Faith Afire

Protect Our Common Home

Pope Francis

the Global Catholic Climate

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

In every *Faith Afire*, there’s a section given over to Daughters of Charity who have died since the last issue. Many readers knew them well and I’m sure could add moving reminiscences to any short biographies in the magazine. The Daughters pictured there have said goodbye to us, as it were, and for sure there’s sadness in their leaving. But these farewells are anything but their final words.

A current spiritual writer, Father Ronald Rohlheiser, reflects upon the different kinds of goodbyes a departed person can make. There’s the one tinged with bitterness because the person left this earth holding onto resentments and grudges. There’s also the pathetic goodbye of the individual who overly clung to her youth and could never really accept the fact of her own aging. Then there’s the bountiful goodbye, the farewell that those of us left behind experience as blessing. It happens because the deceased not only had given away her whole life in love and service, but in a real sense has also given away her death. That is, over the years her spirit had ripened into such richness that even in death it continues to give. Her generosity and large-heartedness in life has spilled over into a benevolence that just keeps on “giving the blessing.”

To his point, Rohlheiser cites a eulogy a daughter delivered at her mother’s funeral. Looking out at her own siblings, her children and nieces and nephews, she said:

“Our mother, your grandmother, was a great woman. But we really don’t know that yet, but someday we will. Someday we will know this because she will come to us, she will come back to each of us, in her own way, respecting who we are, respecting what our lives are, and we will get her, get who she really was, get what she gave us in her life and how she died, get how blessed we were to have had her, and get that we have this exceptional, wonderful person as our mom and grandmother! In receiving her spirit we will drink more deeply from her depth.” (*Sacred Fire*, p 312)

And so, can we look into the eyes of these departed Daughters of Charity and still catch the blessings they would bestow? Can every one of us, in some way, continue to “get” not only who they were, but in faith and hope get who they are now as members of that “Cloud of Witnesses” whom we know as the Communion of Saints?

Gratefully, in Vincent and Louise,

Father Tom McKenna, C.M.  
Provincial Director
Dear Friends,

"Please greet all our sisters for me. I urge them to arise each morning with new courage to serve God and the poor well."

(St. Louise de Marillac, Spiritual Writings, Letter: L.201; Page: 225)

The past few months have been busy months for the Province of St. Louise. In May, Sister Mary Jo Stein, D.C., as Delegate, and I traveled to Paris for the Daughters of Charity General Assembly. Held once every six years, this is the legislative meeting of the entire, worldwide Community. The theme for the Assembly was “The Boldness of Charity for a New Missionary Momentum.” One-hundred-and-fifty one Daughters from 60 Provinces and one Region participated in the Assembly.

In July, we celebrated the fourth anniversary of the Province of St. Louise. As I reflect back on the past four years, I am mindful of how God has led us down many different paths to assist our brothers and sisters living in poverty. It has been the courage and conviction of so many Daughters of Charity and our lay collaborators that has impelled us to embrace ministries that allow our Vincentian spirit to touch those who are poor. We often are blessed to work in collaboration with other members of the Vincentian Family.

In September, the Daughters were privileged to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who we regard as the foundress of the Community in America. St. Elizabeth Ann, wife, mother, and widow, is credited with the establishment of free Catholic education in this country. She is the patron saint of Catholic education and the Sea Services.

In this issue, you will read about our General Assembly, a collaborative project of the Daughters and St. John’s University; the Vincentian Family’s work in Philadelphia, PA; our Sisters’ work in Brownsville, TX; and much more.

I continue to ask for your prayers of gratitude for the many ways God has drawn us to Himself through our service of our brothers and sisters who are among the trafficked, immigrants, and those living on the edge of society.

Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C.
Provincial

On the Cover:

As world leaders were traveling to Paris for the World Climate Summit 2015, Sisters Margaret O’Dwyer, Province NGO Intern at the UN; Teresa Kotturan, Sister of Charity of Nazareth and Sisters of Charity Federation UN NGO Representative; and Julie Cutter, Executive Director of the Sisters of Charity Federation, demonstrated their support of climate protection by sharing the Holy Father’s words at the New York City Climate March.
May 15, in Paris, France, the 2015 General Assembly of the worldwide Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul was opened by Sister Evelyne Franc, then Superioress General. Lasting five weeks, the Assembly is held every six years. One-hundred and fifty-one Daughters assembled from 94 different countries.

Following a week of retreat, May 5 through 13, the Daughters focused on the theme for this Assembly, “The Boldness of Charity for a New Missionary Momentum.” They discussed how best to respond to the calls of those who suffer from the scandal of poverty and modern slaveries. The Sisters also dialogued about how to improve and unify their spiritual, community, and missionary life. They also discussed renewing the joy of being totally given to God.

An attending Sister visits the welcome board displaying “Welcome” in the languages of all the countries represented by the participants.

(Left) Sister Lindita Tacqi, from the Daughters’ Albania Region, greets Sister Kathleen Appler, Superioress General, upon her election.

Sister Mary Jo Stein, Province Delegate, and Sister Louise Gallahue, Provincial, prepare for the General Assembly sessions to begin.
The Assembly Hall, the large, main meeting room at the Daughters’ Motherhouse on rue du Bac in Paris, was set up in “mini United Nations fashion” as the Assembly began. Sisters from around the world could select to hear discussions in one of six languages—English, French, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, or Italian.

By the conclusion of the Assembly, the Sisters had discerned and developed guidelines to lead them for the next six years. These include:

• Ministries to those living on the peripheries—immigrants, and the voiceless
• Efforts to end all forms of modern slavery—the trafficked and abused
• Increasing collaborations and networks—especially within the Vincentian Family

Especially significant to the Province of St. Louise was the election of the next Superioress General of the worldwide Community to succeed Sister Evelyne. She is Sister Kathleen Appler from the Province of St. Louise. Sister Kathleen is the first American ever elected as Superioress General and only the second Superioress General who is not French. A native of Utica, NY, Sister Kathleen most recently served as a member of the Daughters’ General Council in Paris since June of 2009. Prior to that, she served as Provincial of the Daughters’ former Northeast Province based in Albany, NY. She succeeds Sister Evelyne who served as Superioress General for 12 years. Sister Kathleen’s appointment is for six years. At the end of her term, Sister Kathleen may continue for another six year term if re-elected at the next General Assembly in 2021.

Sister Kathleen and her General Councillors.

(Numbers reported from 2015.)
The small colonia of Cameron Park, less than a half-hour drive from the Mexican-American border in Texas, is home to less than 10,000 people. Their home is one of the poorest places in the U.S., with more than half the population below poverty level, according to 2013 census statistics.

The goal of Sister Phylis Peters is to empower the community of Cameron Park and low-income families from surrounding areas by meeting healthcare and family social development needs to be healthy and self-sufficient community members. With this aim in mind, Sister Phylis worked to establish Proyecto Juan Diego in 2003. After spending a decade in Ethiopia, she set out on a new mission at Proyecto to provide solutions to impoverished areas in the United States. Cameron Park in Brownsville is her first stop.

A survey of families in the area conducted in 2004, shortly after Proyecto’s launch, indicated the community’s primary concerns were healthcare-centered, followed by education and family. Proyecto’s repertoire revolves around family and health programs, providing mentorships, employment assistance and health education to the community free of charge. Other programs generate resources for migrant families and advocate for fair treatment of immigrants.
Twelve years later, Proyecto Juan Diego continues to grow from its beginnings as a place for families to turn for help to a facility offering a variety of programs, from yoga classes to stress management. By teaming up with the Zonta Club of Brownsville, Proyecto offers a six-month training course for women, considering topics such as financial awareness, interviewing skills, legal rights, etiquette, and college and financial aid.

