Faith Afire

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

When the philosopher minted his famous phrase, "I think, therefore I am," he was getting at an issue we'd know today as identity. What is it that anchors me in life? What is it I stand on that makes me 'real' such that if I couldn't do it anymore, my sense of who I am would start to fade? For him, it was thinking. But others would choose winning, owning, being attractive, dominating, being at the center, looking good, and a host of other possibilities. "When I do this grounding thing, I'm really alive; when I stop, my 'I', so to speak, begins to shrivel up."

There's a Vincentian version of this axiom that would read, "I live in Christ, and therefore I am." It arises from a favorite verse of Vincent and Louise's, Galatians 2:20, "...I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me." They were forever counseling their followers to find their firm ground in the Risen Christ, and to sink their roots into the soil of His living presence. All their advice to zero in on the wisdom of the Gospel instead of the conventional brand came from this conviction that a disciple's true identity was to be "in Christ."

It's from this base, they would say, that genuine Gospel service can be given, especially to people at the bottom of the social ladder. Any other reason would eventually arc back to the advantage of the server more than to the person served. "Purity of intention" is the phrase Louise and Vincent used. Today we might call it right motivation, or truth in packaging, or even "service from the heart."

And so rather than "I win, I control," or "I stand at the center of the universe," the Vincentian formulation is "I live in Christ." When this is achieved — and even more so, given — things fall into place for bringing the Kingdom that Jesus preaches, embodies, and promises.

A prayer in the spirit of St. Vincent by Father Frits Braakhuis, C.M., points the way to such identity: "O my God, I want to give myself to You, body and soul, heart, mind, and spirit; for the making real of Your desires for my life."

In Vincent and Louise,

Father Tom McKenna, C.M.
Provincial Director

Dear friends,

As the Easter Season of the Church came to a close, we celebrated Pentecost and moved into Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year. Yet, as Daughters of Charity, we never cease our reflection on the tremendous blessing that is the crucified and risen Lord and on the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Church and world.

As we further remember our blessings, we are more thankful than ever for the prayers, well-wishes, and kindnesses shown to the Sisters as we embark on the Province’s journey forward.

During the last few months, the Province of St. Louise has closed many missions. In this issue, we celebrate East Brunswick, NJ; Brooklyn, NY; Birmingham, AL; and Jacksonville, FL. In total, the Daughters served in these ministry locations for nearly 300 years. These four closures are just the beginning of the changes that will ensure the Province of St. Louise remains connected to and serving the poorest of the poor. Entrusting these ministries to others gives us the opportunity to place our Sisters where there is great need, as well as to provide sufficient numbers for our life together in each local community.

In the words of St. Louise de Marillac, our Province’s namesake, we remain focused, "Go then courageously, advancing moment by moment on the path on which God has placed you in order to reach Him." (L.360B, February 8, 1653; Spiritual Writings, page 412)

Blessings to you,

Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C.
Provincial

On the Cover:
Sister Anne Marie Schreiner receives warm wishes from Joyceelyn Bales, parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Birmingham. Sister Anne Marie was a librarian at St. Vincent’s in Birmingham for 13 years. During that time, Sister Anne Marie was the volunteer liaison to Our Lady of Fatima Parish School through an "adopt a school" program of St. Vincent’s.
On December 11, 2013, Daughters of Charity, friends, and members of the Diocese of Metuchen gathered for dinner to celebrate the 30 years of service the Daughters of Charity dedicated to the residents of East Brunswick, NJ.

