



DAUGHTERS  
*of* CHARITY

PROVINCE of ST. LOUISE

Vol. 1, Issue 2, 2012

# Faith *Afire*



Given to God, in Community, for the Service of Those who are Poor.

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**Cover:** On September 27, the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, Sister Cheryl Hillig, D.C., Principal, The DePaul Catholic School, addresses those gathered for the dedication of the school's new mural designed by Brother Mark Elder, C.M., DePaul University.

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*Faith Afire* is published by the Province of St. Louise. Comments, suggestions or address corrections may be directed to Belinda Davis, belinda.davis@doc.org; 314.561.4616; 4330 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63108. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without prior written permission.



Dear Friends,

As Christmas draws near, we prayerfully remember all of you who pray for and support us and all of those we serve. Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is a time of anticipation. For Daughters of Charity, it also is a time of more reflection and prayer. As you read the articles in this issue of *Faith Afire*, please take time to picture in your mind all of the blessed children, adults, and elderly the Daughters serve daily—students, the indigent, and the ill.

Through each of our ministries we not only bring physical and emotional encouragement and assistance, we also strive to be the caring hands of Jesus. To those facing insurmountable difficulties, we strive to serve as He served—in charity, simplicity, and humility. In July, we gathered in Indianapolis, IN, for our Provincial Meeting. There, we continued our discernment of our missions and ministries. We ask for your prayers as we continue to serve those living in poverty. May the Lord lead us to serve where we are needed most.

In this issue, we focus on ministries that are diverse, yet the same. Whether school, social agency, university, or a safe house for women, each of these ministries is where the needy come face to face with us—the Daughters of Charity. Each person we serve, in the United States or in foreign missions, needs the love of Christ. Very often, we turn to our founders for inspiration in our service.

St. Louise encouraged the early Daughters of Charity with these words—words that are very fitting as we draw near to Christmas:

*"It is from the example of Jesus in His infancy that you will obtain all that you need to become true Christians. You will do so by entreating Him to grant you His Spirit as He did at your holy Baptism."*

St. Louise de Marillac (L 647, p. 666)

May the Lord grant you peace this Christmas and New Year.

Blessings,

Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C.  
Provincial

Christmas Greetings,

Someone once described St. Vincent de Paul's spiritual life as a wheel that kept rotating between presence to God and help to the neighbor, each half circling back on the other. And so he speaks often of presence turning to action and back again, attentiveness to God leading to service of the neighbor then back again, each rising and falling, going round and round.

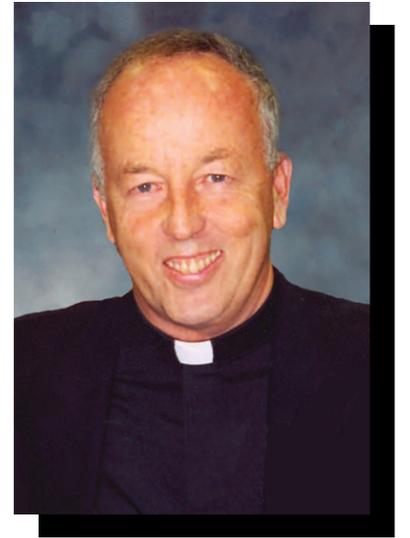
For an assignment, I once asked a college class to describe a time and a place when life was at its fullest. Touching on something like this "wheel," a young woman first painted a scene of Christmas morning when all of her family, nephews to grandparents, were gathered around the tree. She went through the gift-giving, the growing piles of wrapping paper, and dwelt especially on the delight and contentment filling the room. Then she sketched a second picture, not half as peaceful and brimming over as the first, but one that had to happen for the first one to come off. And that was of a stuffy crowded Mall, everyone pushing to get at the cashier's counter, tempers running short and time running out. Her moral: there could be no soul-filling presence to one another on Christmas morning without those stressed and crazy days of preparation before. And its opposite: there would be little motivation for going through all the hassle without some intimation of what it will be like under the tree. Thus, action allowing presence and presence drawing forth action—the ever revolving wheel.

In a 1655 letter, Vincent writes, "The practice of the presence of God is very good, but I think the practice of doing God's will is even better, for the second takes in the first." (Vol. 11, p 286) Here Vincent shows his predilection for doing, for the sweat and strain needed to build God's Kingdom. But most certainly he doesn't leave out the other half of the wheel, living in the presence of God. In so many talks and sermons, Vincent describes how the one has to circle back to the other, prayer prodding to effective action and activity leading back to prayer.

It's at this time of year especially, this joyful/frenetic season of presents and presence, when members of the Vincentian Family need to keep Vincent's wheel spinning. He distrusts both action that is not rooted in life with God, and prayer that doesn't lead to service of the needy neighbor. Each rotates, as it were, into the other. Each feeds—and then feeds from—its grace-filled partner.

In Vincent,

Father Tom McKenna, C.M.  
Provincial Director





Sister Virginia Ann Brooks greets Sister Mary Catherine Warehime.

## Looking Forward to a Transformation of the Mission

More than 300 Daughters of Charity of the Province of St. Louise gathered in July at the Provincial Meeting held in Indianapolis, IN. There, they prayed, celebrated Mass, sang, talked, and focused on the future.

### OPENING THE MEETING

When the new Province of St. Louise was birthed in July 2011, Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C., Visitatrix, used the image of a *Soup Pot* to describe our unification. We were indeed merging cultures with varying prayer styles, manners of speech, and local customs. The unification has taken root and Sister Louise, in her keynote address one year later, suggested that, "We now need to let the soup simmer. It has been boiling long enough. The chunks will still be there, but the simmering will allow the new flavor to permeate everything and nourish us even more."