Sister Margaret Palmer and Sister Mary Jean Tague join Sister Phylis in efforts to revitalize the Cameron Park community through Proyecto Juan Diego. A mix of staff and volunteers work together to serve through Proyecto Juan Diego, with results evident in a 20-percent voter turnout increase and job acquirement for those involved in the programs. Several of Proyecto Juan Diego’s staff members were once part of the program itself, and now use their skills to give back to the organization.

Visit Proyecto Juan Diego online at http://proyecto-jd.org.

Sister Margaret Palmer cares for a patient.

Sister Mary Jean Tague catches up on paperwork at her desk.

Sister Phylis is interested in her staff members moving up their career ladders. Here with two staff members and one volunteer who graduated as Promotoras de Salud (Health Community Workers) this past March. From left to right: Zulema Pelayo, staff member; Claudia Vasquez, volunteer; Sister Phylis; and Orelia Ibarra, staff member.

Proyecto Juan Diego Child Development Program Graduation.

A Parenting Class at Proyecto Juan Diego
What do you get when you partner Daughters of Charity with University students interested in private finance for start-up companies for those in need? An innovative, sustainable, microfinance program that benefits the poorest of the poor, termed GLOBE! In 2009, at St. John’s University in Queens, New York, Professor Linda M. Sama, Ph.D., the Joseph F. Adams Professor of Management and Associate Dean for Global Initiatives in the Tobin College of Business, felt the need to augment her research on social issues facing modern business, and to do something concrete about them! “I wanted to get students to start thinking about business as a positive vehicle for social change,” she asserted. Thus, GLOBE (Global Loan Opportunities for Budding Entrepreneurs) was born.

St. John’s, sponsored by the Congregation of the Mission, focuses on the Vincentian mission of helping those in need. The worldwide Vincentian Family, of course, includes the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. With 16,100 Sisters serving the poor in 72 developing countries, the Daughters seemed the perfect local contacts in local communities where start-up businesses might begin. The Sisters live among and work with marginalized communities of persons the use of whose talents is often blocked for lack of very small start-up investments.

The program is based upon a division of labor between participating students and the Daughters of Charity and is designed to achieve effectiveness and minimize administrative and start-up fees. The Daughters of Charity serving in the participating countries receive initial applications. They then submit the loan applications for GLOBE student managers’ review and approval through the GLOBE Steering Committee, communicate with and distribute funds to approved candidates and subsequently collect loan repayments. They monitor loan repayment and fees, and assist in assessing lending risk and evaluating business plans.

Students in the class, which runs every semester, work in task teams to manage the microloan fund, vet loan applications, maintain the website, market the program, communicate with stakeholders, and raise funds, since all loans are sourced through donations. Every loan presents a new learning opportunity for students about the microfinance industry and social entrepreneurship, the issues of poverty and social justice in the developing world, cultural differences that impact the way in which business operates globally, and the power that each individual has to make transformational changes in the world.
“At least 95 cents of every donated dollar goes directly to our borrowers and related student fieldwork,” adds Professor Sama.

One entrepreneur, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is Siska Ombolo. Siska is married and she and her husband have eight children. Here is the information about Siska, that is typically collected from every loan applicant:

Location: Mbandaka, Democratic Republic of Congo
Age: 45 years old
Business: Fish Trading
Loan Amount: $450
Personal/Family Information: Married with eight children

Siska currently sells fish. She has previously taken out a loan in order to start up her business and she was able to be successful and profit from sales thus far. She is taking out this loan to increase her business, to better provide for her family and her children’s education. Due to the success from her previous loan, those at GLOBE believe that she will be a successful borrower.


The GLOBE program provides enlarging ripples of impact. Among the initial ones are:

• The people requesting loans learn business skills
• Those receiving loans are able to build life-supporting employment, and accountability skills
• The Sisters have an additional tool to assist people in their ministries
• The students learn effective loan practice skills
• And perhaps most importantly, the students come to an increased awareness of and appreciation for the dignity of persons whose poverty stands in the way of their potential, and identify in themselves a catalyst for change.