The Diocese of Metuchen was established in 1982. The Daughters of Charity living in the Diocese of Metuchen since 1982 served primarily in Catholic Charities, which included St. John’s Family Health Center. Sister Mary Rose McGeady, then the Provincial of the Daughters of Charity Northeast Province, was in correspondence with Rev. Msgr. Richard A. Behl, Vicar, about the possibility of Daughters of Charity serving in the new Diocese. In October of 1982, Sister Florence Edward Kearney and Sister Georgia Brezler, began their ministry in the Diocese. Sister Florence Edward was named the Associate Director for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Metuchen; in 1986, she was named the Executive Director. Under her direction and guidance, programs for needy families, single mothers, and children were expanded because of successful grant writing. During Sister Florence Edward’s nearly 16 year tenure at Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities expanded to 29 sites in four counties with about 600 employees. Sister Florence Edward departed the Diocese in 2001. Sister Georgia, who had previously served at St. Mary’s Parish in the Lower East Side of New York City as Director of Immigration and Refugee Services, began to serve as the Director of the Office of Migration and Refugee Services. Sister Georgia ministered in the Diocese until 1988. Six other Daughters of Charity served in the Diocese of Metuchen at the Multi-Service Program, Catholic Charities, the Family Service Office at Perth Amboy, St. John’s Family Health Center, and at the Catholic Charities Group Home in Perth Amboy. These included Sisters Margaret Palmer, Evelyn McCarte, Joanne Donovan, Doris Mena, Ellen McElroy, and Martha Beaudoin. Sister Martha received recognition from the State of New Jersey, Division of Youth and Family Services, in 1990 for her outstanding contribution to child abuse prevention. Three other Daughters who lived in East Brunswick but did not serve in the Diocese of Metuchen ministered in the Diocese of Trenton and the Vincentian Renewal Center of Princeton. These Sisters were Joanne Dress, Mary Frate, and Mary Francis Martin.

“The departure was difficult,” shares Sister Mary Walz, Provincial Councillor, “and the Daughters will truly miss all those they have served and with whom they have ministered. Yet, it is our call to entrust these ministries to others so that we may place our Sisters where there is even greater need.”
The Daughters were recognized for their many years of service to the residents of Brooklyn, NY, at a Mass of Thanksgiving held at St. John the Baptist Parish, on Sunday, March 16, 2014. In his homily, celebrant Father Emmet Nolan, C.M., Pastor at St. John’s, reflected on how the Sisters had walked in the way of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac by responding to the signs of the time in Brooklyn. The loving presence of the Daughters, he said, brought hope to the people of the parish as well as to the many Bedford-Stuyvesant residents whose lives they touched. At the conclusion of the liturgy, all who were present extended their hands in blessing over the Daughters to send them forth to continue their mission. At a reception following the Mass, parishioners had a chance to visit with the Sisters and thank them for their time in Brooklyn.

Later that day, the Daughters gathered to share memories of their Brooklyn days. “This was a wonderful place to collaborate with our Vincentian brothers,” remarked Sister Maura Hobart. “And,” added Sister Anne Marie Graham, “the Brooklyn House always had a great community spirit.” Sister Anne Marie Lamoureux reflected that the people were a great gift to the Sisters. “Some special relationships were formed with those we served,” she said. “We will carry them in our hearts always.”

It was to teach children that the Daughters (then known as the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph’s) first arrived in Brooklyn in 1831. The Sisters journeyed from Emmitsburg, MD, at the request of Father John Walsh, to serve at St. James Asylum and Free School. In those early years, the Sisters served in many ministries in Brooklyn including Cathedral Free School, St. Mary’s Institute, the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum Society, St. Paul’s Asylum, St. Paul’s Industrial School, St. Philomena’s Academy, and St. Joseph’s Asylum (later known as St. Joseph’s Hall).

Then, in 1971, to serve the residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant, the Sisters returned. Five Daughters of Charity, Sisters Beatrice Peck, Mary Bernadette Szymczak, Mary Josephine Hill, Mary White, and Mary Rose McGeady, arrived in Brooklyn to work in St. John the Baptist Parish in collaboration with the Vincentian priests and brothers who had been there for more than 100 years. Since then, Daughters of Charity have ministered in many roles at Catholic Charities of Brooklyn – at St. John the Baptist, St. Anthony-St. Alphonsus, and Holy Rosary Schools; at New Horizons; and at New Beginnings Charter School. The connections the Daughters have had with the Diocese of Brooklyn have been most rewarding.