Sister Louise shed light on the theme of the meeting, Transformation for the Mission. "Transformation is a process, one that is intended to make a change or adjustment in the deepest realm of the self. It creates a possibility or opportunity, but the change itself is more gift than effort. Transformation puts us into a receiving place where we are open to the something more we call God." *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love* (pp. 31-32) Lonni Collins Pratt and Daniel Homan, Authors

This theme, brought to the forefront at the opening of our 2012 Provincial Meeting, will permeate the coming years as we "simmer" and create the "new flavor" that distinguishes the Province of St. Louise.



Provincial Meeting facilitator, Sister Barbara Hagedorn, S.C., talks with Sister Louise Gallahue.



The Province's Mission and Ministry Task Force: (bottom row, left to right) Sisters Jane Graves, Helen Brewer, Mary Louise Stubbs, Janet Keim, and Mary Francis Bassick; (top row, left to right) Sisters Jean Rhoads, Judith Mausser, Cheryl Hillig, Therese MacKinnon and Elizabeth Greim.

### MISSION AND MINISTRY – WE ARE MOBILE

From the very beginning, St. Vincent and St. Louise, in response to the needs of their time, sent Daughters of Charity to the relief of those who were poor. In this way, they were able to maintain the necessary mobility and availability and to live among those whom they were serving. *Constitutions of the Daughters of Charity* (C. 12 a)

Faithful to this spirit, the Company makes every effort to be available and ready to respond creatively and courageously to the calls of the Church and the urgent needs of the poor ... (C. 12 b)

In the first century of its existence in the United States (1809-1909), the Community established 240 missions. During that period, the Sisters withdrew from 87 of these, in most cases entrusting the works to others to continue.

True to our Constitutions and our history, shortly after the formation of the new Province of St. Louise in July 2011, a task force of Sisters set to work to develop missionary priorities to serve as the guiding principles in evaluating and revising our works and ministries. At its inception, the Province of St. Louise comprised 560 sisters in 80 houses in 23 states plus the District of Columbia and Montreal, Canada. The Sisters are currently engaged in more than 200 distinct ministries.

Having laid the groundwork for the revision of our works and ministries, the Mission and Ministry Task Force engaged the Sisters attending the Provincial meeting in dialogue. Topics discussed included: the essentials of strong, supportive community life for the mission; how to address unmet needs and contribute to systemic change; and prioritization of areas of collaboration with emphasis on the Vincentian Family.

The next phase includes assessment, dialogue, and proposed recommendations about each Sister's ministry. Our hope is for a Mission and Ministry Plan to be presented to the Provincial Council by May 2013. Stay tuned for the outcomes!



Sister Irene Malate and Sister Maria Liebeck.

## THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

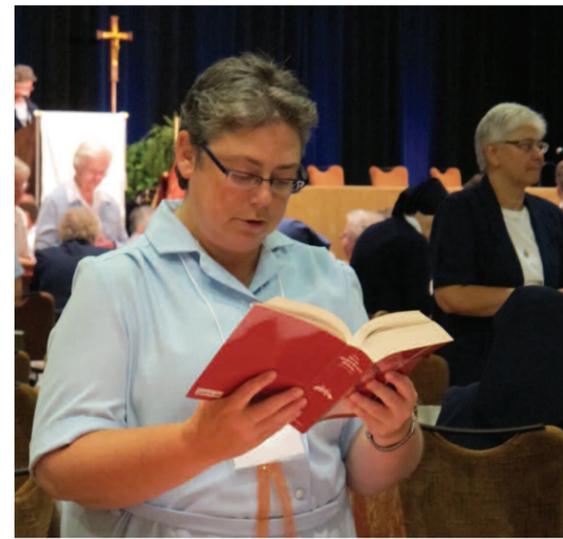
Sister Claire Debes, D.C., and Sr. Elyse Staab, D.C., provided an update on the activities of the Vincentian Family. In addition to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul founded in 1633, the Vincentian Family has many branches.

The Ladies of Charity originated in 1617 when a group of women responded to an appeal made by St. Vincent de Paul for assistance to a local family in need. They span the globe with 260,000 volunteers dedicated to direct service to those who are poor with their motto: To serve rather than be served.

In 1625, St. Vincent founded the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentian Priests and Brothers). Their original mission of evangelization of the poor and the formation of clergy and laity is carried on today in 47 Provinces on every continent except Antarctica.



Representatives from branches of the Vincentian Family addressed the Daughters at the Provincial Meeting. Pictured are Pat Jerrell, St. Vincent de Paul Society; Sister Monica Gundler, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati; and Kellie Willis, Vincentian Mission Corps.



At the closing of the Provincial Meeting, Sister Karen Burgess reads from scripture to the Daughters at her table.

In July of 2012, the Daughters of Charity Vincentian Service Corps and the Gateway Vincentian Volunteers merged to form the Vincentian Mission Corps. VMC provides young adults a year of experience living in community and working with persons living in poverty—all in the spirit of St. Vincent and St. Louise.

The youngest member of the Family, the Vincentian Lay Missionaries, was founded internationally in 1999. In the United States, the VLM came into existence in 2005. Since that time, about 70 young adults have served with the Daughters in Ethiopia to provide English instruction for five weeks and in Kenya to facilitate a summer camp at five different sites.

For more information on the Vincentian Family, visit <http://daughtersofcharity.org/vincentian-family/>

## ACCOMPANYING WOMEN DISCERNING THEIR CALL

Discerning a vocation requires a deep understanding of who you are and what is most important in your life. Promoting a culture of vocations and assisting others to hear and understand God's invitations is part of every Daughter of Charity's ministry.

In addition to formal and informal sharings with young people, many sisters have participated in events on university campuses. Vocation events sponsored by the Daughters of Charity include Nun Runs (progressive visits to various religious communities), vocation retreats, Search and Serve Retreats that combine service and prayer, and online vocation retreats.



Postulants Whitney Kimmet and Amanda Kern.

