaned how important it is for us to remain diverse in our work and not get too overwhelmed with picking. It's imperative that we continue to seed in the greenhouse and weed our vegetables—balancing the present abundance with future growth.

SCNYNEWS

Brother Priests and Lay Colleagues Invited to Celebrate the Closing of Year of Faith



Fr. Joseph Komonchak

On October 17, approximately 200 priests and lay colleagues joined the Sisters of Charity and Associates for a prayer service and reflection at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception to mark the end of the Year of Faith and the Fiftieth Anniversary of Vatican II. During the prayer service led by Sr. Sheila Brosnan, Father Joseph Komonchak

shared his hope-filled insight on the work of Vatican II and the new papacy of Pope Francis.

Eleven New Associates Welcomed in Guatemala



María Ventura Lopez, Tomas Ramirez Gonzalez, Eva Susana Carrillo Xocol, Maria Siomara Vincente Zapeta, Isabel Maria Yak Chavez, Martin Esquipulas Morales Ordoñez, Luciano Salvador Laynez Perez, Debra L. Gish, Flor de MariÍa Manzano Moz, Judith de Jesús Izás Sánchez, and Amanda Liseth Alonso Gánez entered into an Associate Relationship with the Sisters of Charity on September 28. The new Associates completed an excellent formation program and ask your prayers as they continue to grow in the charism of charity. We thank our sisters in Guatemala for all of their work with our new and renewing Associates.

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center Celebrates 25 Years

On September 23, the Congregation joined staff, families, and friends of the center to celebrate 25 years of dedicated loving care to God's most precious and medically fragile children. The anniversary was celebrated with a Mass in the St. Elizabeth Chapel, followed by a reception in the Sister Carol Barnes community room. Speaking at the event were Patricia Tursi, CEO and SC Associate, Sr. Jane Iannucelli, Peter McKeever, Board of Directors Chair, and New York Assembly member Shelley Mayer. Before distributing pins marking the anniversary, Stephanie Gabaud, Josh Wilson, and Chelsea Lopez performed a musical number. As with all events at the center, all left with happy smiles, reflecting not only the celebration, but the continued amazement of all that is done with love and tenderness for the children at the center.

Sisters—A Documentary

A one-hour documentary hosted on the LCWR website examines the lives of five American women, revealing both their humanity and their deep spiritual grounding as Catholic Sisters. Visit the LCWR site at www.lcwr.org/publications/ sisters-documentary to view this beautiful video. One of the five Sisters featured is Sr. Monica Gundler, a Sister of Charity from Cincinnati. Sr. Monica, who lives at House of Charity in New Orleans with our own Sr. Claire Regan, is included in the article on page 8 of this issue. If you watch closely, you can catch Sr. Claire in the segment about Sr. Monica.

Trafficking News

In the continuing fight against human trafficking, Sr. Joan Dawber, SC-Halifax, Executive Director of LifeWay Network was interviewed by America magazine. A podcast of this interview is available at www.americamagazine.podbean. com/2013/10/16/fighting-trafficking-october-28-2013-podcast

Where Were You?

Continued from page 7

the stairs of the Lincoln Memorial, we took our place to the right at the bottom of the stairs. It all unfolded before us: Peter, Paul and Mary; John Lewis and so many more speakers; and Dr. King's magnificent call to better things for America. No one missed that this would be regarded as one of the great speeches in American history. No one missed either that the freedom and equality of the dream would require unshakeable determination and maybe even come at the continuing price of blood and tears.

Fifty years later, I know that the Civil Rights Movement is still a work in progress. Great gains are proudly acknowledged but so too are continuing challenges from too many corners where people need to abandon agendas of discrimination and division. Of this I am sure: 50 years ago thousands marched and witnessed the March and took the cry for justice to their corners of the world and made a difference and passed their passion for justice on to the next generations. Proud as I might be of being there in that historic moment in August of 1963 and of the fifty years of progress it began, I know the realization of the dream is incomplete. But I am encouraged. Is there any group better equipped than the Company of Charity to lock arms with the marginalized, the discriminated against, the disenfranchised, and, drawing our strength from the Gospels, to assure them that "We Shall Overcome?"

> Dr. Steven Sweeny, SCNY Associate and President Emeritus of the College of New Rochelle

Please visit our website for reflections by Sisters Carol Barnes, Lorraine Cooper, and Florence Speth.

Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York Sisters of Charity Center 6301 Riverdale Avenue Bronx, NY 10471-1093 718.549.9200 Fax 718.884.3013 www.scny.org







We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe

The Sisters of Charity of New York welcomed over 200 family members and friends on Saturday, November 2, the Feast of All Souls day, to remember those of the community who had passed away during the period of October 2011 to September 2013. Forty-one Sisters, Associates, and former members were remembered at the Mass, which is traditionally an annual event but had been cancelled last year because of Superstorm Sandy. The Mass marked the beginning of a month of remembrance for the Sisters of Charity family. Father Chis Keenan, OFM,D,MIN, chaplain of the College of Mount Saint Vincent, was presider of the Memorial Mass.

Sister Jane Iannucelli, SC, President of the Sisters of Charity of New York, welcomed family and friends of those being remembered at the beginning of the liturgy. "It is an awesome and terrible thing to lose those we love through death. They take a part of us with them and, yes, they leave a part of themselves with us. It is this communion of heart that continues to keep us together," said Sr. Jane. "In celebrating and honoring those who have gone before us in this Mass—our greatest act of thanksgiving—let us pray that this bond of love will deepen in us and continue to bring peace to our hearts."

Photos of the seventeen Sisters and one former member who passed away during the last year were placed on the side altar of the chapel. The names of the deceased were read at the beginning of the Mass as the bell tolled to mark their passing.

In his first official Mass for the Sisters of Charity



since becoming an Associate, Fr. Chris Keenan poetically intertwined lines from the hymn, *We Remember How You Loved Us*, by Marty Haugen, during his homily as he recalled the lives of love and dedication lived by those being remembered. Paraphrasing the song, he closed his remarks by saying, "And we believe that we will see you when we come into glory, *together*, we remember, we celebrate, we believe.

A luncheon in Smith Hall was held immediately following the Mass, providing time for all to share memories of their loved ones. Sister Jean Iannone prepared a slideshow featuring photos of those being honored that brought smiles and even cheers as everyone celebrated and remembered the lives lived and the love we will never forget.



Family of Sr. Joanne Ward



Family of Sr. Thomas Marie Callahan



Family of Sr. Alma Wedge



Family of Sr. Mary Anne Cronin