The five Daughters of Charity who most recently served in Brooklyn finished their ministries and are on their way to new missions. Sister Mary Ellen Thomas will be serving at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Detroit, MI; Sister Sister Kathleen Cevette will be ministering at St. Peter’s Cathedral School in Wilmington, DE; Sister Rose Marie Rizzo will be assisting at the Rourke Center in Troy, NY; Sister Mary Ellen Lacy will be providing legal assistance to the needy in East St. Louis, IL, and Sister Maria Capobianco will be serving in the Ministry of Prayer at St. Louise House in Albany, NY.
Bishop Edward P. Allen, who had served as President of Mount St. Mary’s College and Seminary in Emmitsburg, after being appointed as the Ordinary in Mobile, AL, in 1897, requested the Daughters establish a hospital in Birmingham. Sisters Benedicta Roach, Patricia Malloy, Antonia Hanrahan, and Placida Scott were missioned to Birmingham where, in 1898, they opened Birmingham’s first hospital, St. Vincent’s. A fifth Daughter of Charity, Sister Chrysostum Moynahan, did not arrive until March 13, 1899 having been delayed in Portsmouth, VA, where she nursed Spanish prisoners who had been severely burned when their ship was sunk. Upon her arrival, Sister Chrysostum became the first registered nurse licensed to practice in the State of Alabama. The first nursing school in the State of Alabama opened at St. Vincent’s in 1900.

Four additional Daughters of Charity arrived in Birmingham in 1903 to staff the Athenæum Orphan Asylum at East Lake; it was also known as St. Thomas on the Hill. The Daughters also began serving at Our Lady of Fatima School in 1925 and arrived to staff St. Barnabas School in 1958. In 1988, they commenced service at Villa Maria, an affordable housing facility for seniors. The year 1991 marked the initiation of service at the Home Health Agency of North Alabama. The Daughters have also collaborated in the Beacons of Hope, a diocesan program initiated in 2010 to sustain and strengthen the work of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Birmingham.

The Daughters have great confidence in the ability of their lay collaborators to carry forward the mission of service to the people of the Birmingham area. For a number of years, the history and heritage of the Daughters of Charity have been shared with the lay leaders and associates through programs that focus on formation in the mission. Sisters Brenda Monahan, Ellen Clare Measner, Ellen Reilly, and Dinah White recognize their departure is bittersweet. Their call is to serve those living in poverty where they are missioned.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Cullen, who serves as a member of the Board of Directors at St. Vincent Health System will continue her oversight role to ensure compassionate care of the sick and poor that was begun so long ago. In addition, the Daughters will continue to support formation efforts and, hopefully, serve on special committees of the Board.

It was to care for patients that the Daughters of Charity first arrived in Birmingham nearly 116 years ago, and now it is time for them to bid the residents of Birmingham goodbye.
A farewell Mass and reception were held April 3 in Jacksonville in advance of the Daughters’ withdrawal from the Diocese of St. Augustine.

It was at the request of Michael J. Curley, then Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, that the Daughters of Charity agreed to purchase and operate the DeSoto Sanitarium that had been founded by five physicians there in 1906. The Daughters in Emmitsburg first learned of this opportunity in a 1910 letter from Reverend Michael Maher, Pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Jacksonville. Father Maher wrote, “There is a splendid opening here for Sisters to engage in such work. This is a city of upwards of 70,000 inhabitants. There are only two hospitals – moderate in size and equipment and inadequate for the growing needs of this city.”

The Daughters accepted the invitation of the Bishop, and Sisters Rose Hopkins, Andrea Willamor, and Dorothy Hartlove left Emmitsburg on April 24, 1916 for Florida. In Jacksonville, they found a facility with a bed capacity of 43 and 7 patients. The staff included five physicians, a lay superintendent, a matron, 15 nurses and two untrained workers. Two additional Daughters, Sisters Louise Landry and Catherine Newman, arrived in June and, on July 19, the hospital was incorporated as St. Vincent’s Hospital. A school of nursing, the second in the State of Florida, opened the same year.