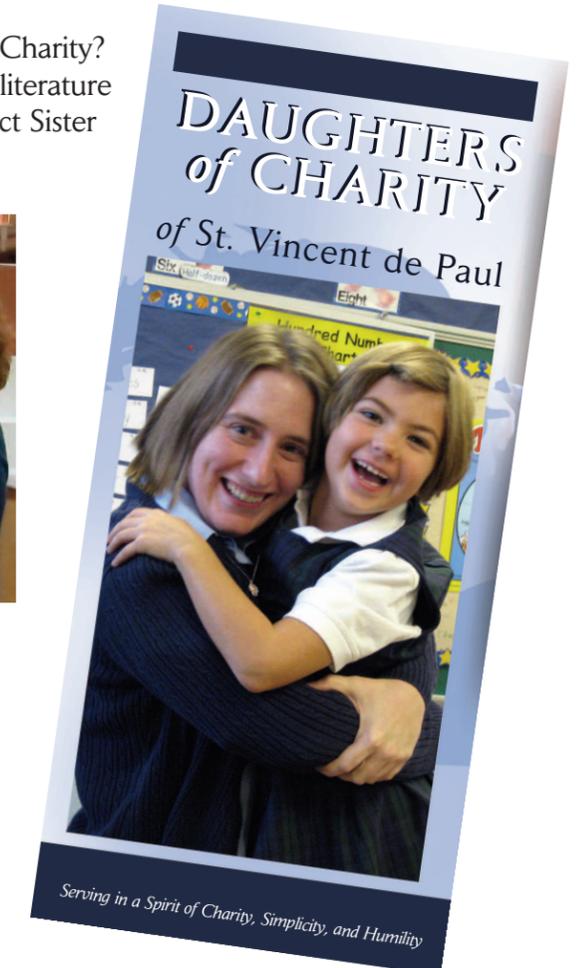


Social media is a valuable tool in vocation ministry. Daughters of Charity Vocations/Prayer Group can be found on Facebook. Information on the Community can be found on the new website for the Province of St. Louise: [www.daughtersofcharity.org](http://www.daughtersofcharity.org) or on the Vocations website: [www.daughters-of-charity.com](http://www.daughters-of-charity.com). The vocation team also writes a blog with a weekly inspirational, and YouTube videos to connect with young people: <http://spiritofthedaughtersofcharity.blogspot.com/>.

Would you like to be a Vocation Promoter for the Daughters of Charity? You can receive information on up-coming vocation events and literature to share with your parish and other organizations. Simply contact Sister Denise LaRock at [dcvoc@doc.org](mailto:dcvoc@doc.org).



Amanda Kern, Postulant, Sister Theresa Sullivan and Sister Denise LaRock, Vocation Directors, and Postulant Whitney Kimmet converse during the Meeting.



# Daughters Serve in Diverse Philly Ministries

## Dawn's Place

How does a woman recover from sexual exploitation and recover her dignity? For many, this journey begins in the homelike setting of Dawn's Place. The ministry here is to offer compassionate care for and empower international and American women who have been used and abused. Dawn's Place provides a home, support services, therapies, and life in a communal atmosphere to enable women to gain self-esteem and reclaim their lives.

"In this ministry to which I have been sent by the Company," explains Sister Michelle Loisel, D.C., "I feel blessed to be at the service of women deprived of their human rights and freedoms and reduced to a commodity that is bought and sold. It is an awesome experience to see women transformed here. Really I meet Christ in them. They are indeed our lords and masters." <http://ahomefordawn.org/>



Sister Michelle in the front room at Dawn's Place.

## The DePaul Catholic School—Integrating Spirituality and Instruction

Sister Cheryl Hillig, D.C., and Sister Martha Beaudoin, D.C., both serve at The DePaul Catholic School in Philadelphia where the fulfillment of one's academic potential and nurturing a culture of service combine to prepare DePaul School students for life.

"In September, when we dedicated our school's new mural," explains Sister Cheryl, Principal, "Father Sy Peterka, C.M., Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Germantown, spoke of the vitality and congruence of what we saw depicted on the walls of the school and what actually takes place within the walls. Vice Principal Steve Janczewski spoke to the students of the mural being an outward sign of what we are called to every day. Our commitment is to the children and families of Germantown and the hope these children will bring to a town struggling with



Sister Cheryl with some of the younger students from The DePaul Catholic School.



As The DePaul Catholic School Social Worker, Sister Martha often meets with groups of students.

violence, despair, drugs and blight. Education is a way out. St. Vincent called his Daughters and sons to walk with the poor and vulnerable, to treat them with the dignity they deserve, and to teach them to help themselves. That is what DePaul Catholic is all about. Pictured in the mural are St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, St. Martin de Porres and St. Francis of Assisi. There is also a smaller figure who is indistinct and who represents each one of us as part of the fabric of the transformation of Vincent's Orchard." <http://www.thedepaulcatholicsschool.org/dp/>

## The St. Vincent De Paul Center

Ministry with young adults at the St. Vincent De Paul Center opens clients' eyes to see Jesus Christ in those who are poor. Here, young people learn the Vincentian Charism in a threefold way: serving those who are poor, building community with one another, and reflecting and praying upon their experiences. During the course of a week, high school and college students contribute to the lives of the people they assist with generous spirits, often leaving behind hope and taking with them transformed hearts and minds. The center is currently staffed by Sister Patricia Evanick, D.C., and Father Bill Allegreto, C.M.

"During my time working here at St Vincent de Paul Center I have been challenged and changed by the students who come to the center and share their deepest desires to help those living in poverty," says Sister Patricia. "They come to Philadelphia, a very urban setting, with many challenges that go along with living here and accept everything and everyone so graciously and in their evening reflection they share how they are changed by those they have met and worked with. In our morning prayer, the students pray for those they meet each day and that they can be as happy as the people they serve. The students really do get what service is about. Working with our Vincentian Brothers and sharing such a powerful ministry where we are constantly challenged to keep moving forward in the charism provides me, as Daughter of Charity, with daily confirmation that our Vincentian Charism is alive and inviting us to new ways of service."