Each of these immediate effects serve as the seeds of growth for future events and initiatives that can spread good throughout the globe.
Looking Back

on the Daughters’ Mission in Brooklyn

A glimpse at one of the hundreds of past missions of the Daughters of Charity.

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives
St. John the Baptist Parish, the first parish in Brooklyn, NY, was founded in 1868 by the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentians) as Mary, Queen of the Isles Parish. Twenty years later, the name was changed to St. John the Baptist. Originally comprised of predominantly German and Irish immigrants, after World War II the population of the area began to change. By 1971 the neighborhood had experienced a shift in population with the white middle-income families moving to the suburbs and an influx of African-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and other Central Americans taking their place. The 90 square blocks of the parish had a population of 50,000, including 15,000 Catholics. Due to a lack of education, many residents were unemployed, minimally employed, or trapped in low paying jobs.

The Daughters of Charity first arrived in Brooklyn in 1831 to staff St. James Asylum and Free School. After establishing a strong presence and programs for the Catholic community, the Daughters left Brooklyn but would return in 1971 to Bedford-Stuyvesant, one of the poorest areas of the borough, to collaborate with the Vincentians in opening a neighborhood center at St. John’s Parish. The first Daughters on this new mission were Sisters Beatrice Peck, Mary Bernadette Szymczak, Mary Josephine Hill, Mary White, and Mary Rose McGeady. At the time, there were 24 Vincentians in residence, four of whom were assigned to parish ministry.
The Sisters visited parishioners in their homes. Immediately, a plethora of needs became apparent. Soon, a Saturday morning religion program, followed by 90 minutes for arts and crafts, music, dancing, and games, was introduced. To address the critical need for adult education, New Horizons was launched in March 1973 and soon grew to include more than 1,000 attendees. To encourage participation, peer educators were identified by advertising in the parish bulletin with leading questions, such as: “Are you bilingual?” “Can you type?” “Can you help your brother to learn as much math as you know?” This approach established immediate rapport that allowed the Daughters of Charity to work side by side with the peer educators in sharing knowledge and gifts.

By 1975, the Board of Education of the City of New York was collaborating to provide 11 professional teachers to supplement the neighborhood peer educators. Courses had expanded. Home Management included sewing, crocheting, machine sewing, dressmaking, and nutrition. Industrial training added woodworking and basic electrical services. By 1995, the New Horizons staff included 18 teachers, two part-time counselors, two part-time administrative assistants, an executive director, a program director and an employment specialist.

Having launched New Horizons, the priests and Daughters talked with Catholic Charities representatives to identify other needs. St. John the Baptist Human Service Center, a walk-in social center providing the services of a psychologist and several paraprofessionals, was the result. It became the Brooklyn Community Program offering adolescents and their families counseling, physical exams and immunizations, legal services, education/vocation services, child abuse and neglect services. Outreach services included an Off the Street Program targeting youth in need of, but not ready to seek, services at the center.

During the first years the Sisters served in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Food Stamps and other Great Society programs had all but eliminated hunger, but by 1982,
hunger returned. To address this need and to help people achieve self-sufficiency, the St. John’s Bread and Life Soup Kitchen was started. By 1995, the Kitchen provided more than 900 breakfasts and lunches Monday through Friday and was collaborating with other agencies to provide medical services, assistance in enrollment in Medicaid and Public Assistance, substance abuse programs, HIV/AIDS support groups, and the services of a barber. Over the next 30 years, Bread and Life expanded its reach into the community by opening a new 22,000-square-foot facility, operating a Mobile Soup Kitchen, and by providing nutrition counseling, a legal clinic, food stamp assistance and numerous other social services.