On June 3, 1916, Sister Rose wrote, “Since May 1, we have received 97 patients and have between 22 and 25 in the house all the time, average four charity patients all the time.” A year and a half later, in December 1917, Bishop Curley reported to Superiors in Emmitsburg, “I visited St. Vincent’s in Jacksonville a few days ago and was pleased to find everything going on splendidly. I believe that in a few years it will be the hospital of Florida, and the work will call for new and enlarged buildings… 622 patients were treated during the first year, and now promises are cheering.”

This was indeed prophetic. Quickly outgrowing the original hospital, in 1926 property was purchased on Barr Street fronting the St. John’s River for a new hospital that grew to a bed capacity greater than 450 and, with the acquisition of St. Luke’s Hospital in 2008, the number of beds now exceeds 800.

The Mission Statement of St. Vincent’s HealthCare begins with the words, “Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.” As the Daughters of Charity depart, they are confident that they can entrust this mission to others. Programs for lay leaders and employees at St. Vincent’s have, over a number of years, been focused on formation in the mission. Sisters Clare Marie Angermaier, Joan Drega, Rose Marie Henschke, Patricia Neet, and Cora Anne Signaigo will move on to serve those in need in other areas of the Province of St. Louise, knowing that they will miss the devoted and caring community at St. Vincent’s.

The Daughters of Charity will maintain a presence at St. Vincent’s in the persons of Sister Elyse Staab and Sister Nancy Murphy who serve on the Board of Directors of St. Vincent’s HealthCare. These Sisters will continue their oversight role to ensure compassionate care of the sick and those who are poor, fostering the mission that began almost a century ago.

The statue of the first four Daughters to serve in Jacksonville greets patients, families, visitors, and staff members at St. Vincent’s in Jacksonville.
During January through July of 2014, 13 Daughters of Charity celebrate Jubilees.

**70 Years Vocation**

**Sister Andrea Lacoste, D.C.**

January 21, 1944

Sister Andrea served in Nursing, as Operating Room Supervisor, and in Health Care Administration in Texas, Missouri, Louisiana, Alabama, and Indiana. She also served on Hospital Boards in Austin, Dallas and El Paso. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

**Sister Nancy Dunn, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

A Teacher, Nurse, Missionary, and Social Work. Sister Nancy serves in Madagascar, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. She currently resides in Maryland and ministers at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C.

**Sister Maura Hobart, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

A Teacher, Campus Minister, Vice President for Mission Formation, Spiritual Director, and Provincial Councilor. Sister Maura has served in New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Sister currently ministers in Adult Faith Formation and Spiritual Direction in Bayside, NY.

**Sister Lani Manseau, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

An Educator and former Provincial Secretary, Sister Lani has served in Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and Ohio. Sister currently serves as the Faculty and Staff Assistant at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, MD.

**Sister Mary Therese Martin, D.C.**

January 27, 1954

Ministering primarily in Education and Social Work, Sister Mary Therese served in Louisiana, Missouri, Indiana, South Carolina, Michigan, Alabama, and Pennsylvania. She cared for children, ministered in Parish and Hospital Ministry, in Outreach to the Elderly, and at a Food Pantry. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

**Sister Paula Mayer, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

Sister Paula served in Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and Virginia. Sister Paula has served as an Elementary School Teacher, CCD Teacher, School Chorus Director, School Liturgy Coordinator, and as a School Board Member. Today, Sister ministers in Parish Outreach in Utica, NY.

**Sister Cora Anne Signaigo, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

A Registered Nurse, Sister Cora Anne served in Maryland and Florida. Sister ministered in Healthcare in many roles including Supervisor, Director, and Vice President; she has ministered in Child Care Institutions and Administration, and also served as Provincial Treasurer and Outreach Minister. Sister Cora Anne’s next ministry takes her to Daughters of Charity Services in New Orleans, LA.