[www.facebook.com/.../St-Vincent-de-Paul-Center](http://www.facebook.com/.../St-Vincent-de-Paul-Center) or <http://germantown.vinfamily.org>



Sister Patricia gathers recent De Paul Center volunteers for a photo.

## Ministering with Our Brothers at St. Vincent's Seminary

The Congregation of the Mission, better known as the Vincentians, spreads the gospel message of Jesus in championing the needs of those who are poor through prayer, ministry, and life in community. "I have the unique ministry of collaborating regularly with our Vincentian priests and brothers," shares Sister Margaret Walker, D.C. "Sharing our common charism spreading the gospel message of Jesus to those who are poor is truly a blessing for me. As an Assistant to the Provincial of the Eastern Province, I assist with the planning and execution of the goals and priorities that shape their pastoral ministry and their life in community. This ministry enables me to share in keeping alive the flame of zeal that moves these men to search out and serve those in need." [www.cmeast.org](http://www.cmeast.org)



Father Greg Cozzubbo, C.M., and Sister Margaret at St. Vincent's Seminary.

# Daughters Minister to Students on Many Campuses and In Many Ways

The joy of sharing the Vincentian charism with young adults is central to each Daughter who serves university and college students.

## Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland

Serving in campus ministry, **Sister Elizabeth Ann Sjoberg, D.C.**, was able to engage young people in the Daughters of Charity mission of service. In Sister Liz's words, "By accompanying, coordinating, and welcoming students to our ministries, and/or planning reflections about their experience, we help them to see how to put faith into practice and deepen their understanding of the Gospel call to service of those in need." Sister Liz now is on the other side of the desk as she begins work on a Master of Social Work degree at DePaul University in Chicago.



As a member of the teaching faculty, **Sister Anne Higgins, D.C.**, strives to inject Vincentian values into the content of her literature and spirituality courses. Her poetry selections include those relating to situations of war or the plight of persons who are poor. Teaching the Vatican Council II document, *Lumen Gentium*, Sister Anne discusses the universal call to holiness and has the opportunity to call the students' attention to the preferential option for the poor. As part of the course "Women of Faith," students study the lives of women who down through history were intent on serving the poor.

## St. John's University, New York City

As the Executive Director of St. John's University Vincentian Center for Church and Society, **Sister Margaret John Kelly, D.C.**, coordinates relationships between the University and the dioceses, religious, and civic groups so that St. John's can make its many resources, especially the broad expertise of the faculty, available to the greater church. She also does charism formation for University personnel and programming for issues of social justice and poverty. She is assisted in this by a cadre of fifty Vincentian Research Fellows from across the University faculties. She also moderates the recently established chapter of the Ladies of Charity at St. John's. Sister serves on the boards of Catholic Charities of New York and the Catholic Health System of Long Island and provides services to other Church groups in the area.



## DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois

**Sister Christina Laim, D.C.**, is a member of the Province of Turin, Italy. Having served as the Principal of Istituti Riuniti Salatto e Fionto in Rivoli, Italy, she enrolled as a student at DePaul. Sister earned her certification at the English Language Academy and completed a French Minor in Liberal Arts at DePaul. As

part of the Daughters' International Community, she gave witness to students who often asked her to pray for them. Sister Christina recently moved to New York where she will intern as a non-governmental agency (NGO) representative to the United Nations before returning home.

**Sister Frances Ryan, D.C.**, served for 30 years at DePaul University as Chair and founder of the Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, and later as Chair of the Human Services and Counseling graduate programs. During her years of service, Sister Fran has inspired students to aspire to transformative leadership in order to be agents of change in social policy and to assist with the empowerment of persons who are poor. Professor Emerita in the College of Education since 2008, Sister Fran continues at DePaul University working in Catholic Studies and Vincentian Spirituality Research and serves as the National Spiritual Moderator for the Ladies of Charity.



Serving in Campus Ministry, **Sister Katie (Catherine Mary) Norris, D.C.**, meets students and faculty members at every juncture. For some, she serves in spiritual guidance, for others, she is the point person in an office where there is always much going on. The joy she brings and the enthusiasm for the Vincentian charism that Sister Katie shares invite students to spend time talking with her.

As a Vincentian Scholar in Residence at DePaul University, **Sister Betty Ann McNeil, D.C.**, serves in University Mission and Values. An archivist and researcher, Sister Betty Ann is an expert in Vincentian heritage and most especially St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. While at DePaul, Sister Betty Ann continues to write on the Daughters' roles as nurses in the Civil War and make presentations on Elizabeth Ann Seton.



## St. Vincent's College, Bridgeport, Connecticut

**Sister Anne Marie Graham, D.C.**, serves as Special Projects Coordinator at St. Vincent's. As a member of the Mission Committee of St. Vincent's Medical Center and the Mission, Vision, and Values Committee of the College, she tries to bring these Vincentian values into discussions with students. She also coordinates the Prayer Partner Program whereby students are matched up with another student. They get to know and support this student and pray for her/him daily.

# 2012 September - December Jubilarians



*From Left to Right, Top to Bottom:* Sister Louise Sullivan, Sister Victoria Nolan, Sister Jean Marie Wheeler, Sister Enda McArdle, Sister Regina Loughlin, Sister Marie Seitz, Sister Alicia Donohoe  
*Second Row:* Sister Anne Marie Moran, Sister Mary Clare Hughes, Sister Hilda Gleason, Sister Anna Marie Goodrich, Sister Catherine Joseph McDonough, Sister Martha Ann Gilman, Sister Catherine Fitzgerald  
*Third Row:* Sister James Regina Rankin, Sister Mary Pavonarius, Sister Amelia Lenz, Sister Bernadette Forquer, Sister Mary Joseph Clarke, Sister Mary Jo Stein, Sister Denise Duplessis  
*Bottom Row:* Sister Patricia Coughlin, Sister Celeste Donohue, Sister Margaret Flynn, Sister Rosa Daly, Sister Lucretia Burns, Sister Helen Brewer, Sister Mary Ann Bozel.