In 2014, in order to respond to the needs for services in other areas, the Daughters of Charity left St. John the Baptist Parish. Their years of service, however, left an indelible mark. Today the parish continues to be vibrant and creative in serving the spiritual and physical needs of the area. (See their website: www.stjohnthebaptistrrc.org). St. John’s Bread and Life currently serves more than 3,000 meals a day, offers a multitude of social services, and provides a breadth of spiritual growth opportunities. Visit their website at www.breadandlife.org.
From Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Sister Therese MacKinnon, Sister Barbara Maggio, Sister Almeda Golson, Margaret Tuley, Sister Ellen Clare Measner, Sister Maria Cincotta, Sister Susan Sheehan, Sister Joan Kuester, Sister Mary Jean Tague

Second Row: Sister Margaret Tuley, Sister Ellen Clare Measner, Sister Maria Cincotta, Sister Susan Sheehan, Sister Mary Ann Wiltzius, Sister Rose Ann Aguilar, Sister Clarisse Correia, Sister Marsha Tierney, Sister Patricia Dunne, Sister Maureen Schmalzried


Fourth Row: Sister Mary Jean Doyle, Sister Margaret Quinn, Sister Rita Bozel, Sister Natalie Marengo, Sister Mary Ann O’Brien, Sister Suzanne Baumgartner, Sister Natalie McCubbin, Sister Joan Drega, Sister Grace Marie Dunn, Sister Andrea Miller

Bottom Row: Sister Maurice Naquin, Sister Kathleen Marie Saffa, Sister Catherine Hagan, Sister Marie Poole, Sister Dorothy Copson, Sister Frances McSherry
2015 Jubilarians

From Left to Right, Top to Bottom:
Sister Therese MacKinnon, Sister Barbara Maggio, Sister Almeda Golson, Sister Joanne Donovan, Sister Joan Kuester, Sister Mary Jean Tague

Second Row: Sister Margaret Tuley, Sister Ellen Clare Measner, Sister Maria Cincotta, Sister Susan Sheehan, Sister Mary Ann Wiltzius, Sister Rose Ann Aguilar, Sister Clarisse Correia, Sister Marsha Tierney, Sister Scheessele, Sister Elaine Jordan, Sister Lucille Marie Beauchamp, Sister Carol Keehan, Sister Betty


Fourth Row: Sister Mary Jean Doyle, Sister Margaret Quinn, Sister Rita Bozel, Sister Natalie Marengo, Sister Mary

Bottom Row: Sister Maurice Naquin, Sister Kathleen Marie

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Province of St. Louise
Celebrating 2,560 Years of Serving Christ in Those in Need

During 2015, 44 Daughters of Charity from the Province celebrated Jubilees.

75 Years Vocation
Sister Frances McSherry, D.C.
December 21, 1940
Sister Frances served as a Teacher and in Child Care and Pastoral Care in North Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, and Georgia. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

70 Years Vocation
Sister Lucille Marie Beauchamp, D.C.
January 1, 1945
A Nurse, Nurse Supervisor, Administrator, Director, Local Community Superior, Archivist and Board Chair, Sister Lucille Marie has served in Tennessee, Alabama, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Rita Bozel, D.C.
December 5, 1945
An Elementary and High School Teacher, Bookkeeper, and Gift Shop Clerk, Sister Rita served in New York, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Dorothy Copson, D.C.
August 4, 1945
Sister Dorothy served in Child Care, as a Special Education Teacher, as Director of Day Treatment Programs for Children, Local Community Superior, as an Administrative Assistant, and as a Director of Quality Assurance. She ministered in Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

Sister Mary Peter Kerwin, D.C.
March 7, 1945
A Teacher and Pastoral Care Minister, Sister Mary Peter has served in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Today, she serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Albany, NY.