**Sister Kathleen Stafford, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

A Teacher and Principal, Sister Kathleen has served in Michigan, Illinois, Alabama, and Ohio. She currently ministers as Assistant Principal at Christ the King School in Detroit, MI.

**Sister Alicia Whately, D.C.**

June 5, 1964

Sister Alicia has ministered in Indiana, Alabama, Missouri, Louisiana, and Texas, as Secretary, in Medical Records, in Health Information, as a Medical Transcriptionist, and at the Hospital Information Desk. Currently Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

**25 Years Vocation**

**Sister Patricia Evanick, D.C.**

July 16, 1989

A Teacher and Director of Religious Education, Sister Patricia has ministered in Pennsylvania and New York. Currently, Sister serves in Young Adult Ministry at St. Vincent de Paul Young Adult Center, Philadelphia, PA.

**Sister Deborah Mallott, D.C.**

June 19, 1989

A Hospital Chaplain, Social Worker, Administrator, and Missionary, Sister Deborah ministered in Florida, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Nairobi, Kenya before her current mission as a Social Worker and Administrator in Thibodaux, Kenya.

**50 Years Vocation**

**Sister Kathleen Cevette, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

A Primary Grade School Teacher and Literacy Coordinator, Sister Kathleen has ministered in Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and New York. Beginning in July, Sister Kathleen will be ministering at St. Peter’s Cathedral School in Wilmington, DE.

**Sister Cora Anne Signaigo, D.C.**

June 27, 1964

A Registered Nurse, Sister Cora Anne served in Maryland and Florida. Sister ministered in Healthcare in many roles including Supervisor, Director, and Vice President; she has ministered in Child Care Institutions and Administration, and also served as Provincial Treasurer and Outreach Minister. Sister Cora Anne’s next ministry takes her to Daughters of Charity Services in New Orleans, LA.

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

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)

Each of these Sisters is formally commissioned to pray for the Sisters and the works of a specific local Community in the Province. In every issue of Faith Afre, we will introduce you to Daughters who reside in one of the Senior Sister Residences throughout the Province. This issue, we highlight four Sisters who live at St. Louise House in Albany, NY.

Sister Anna Marie Goodeich

“Since 1942 I have followed the call of Our Lord as a Daughter of Charity in the health ministry. I met the Daughters of Charity ministering to the mentally ill and continued in this ministry for about 20 years. From there I served in general hospitals, ministering in a variety of services including administration, governance, finance, and formation. After volunteering for some time in the healthcare field, I came to St. Louise House in 2002. At St. Louise House, my ministry along with that of my companions is praying for those in need, especially for the Sisters at DePaul House and for the Bishop of Albany.”

Sister Mary Agnes O’Neil

“As a Daughter of Charity, I thank God today for my parents who gave me the gift of life into a faith-filled and loving family. The Second World War led me to the Daughters of Charity as a United States Navy Cadet Nurse. I vowed my life to the service of the sick and poor. I have spent 65 years in the healthcare field and I thank God for the many opportunities I have had during these years. At this time in my life, I asked to go to St. Louise House while I am up and about and able to assist my Sisters in some small ways. I try to do my share in spreading a spirit of joy which I have in my heart. It is also a great opportunity for me to grow closer to the Lord, increase in holiness, and enrich my personal prayer life. I pray for all my Sisters on the missions who are serving the poor in so many diversified ways. I pray for Father McKenna, our Provincial Director, who is doing so much for the Province of St. Louise, for the Vincentians, and for the Church. I pray with all of our Sisters daily for the world so much in need of God’s blessings.”

Sister Victoria Nolan

“Having been educated by the Daughters of Charity for 13 years, I observed their life and then entered the Community. It is with much gratitude that I thank God daily, and at the age of 95, for having had the privilege of serving Him in the following ways: primary education, nursing education and administration, and on the streets of Philadelphia, while working on race relations as part of the Cardinal’s Commission on Human Relations. I spent more than 30 years in hospital pastoral care. At 76 years of vocation, I am now at St. Louise House and my primary ministry is prayer. However, there is always time for many activities and for helping my Sisters.”