# Province of St. Louise

## Celebrating 1,835 years of Serving Christ in Those in Need

During the last four months of 2012, September through December, 28 Daughters of Charity from the Province of St. Louise celebrate Jubilees.

### 80 Years Vocation

#### *Sister Hilda Gleason, D.C.*

December 23, 1932

Sister Hilda served in Education, as General Councillor in Paris, as a Regional Superior and as a Librarian. Sister Hilda lives in Emmitsburg, MD, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

#### *Sister Amelia Lenz, D.C.*

September 1, 1932

A Nurse, Sister Amelia served in Alabama and Louisiana including 22 years caring for Hansen's disease patients in Carville, LA. Sister currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer in St. Louis, MO.

#### *Sister Jean Marie Wheeler, D.C.*

September 21, 1932

Sister Jean Marie ministered in Schools, Parishes, and Social Service Agencies in New York. She also served as an Archivist. Sister Jean Marie lives in Albany, NY, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

### 75 Years Vocation

#### *Sister Rosa Daly, D.C.*

December 21, 1937

Sister Rosa served in Education, Hospital Administration, as a Provincial Treasurer, and Volunteer before entering into the Min-

istry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD, where she lives today.

#### *Sister Regina Loughlin, D.C.*

December 21, 1937

Sister Regina served as a Teacher, Principal, Secretary in Paris, in formation, and as Seton Shrine Administrator. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

#### *Sister Enda McArdle, D.C.*

December 21, 1937

Sister Enda, a long time Educator—Kindergarten through college freshman—teaches adults working to obtain their GED in Troy, NY. She is a resident of Albany, NY.

#### *Sister Victoria Nolan, D.C.*

December 21, 1937

An Educator, Nurse, and Pastoral Care Minister, Sister Victoria serves in the Ministry of Prayer and lives in Albany, NY.

### 70 Years Vocation

#### *Sister Mary Ann Bozel, D.C.*

December 14, 1942

Sister Mary Ann, an Elementary and High School Teacher, Bookkeeper, and Gift Shop Manager, lives in Emmitsburg, MD. There, she serves as a Visitor and Seton Shrine Assistant.

#### *Sister Mary Joseph Clarke, D.C.*

December 4, 1942

Sister Mary Joseph served in Hospital Finance, Administration, and Pastoral Care; she worked with the Ladies of Charity before entering the Ministry of Prayer. Sister lives in Evansville, IN.

#### *Sister Alicia Donohoe, D.C.*

October 7, 1942

Sister Alicia served in Child Care, and in Senior and Elder Services. Today, she serves in the Ministry of Prayer and lives in Albany, NY.

#### *Sister Celeste Donohue, D.C.*

December 14, 1942

Sister Celeste, a long time Teacher and Principal, served at the Shrine in Emmitsburg and as a Patient Visitor at Providence Hospital in Baltimore. Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer and resides in Emmitsburg, MD.

#### *Sister Margaret Flynn, D.C.*

December 14, 1942

A Social Worker, Sister Margaret has served in many agencies, as a Provincial Councillor, at the Shrine in Emmitsburg, and as an Archivist. She lives in Evansville, IN, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

#### *Sister Anna Marie Goodrich, D.C.*

December 14, 1942

Sister Anna Marie ministered in Social Service Agencies and Hospitals in New York, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Now serving in the Ministry of Prayer, Sister resides in Albany, NY.

#### *Sister Mary Clare Hughes, D.C.*

December 14, 1942

A Nurse, Sister Mary Clare has served in Nursing and Hospital Administration, as Provincial, and in Pastoral Care. She lives in Emmitsburg, MD, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

### 60 Years Vocation

#### *Sister Helen Brewer, D.C.*

November 25, 1952

A Teacher, Principal, Director of Religious Education, Administrator, Associate Vicar of Religious, Sister Helen currently ministers as an Advocacy Consultant at Seton Healthcare Network in Austin, TX.

#### *Sister Lucretia Burns, D.C.*

November 25, 1952

A Teacher, Principal, and currently serving in adult basic education (GED) ministry, Sister Lucretia resides in San Antonio, TX.

#### *Sister Patricia Coughlin, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

An Educator who served in Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Virginia, New York, Delaware and Connecticut, and as Missionary to China, Sister Patricia serves in the Ministry of Prayer. She resides in Albany, NY.

#### *Sister Denise Duplessis, D.C.*

November 25, 2012

An Elementary and Secondary Teacher, Group Home Mother, Music Teacher, Pastoral Assistant, Sister Denise currently serves as a Tutor. She lives in New Orleans, LA.

#### *Sister Catherine Fitzgerald, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

A Teacher, Principal, Seton Shrine Director, Parish Minister, and Volunteer GED Math Teacher, Sister Catherine currently serves in Community Support. She lives in Baltimore, MD.

#### *Sister Bernadette Forquer, D.C.*

October 13, 1952

An Elementary Teacher and Social Worker, Sister Bernadette served in Texas, Illinois, and Indiana. She lives in Evansville, IN, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

#### *Sister Martha Ann Gilman, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

Sister Martha Ann served as a Math and English Teacher, in Project Development, and in Computer and Information Sciences. She teaches Microsoft applications to staff and lives in Albany, NY.

#### *Sister Catherine Joseph McDonough, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

An Elementary Teacher, Sister Catherine Joseph currently ministers to the elderly. She lives in Holbrook, MA.

#### *Sister Anne Marie Moran, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

Sister Anne Marie has served as a Teacher, CCD Coordinator, Seminary Directress, and Provin-

cial Councillor. She currently serves as a High School Volunteer and Sister Servant. Sister lives in Albany, NY.