Sister Mary Albert Berry

“In June 1941, I was a member of the first graduating class of Little Flower High School in Philadelphia. In September of that year, I entered the Daughters of Charity, a Community that did not teach in Philly. My ambition was to serve the poor in any other way than teaching. After that, Divine Providence ordained that my mission for the next 60 years would be teaching children in grades 5 through 12. This experience convinced me that I really loved teaching and children. After that, I spent nine years doing pastoral care in the Emergency Room and visiting patients in Good Samaritan Hospital in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. My greatest joy was God’s using me in bringing three converts into the Catholic Church.”
Daughters Care for Health of Many in Many Locations—Part 3

Mount St. Mary’s Neighborhood Health Center, in Niagara Falls, NY, does not limit care to patients of one race or from one neighborhood. “Each day, we experience the reality that poverty is on the rise and affecting more and more of our families at the Mount St. Mary’s Neighborhood Health Center,” shares Sister Nora Sweeney, a Community Social Worker at the Health Center. “We see burdens that are endured by the working poor, by grandparents caring for their grandchildren, and by single parents who often work two or three jobs in order to provide a living for their families.”

Sister Nancy Murphy, a Physician Assistant at the Health Center, explains the staff there includes, “primary care physicians, Ob-Gyn Physicians, Pediatricians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and LPNs. The Neighborhood Health Center is not only a clinic, it is a place where the staff offers more than health services.”

“We aid people who are homeless or living without electricity...living with no furniture, or food, or diapers for their children,” continues Sister Nora. “So many of these people struggle every day and so often find themselves in situations where they are earning just enough money to place them in a category where they lose the protection of the safety net intended to protect them. They lose their eligibility for food stamps and child care assistance because they make $1 or $2 above the qualifying threshold.”

Recently, the Health Center began to offer dental program services that had been identified as a critical need for many of the Center’s patients. Patients of the Neighborhood Health Center who do not have dental insurance can now obtain dental care through collaborative relationships with providers.

The next issue of Faith Afire will share a look at Daughters serving in primary care clinics in St. Louis, MO and Albany, NY.

https://www.msrmh.org/services/primary-care-clinics/

Daughters in Chicago Open Their Home to Daughters from Abroad who Study English

The Daughters of Charity in Chicago have welcomed Daughters Sister Tirhas Tewelde and Sister Francely Perez who are studying English at DePaul University in Chicago. Sister Tirhas, from the Province of Eritrea, and Sister Francely, from the Province of Central America and the country of Guatemala, started their stay in the States in August 2013. The Sisters are two of the many, many Sisters who have attended DePaul while living alongside their Sisters from the Province of St. Louise.

Both international Daughters come from poor communities in their native countries. They explain there is little to no electricity, no running water, and there are no roads. Sister Tirhas says the Daughters in Chicago have been very helpful to them in making the cultural adjustments, especially getting used to computers and different facilities needed to learn and live. Sister Francely adds that she sees this time of study as an opportunity to learn and to take back to her community.

One of the biggest challenges? Adapting to the language of English itself. “The first time we all prayed together was very confusing because I couldn’t understand the words,” Sister Francely said. “Now I can understand more!”

Sister Marsha Tierney, Sister Servant at St. Joseph Residence in Chicago, where the two studying Daughters live, adds, “It is a joy and a privilege to live with and to learn from Sisters Tirhas and Francely. They have taught us even more than we have taught them.”

Sisters from other Provinces will continue studying English at DePaul through at least August 2014.

In our next issue, we will visit New York City and learn about the Daughters from abroad who study there.

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https://www.msrmh.org/services/primary-care-clinics/
“Remain faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10

In Memory

We remember the 16 Daughters of Charity who, in recent months, have gone to their Eternal Home.