#### *Sister Mary Pavonarius, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

Sister Mary, a longtime Teacher and Coordinator of Seton Outreach, now serves as the Sacristan and as a Tour Guide at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. She lives in Emmitsburg, MD.

#### *Sister James Regina Rankin, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

Sister James Regina, a Teacher who ministered in New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, now serves in the Ministry of Prayer. She lives in Emmitsburg, MD.

#### *Sister Marie Seitz, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

Sister Marie, a Teacher, Business Manager, and Minister of Pastoral Care, serves in the Ministry of Prayer. Sister resides in Emmitsburg, MD.

#### *Sister Louise Sullivan, D.C.*

December 22, 1952

Sister Louise, who has served in Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education, is a Historian, Writer, Translator, and Vincentian Heritage Retreat Leader. Sister lives in Bayside, NY.

### 25 Years Vocation

#### *Sister Mary Jo Stein, D.C.*

September 7, 1987

Sister Mary Jo has served as a High School Biology Teacher, French Teacher, Earthquake Relief Worker, and Translator. Currently, she serves as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Sister lives in Hyattsville, MD.

# DePaul USA Projects Offer Daughters Opportunities to Care for Those Most in Need

## Movin' On in New Orleans

Prior to Katrina, several efforts were underway to assist the homeless in New Orleans. The hurricane demolished many existing services and increased the homeless population. After Katrina, the Rebuild Center at St. Joseph Parish consolidated the efforts of The Harry Tompson Center (a Jesuit ministry) and Lantern Light (ministry of the Presentation Sisters) to address basic needs of clients such as showers, restrooms, areas for shaving and brushing teeth, a morning snack and lunch. Also available are pro bono attorney services, a medical clinic, emergency groceries, and assistance with obtaining birth certificates, IDs, and public assistance.



Sister Kathleen Driscoll with some of her close friends from Movin' On.

In January 2012, Depaul USA became a partner at the Rebuild Center initiating Movin' On to provide transportation to clients. During this first year, Movin' On has worked with 181 individuals to connect clients with physicians, housing case workers, and to facilitate access to the St. Vincent DePaul Free Pharmacy, the Vision Center, and mental health services. The Daughter of Charity Support Specialist, Sister Kathleen Driscoll, D.C., also acts as a bridge and advocate connecting clients to other local agencies for assistance.

<http://www.depaulusa.org/news-events/homeless-to-housed-movin-on-in-new-orleans/>



Sister Elizabeth takes a moment to chat with a Daybreak friend.

## Daybreak in Macon

In Macon, Georgia, several faith-based organizations pool resources to create Daybreak, a day center to serve the needs of the homeless without duplicating existing programs that provide food and clothing.

Daybreak provides a space for the homeless to wash clothes, shower, and get basic medical assistance and guidance. Staff and volunteers connect clients with other organizations for assistance. Daybreak is not necessarily a place for people to go to spend their day, but a place where people living on the margins of society can be reintegrated to Macon as a community and transition into independence.

Many members of the Macon community, willing to put energy and resources into making life better for all citizens, are turning a dream into a reality. DePaul USA, with the local

leadership of Sister Elizabeth Greim, D.C., has committed both time and money to the project. "Daybreak is trying to break the mold by providing uniquely delivered services to both men and women who are unhoused," explains Sister Elizabeth.



The recent renovation of Daybreak included many phases. No matter what was under construction, Sister Elizabeth and her staff made certain the center remained open.

The goal at Daybreak is to engage Macon's homeless population by drawing them from the streets to the Center where they can access needed services and reconnect with the larger community. In addition to meeting needs of homeless individuals, Daybreak facilitates the collaboration of faith-based institutions, businesses and city agencies to revitalize the city of Macon. "The relationships that we develop help us to better guide friends of Daybreak toward services that move them along to self-sufficiency."

<http://www.depaulusa.org/our-services/macon-ga/>

## Depaul House in Philadelphia

As one graduate of Depaul House stated, "At Depaul you are treated as a person. Everyone sees the 'more' that you can be and puts their efforts there. If I didn't end up at Depaul, I would have ended up in a cardboard box."

Sister Mary Francis Martin, D.C., collaborates with the Vincentians at Depaul House to provide transitional housing for 27 homeless men in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Part of Depaul International, Depaul House is the first site established in the United States. Its mission is to provide "homeless and disadvantaged people the opportunity to fulfill their potential and move towards an independent and positive future." A man may reside at Depaul House for up to one year. While receiving shelter in his own private room he is supported by programs that address employment issues, parenting skills, physical and mental health, finances, peer and family support, legal and spiritual needs. The average age of residents is 47. Most are fathers. Many have substance abuse issues, prior criminal histories, and/or mental health diagnoses.

Successful graduates (80%) have achieved financial stability and the ability to move into an appropriate home of their own.

<http://www.depaulusa.org/our-services/depaul-house/>



Sister Mary Francis and Father Bernie Tracey, C.M., Chair of the Board for Depaul USA, often work together at Depaul House.

# Senior Sisters Throughout the Province of St. Louise: Celebrating Wisdom, Age, and Grace

Each of these sisters is formally commissioned to pray for the Sisters and the works of a specific local mission in the Province. In every issue of *Faith Afire*, we will introduce you to Daughters who reside in one of the Senior Sister Residences throughout the Province. This issue, we highlight a few Sisters who live at Seton Residence in Evansville, IN.

*There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

The residences where the aged and infirm Daughters of Charity reside are truly the *Powerhouses of Prayer* supporting every Sister and every mission throughout the Province of St. Louise. These Sisters live daily the Constitutions of the Daughters of Charity that state:

*By their prayer, the offering of their sufferings, and the witness of their lives, the sick and elderly Sisters truly share in mission. The community surrounds them with care and affection and helps them to accept, in peace and serenity, their limitations of age and health as a form of service. C. 35 b*



## Sister Caroline Lennox

*"In Community, my main focus was on numbers. I worked in business and finance offices. Here at Seton Residence, I serve in the Ministry of Prayer but also help out wherever I am needed. I sometimes assist with clerical functions. I believe laughter is the best medicine!" Those who know her well, often comment that Sister Caroline is one who remains in the background and does many "little unknown" things for others. Sister Caroline is a true Daughter of St. Louise and St. Vincent.*

## Sister Margaret Mary Robins

*"I taught and cared for children for the majority of my Community life. I served at St. Thomas on the Hill in Birmingham, AL., at many schools in Mississippi, California, Puerto Rico, and Missouri; and I worked in adult education with Hispanic students. Since 2004, I have served in the Ministry of Prayer. It is a time of reflection and prayers of thanksgiving to God for opportunities to serve others. While in Evansville, I've mentored Seminary Sisters, worked at the Blessing Place, and helped at the reception office." Sister Margaret Mary brings laughter and fun to many meals and gatherings!*



## Sister Mary Ann Wiltzius

*"A teacher, social worker, administrator, and rural missionary, I was invited to assume 'Candy Duty' from Sister Mary Josephine Benoit (19 years in this duty) when I arrived at Seton in 2011. It is a delightful duty, because I go from table to table in the Infirmary refectory offering candy to the elderly Sisters twice a week. I fill the St. Louise and St. Catherine Community Room candy dishes regularly. This has been a lot of fun and gotten me in touch with many*

*Sisters. I also visit the sick and assist in St. Catherine Kitchen--keeping it tidy and ordering food. I recently was given two parakeets to care for; they have been fun and a real learning experience. They make plenty of noise, but they are cute and do many aerobic tricks which entice many visitors to come and watch."*

## Sister Anthony Prugger

*"Before I began working with the Senior Sisters, I worked for more than 25 years with babies and toddlers. I began to think that 'D.C.' meant 'Diaper Changer.'" Sister Anthony has been at Seton Residence since March of 1991. Her first duty was as Coordinator of the Retirement Program; then, in 1993, she became Administrator of Seton Residence. During all these years, Sister has worn and still wears many hats. (You know, the longer one remains in one place the more jobs/responsibilities one acquires!) There are very few areas of Seton that Sister doesn't have a "say in" just because of her knowledge. She does many things and most of them are hidden things that few people know about. She will do anything for anyone! She often rides her "scooter" with Billy (her African parakeet on her shoulder)--just this alone makes even the most dour smile. She has gracefully aged into one of the most revered elders.*



# Province News

## Daughters Withdraw from Milwaukee

It was to teach school that the Daughters of Charity first arrived in Milwaukee. One-hundred and sixty-six years later, the Daughters bid the Milwaukee community goodbye. Through the years, the Daughters of Charity—as they officially became known after their adoption of the rule of St. Louise de Marillac’s French Daughters of Charity of Paris, France in 1850—served in numerous schools, parishes, social ministries, hospitals, orphanages, and other Catholic agencies in the Milwaukee Archdiocese. In August, the final four Daughters of Charity said goodbye to their home on North Lake Drive and traveled to new ministries.

Their “missionings” will enable them to serve those most in need. Sister Jean Maher, D.C., Sister Mary Elizabeth Cullen, D.C., Sister Angele Hinkey, D.C., and Sister Mary Kay Tyrell, D.C., the final four Daughters to live and serve in Milwaukee, recognized their departure as bittersweet. Yet, Milwaukee has not seen the last of the Daughters of Charity. Sister Theresa Sullivan, D.C., serves on the Board of Directors at Columbia St. Mary’s. Sister Mary Elizabeth Cullen, D.C., serves on the Columbia St. Mary’s Foundation Board. These Sisters will continue the tradition of Vincentian charism and oversight begun so very long ago.

## VSC and GVV Combine as Vincentian Mission Corps

Late this summer, two former volunteer efforts—the Vincentian Service Corps (VSC) and the Gateway Vincentian Volunteers (GVV)—combined as the Vincentian Mission Corps (VMC). They are based in St. Louis, MO, and are under the direction of Kellie Willis (a 2002-2003 Gateway Vincentian Volunteer and the former Director of the VSC). The VMC volunteers include 15 young adults for the 2012-2013 volunteer year. Please remember the VMC volunteers in your prayers as they serve those living in poverty and marginalized. [www.vincentianvols.org](http://www.vincentianvols.org)



## Archival Collections from Former Provinces Arrive in Emmitsburg

The Provincial Archives, located at historic St. Joseph House in Emmitsburg, MD, combines the collections of four former US Daughters of Charity Provinces: St. Louis, MO; Evansville, IN; Albany, NY; and Emmitsburg, MD. The Archives boasts a state-of-the-art repository, collection exhibit space, and a reading room for researchers. More information is available by emailing [archives@doc.org](mailto:archives@doc.org)

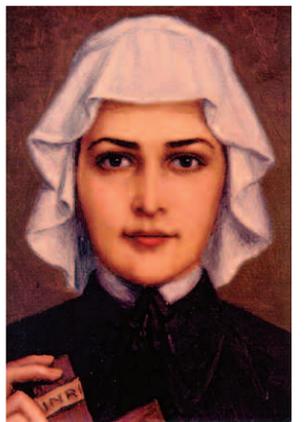


## St. Joseph’s Ministries Garden Blessed

The garden at St. Joseph’s Ministries (St. Vincent’s, St. Catherine’s and Villa St. Michael) in Emmitsburg was blessed on October 1. Staff, Sisters, and gardeners gathered as Father Steve Trzeciecki, C.M., offered the blessing.