Sister Camilla Harant
October 30, 1915
December 20, 2013
75 years vocation
Hospital Business Manager and Administrator, Provincial Treasurer

Sister Renée Fischer
March 17, 1922
February 20, 2014
71 years vocation
Nurse, Education Director, Administrator, Volunteer

Sister Mary Ann Bozel
August 18, 1924
March 1, 2014
71 years vocation
Teacher, Principal, Education Consultant, Volunteer

Sister Alicia Donohoe
July 27, 1921
March 8, 2014
71 years vocation
Child Care and Elder Care Provider

Sister Virginia Cotter
February 24, 1926
January 12, 2014
62 years vocation
Nurse, Administrator, Hospital CEO, Pastoral Associate

Sister Cecilia Rose
April 16, 1926
January 17, 2014
69 years vocation
Teacher, Nurse, Nursing School Director, Hospital Administrator

Sister Mary Lawrence Ryan
May 16, 1929
January 24, 2014
73 years vocation
Nursing Education, Sociology

Sister Mary Patricia Larabell
March 18, 1932
April 11, 2014
62 years vocation
House Mother, Teacher, Director, Volunteer

Sister Angela Cool
May 28, 1919
April 14, 2014
72 years vocation
Child Care Provider, Manager, Pastoral Care Assistant

Sister Mary Zita McLaughlin
October 30, 1915
January 27, 2014
78 years vocation
Child Care Provider, Social Worker, Missionary, Pastoral Visitor

Sister Amelia Lenz
August 22, 1912
February 5, 2014
81 years vocation
Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, Hospital Volunteer

Sister Mary Augusta Von Drehle
March 13, 1919
February 14, 2014
74 years vocation
Teacher, Librarian, Volunteer

Sister Rebecca Hite
November 13, 1926
May 17, 2014
70 years vocation
Teacher, Administrator, Volunteer

Sister Mary Jean Horne
October 27, 1926
May 17, 2014
67 years vocation
Teacher, Pastoral Care Associate, Bookkeeper, Docent

Sister John Gabriel McPhee
February 24, 1917
May 29, 2014
71 years vocation
Nurse, Administrator, Councillor, Treasurer
Province News

Sister Louise Gallahue Visits Haiti

In March, Sister Louise Gallahue, Visitatrix, traveled to Haiti to attend the Board of Directors meeting of The CRUDEM Foundation. Sister Louise also spent time visiting with Sister Martha Barlai-Kovach, a Daughter of Charity from the Province of St. Louise who serves in a project oversight capacity as a foreign missionary in the Province of the Caribbean. Sister Louise also met with Sister Servia Tulia Garcia Martinez, Visitatrix of the Province of the Caribbean. (Left photo, two Daughters from the Province of the Caribbean pose in front of Marguerite Naseau Kindergarten with Sister Martha; right photo, Sister Louise and Sister Servia.)

Daughters Join in Sisters of Charity Federation Annual Meeting

June 4 through 8, Sister Louise Gallahue and Provincial Councillors, Sister Janet Keim, Sister Mary Beth Kubera, Sister Jean Rhoads, Sister Mary Walz, and Sister Mary Catherine Warehime, attended the Sisters of Charity Annual Federation Meeting in Cincinnati, OH. The theme of this year’s meeting was the Ever-Evolving Charism of Charity. Daughters of Charity and Sisters of Charity attendees focused on collaborative projects and concluded with a focus on Implementing our Process to Speak with One Voice. Leaders from Les Religieuses de Notre-Dame-du-Sacre-Coeur invited the group to Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada for the 2015 meeting.

40 Years of Carrying the Light in Arkansas

On March 15, the Daughters of Charity celebrated 40 years of service in Arkansas. Since 1974, the Sisters have lived or ministered in 18 Arkansas cities or towns including the present cities of Gould, Dumas, and Little Rock. Thirty-five Daughters have served the residents of these cities in a variety of ministries—education, social services, health care, and more. Bishop Anthony Taylor presided at the liturgy that was held at St. Anne Church in North Little Rock. The celebration’s theme was “40 Years of Carrying the Light in Arkansas.” Many of the Daughters who have served in Arkansas were in attendance.