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Named the Roman Catholic Church’s Year of Faith Saint for January

Pope Benedict XVI has declared October 11, 2012 – November 24, 2013 as the Year of Faith. The opening day was the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. During each month of the Year of Faith, American Saints, Blesseds, and Venerables, selected by the US Conference for Catholic Bishops, will be recognized. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, American foundress of the Daughters of Charity, will be honored as the January 2013 Saint. St. Elizabeth Ann’s feast day is celebrated on January 4. St. Elizabeth was canonized by Pope Paul VI on September 14, 1975. <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/saints-for-the-year-of-faith.cfm>



# Daughters Honored With Recognitions

Included in this issue are only some of the recent honorees; more will be included in the next *Faith Afire*.

• **The Daughters of Charity** were recognized for their 150 years of service in Chicago, IL.

• **Sister Frances Ryan** was honored by All Hallows College with the establishment of the Sister Frances Ryan Scholarship Fund for the Irish-American Scholarship.

• **Sister Patricia Ann O'Brien** received the President's Medal from St. John's University in recognition of her 23 years of service in Campus Ministry on both the Staten Island and Queens Campuses.

• **Sister Julia Huiskamp** who has ministered in East St. Louis, IL, for 44 years, received the Aquinas Institute of Theology's second annual St. Rose of Lima Society Award.

• **Sister Margaret Tuley** was a recipient of the Papal Cross in recognition as a Rendu Services founder and as a Co-Chair of the Diocese of Greensburg, PA, Strategic Planning Committee.

• **Sister Louise Gallahue** was recognized by St. John's University in Jamaica, NY; the University conferred an honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

• **Sister Joan Warner**, teacher at tuition-free Mother Seton Academy in Baltimore, was recognized as a Teacher of the Year by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship.

• **Sister Mary Elizabeth Cullen** was honored by Milwaukee Archbishop Listescki with the Archdiocese's annual Vatican II Award for Service to the Church and Society.

• **Sister Mary Jean Tague**, Bridgeport, CT, was recognized by St. John's University, Jamaica, NY, as the recipient of the University's Pieta Medal given to an outstanding graduate.

• **Sister Catherine Hagan** was recognized at the 100th Anniversary of St. Mark the Evangelist School in Harlem, NY, for extraordinary contributions to the education of her beloved students.

• **Sister Phyllis Nolan**, El Paso, TX, received the Border Hero Extraordinary Volunteer Award for her work in the Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center.

• **Sister Irma Vargas**, Harlingen, TX, received the Faithful to the Rule of the Society Award of the St. Vincent DePaul Society for leadership in the start-up of the renewed Council of Brownsville, TX.

• **Sister Joanne Dress** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County, NY.

• **Sister Mavis Jewell**, Albany, NY, was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Delta Pi Chapter, the honor society of nursing.

• **Sister Barbara Ann Curran**, Wilmington, DE, received the Diocesan Medal of Merit Award from Bishop Malooly for outstanding and faithful service to St. Peter Cathedral School and Diocese.

• **Sister Janet Keim** was recognized by St. Thomas Health System in Nashville, TN, as a 2012 Seton Society Inductee. She was honored for her gifts of passion, courage, dedication, and extraordinary spirit of leadership and service.

# In Memory

We remember the four Daughters of Charity who, in recent months, have gone to their Eternal Home.

*"Remain faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life." Rev 2:10*



**Sister Mary Paul Combs**  
January 9, 1915  
September 13, 2012  
78 years vocation

Longtime Educator and Advocate for the hearing impaired, Sister Mary Paul spent the majority of her community life teaching in Virginia, New York, and Maryland. Sister Mary Paul was also an advocate for the deaf. While earning her master's degree from Canisius College, Buffalo, NY, she began to serve the hearing impaired at St. Mary's School in Buffalo.



**Sister Mary Rose McGeady**  
June 28, 1928  
September 13, 2012  
65 years vocation

Sister Mary Rose served in Boston, MA, at a Catholic home for children; in Rhinebeck, NY, at the Astor Home for Children; at Nazareth Center in Boston; at St. John's Parish in Brooklyn, NY; as a Provincial Councillor; at Kennedy Center in New York; as the Northeast Province's Visitatrix; and at Covenant House. At Covenant House, Sister's talents and care benefited many children.



**Sister Helen LeDuc**  
June 7, 1920  
October 11, 2012  
65 years vocation

A teacher, Sister Helen spent the majority of her community life as an educator and teacher in Louisiana, Missouri, Arizona, Utah, and Iowa. She also served as the computer coordinator at St. Vincent's Grade School in Perryville, MO. She was the sister of Daughter of Charity Sister Annette LeDuc, D.C., of St. Louis.



**Sister Audrey Bergfeld**  
January 5, 1926  
November 3, 2012  
65 years vocation

Sister Audrey served as housemother, teacher, organist, music coordinator, music instructor, assistant principal, computer teacher, bookstore manager, and Sister Servant in various locations including Natchez, MS, St. Louis, MO, Chicago, IL, New Orleans, LA, and Dallas, TX.



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*Faith Afire* is printed with the environment in mind. In addition to domestic made recycled paper, the energy used to produce this magazine has been offset 100 percent with Missouri wind energy credits procured from the Ameren Missouri Pure Power program. The print facility is one of fewer than 50 SGP certified printers in the US and uses only printing inks that are solvent-free, low V.O.C. and soy based.



## Sister Roberta and Sister Liz Make Vows for First Time

In April, Sister Roberta Treppa, D.C., made vows for the first time at the St. Louise de Marillac Chapel at DePaul University in Chicago, IL. A member of the Community since August of 2006, Sister Roberta serves in Family Advancement Ministries in Macon, GA. In August, Sister Elizabeth (Liz) Ann Sjoberg, D.C., a member of the Community since August of 2007, made vows for the first time at the Basilica of



Sister Liz Sjoberg



Sister Roberta Treppa

of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD. Sister Liz recently began graduate studies in social work at DePaul University in Chicago. The vows of the Daughters are private, annual, and always renewable.