Father Bernard Schoepfer, C.M., Appointed New Director General of Daughters of Charity

Father G. Gregory Gay, C.M., Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity, announced the appointment of Father Bernard Schoepfer, C.M., a conferee from the Province of Paris, as the Director General of the Daughters of Charity. He will serve in this position for three years. The Superior General noted, “After informing you of the resignation of Father Patrick Griffin, C.M., due to health concerns which no longer allow him to carry out his ministry as the Director General of the Daughters of Charity, I asked for your prayers. Having considered the suggestions I received, and with the consent of the General Council, I have appointed Father Bernard Schoepfer, C.M., as the new Director General.”

DePaul University Students Complete Service Project with Society of St. Vincent DePaul in Indianapolis

Several freshman students from DePaul University traveled to Indianapolis the first week in December as part of a service immersion opportunity. The students, hosted by the Daughters of Charity, spent several days working at the St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Client Choice Food Pantry and the Distribution Center. The immersion project has been taking place annually since at least 2004, and has greatly benefitted the Indianapolis SVdP operations, as well as the students’ opportunity to learn from families living in poverty. Pictured (left to right) are DePaul University student volunteers Laura Kozor, Michelle Ramirez, Jenna McDonnell, Emma Gier, and MK Verdun.
Sisters Recognized for Many Ministries and Services

Congratulations to Sister Mary John Code who serves at Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans. She was recently named a 2014 Health Care Hero by CityBusiness.

Congratulations to Sister Mary Jean Tague who ministers in Harlingen, TX; she was chosen to receive the CHA Lifetime Achievement Award during the Catholic Health System’s Annual Convocation in June 2014.

Congratulations to Sister Barbara Ann Curran who was honored by the Thomas More Society at their annual dinner May 18. The St. Thomas More Society is an organization of attorneys and judges from various faiths in the Diocese of Wilmington, DE. Each year, the Society honors individuals who exemplify the principles of St. Thomas More: strong and pervasive sense of justice; personal courage and conviction; commitment to community and religion; high degree of intelligence, honesty and integrity, humility and humor; dedicated to children and community; and equality for all persons.

Congratulations to Sister Nora Sweeney who was honored as one of the Women of Distinction by the Niagara Gazette. This award recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of a dozen area women chosen for their dedication in business, education, community and public service. Sister Nora also received three Proclamations: from the State Assembly, a New York State Senator, and the Mayor of Niagara Falls, NY.

Congratulations to Sister JoAnne Goecke, Principal at Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg, MD, who was honored by Mount St. Mary’s University with the President’s Medal. The Medal is awarded to individuals who embody the University’s calling and promise of “Faith, Discovery, Leadership and Community.”

Congratulations to Sister Jane Burger who was honored by St. Mary’s Warrick Foundation at its 21st Annual Gala. She is pictured here with fellow honorees, Dr. Walter Hancock, podiatrist, and Dr. Rick Yeager, retired family practice and emergency medicine physician.

Congratulations to Sister Josephine Murphy who was selected “Woman Religious of the Year” for South Carolina. The award was presented at a banquet of the South Carolina Women’s Conference during their state convention in March. Sister was also honored by Friendship Place with a scholarship created in her honor; she was presented with this commemorative plaque.

Congratulations to the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise. The Indianapolis Business Journal honored the Sisters of the Province with its Heroes Award for Community Achievement in Healthcare for 133 years of service in the community. Pictured (left to right, top to bottom) are Sisters Mary Satala; Rosaria Raidl; Cecilia West; Cathy Kelly; Louise Bushy; Rita Joyce DiNardo; and Mary John Tintea. Not pictured is Sister Mary Powers.
Faith Afíre 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.

Sisters Amanda Kern (left) and Whitney Kimmet (right), currently Seminary Sisters, spend Thursdays in ministry at one of the Griffin Center After School Program sites in East St. Louis, IL. The students always have many ideas to share and questions to pose to the Sisters!