Sister Mary John Lindner, D.C.
January 5, 1945
An Elementary, Secondary and College Teacher, Visitation, Superintendent of Schools, Parish Minister, Local Community Superior, and Tutor, Sister Mary John has served in Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, and Maryland. Today, she serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Natalie McCubbin, D.C.
January 5, 1945
Sister Natalie served as an Elementary Teacher and Principal, Local Community Superior, Librarian, in the School Business Office, and as a Patient Visitor and has served in Maryland, New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, West Virginia, Florida, and Virginia. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Mary Ann O’Brien, D.C.
December 3, 1945
A Teacher, Nurse, Local Community Superior, and Administrator, Sister Mary Ann served in Maryland, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Alabama. Today, she serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Suzanne Baumgartner, D.C.
January 26, 1955
A Teacher, Physical Therapist, Foreign Missionary, Principal, Local Community Superior, Parish Minister, and Retreat Leader, Sister Suzanne has served in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., India, Maryland, South Carolina, and West Virginia. Today, Sister ministers at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C.

60 Years Vocation
Sister Margaret Quinn, D.C.
December 3, 1945
An Elementary School Teacher, Social Worker, Parish Minister, Local Community Superior, and Provincial Councillor who also ministered at Catholic Charities, Sister Margaret served in Louisiana, Wisconsin, California, Michigan, Illinois, Mississippi, and Indiana. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Louise Schesselle, D.C.
March 10, 1945
A Nurse, Nurse Educator, Administrator, and Social Service Agency Director, Sister Louise has ministered in Illinois, Alabama, Missouri, California, Texas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Maryland, and Indiana. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Mary Ann Wiltzius, D.C.
December 3, 1945
A Teacher, Social Worker, Local Community Superior, and Administrator who served in Rural Ministry and as a Hospital Visitor, Sister Mary Ann has served in Louisiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Mississippi. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.
Sister Virginia Ann Brooks, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
Sister Virginia Ann has served as a Teacher, Principal, in Vocation and Formation Ministry, as Administrator, Visitatrix, Local Community Superior, and in Mission Integration. She has served in Ohio, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Indiana. Today, Sister serves in Vocation and Formation in Ministries in Evansville, IN.

Sister Maria Cincotta, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
A High School Teacher, Outreach and Pastoral Care Minister, Tutor, and Receptionist, Sister Maria has served in New York, Maryland, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, and Virginia. Today, Sister Maria serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Arthur Marie Donnelly, D.C.  
**June 23, 1955**
A Teacher, Early Childhood Education Specialist, Local Community Superior, and Hospital Chaplain, Sister Arthur Marie has served in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Today, Sister Arthur Marie serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Emmitsburg, MD, as Assistant at Villa St. Michael and St. Vincent's.

Sister Joan Drega, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
Sister Joan has served as a Teacher, Principal, Development Director, Local Community Superior, and Foundation Liaison and has served in New York, Michigan, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Today, she ministers at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers in Southfield, MI.

Sister Grace Marie Dunn, D.C.  
**June 23, 1955**
A Teacher, Principal, Administrator, Provincial Councillor, and Local Community Superior, Sister Grace Marie has served in Maryland, New York, Connecticut, and Delaware. Sister now serves in Albany, NY, where she is the Volunteer Coordinator at St. Louise House.

Sister Catherine Hagan, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
Teacher, Principal, Associate Superintendent of Schools, Local Community Superior, and Foreign Missionary, Sister Catherine has served in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, and Australia. Today she lives in Harlem, NY, where she serves as a Spiritual Advisor.

Sister Elaine Jordan, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
Sister Elaine has served as a Teacher, Chaplain, and Pastoral Care Director who has served in Ohio, Maryland, Florida, West Virginia, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Sister currently lives in Emmitsburg, MD, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Louise Macchia, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
Teacher, Social Worker, Hospital and Women’s Prison Chaplain, Sister Louise has served in Washington, D.C., New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Today, she ministers in Albany, NY.

Sister Natalie Marengo, D.C.  
**February 13, 1955**
A High School Teacher and Local Community Superior who has served in Missouri, Iowa, Louisiana, and Texas, Sister Natalie currently serves as a Volunteer at Reicher Catholic High School in Waco, TX.

Sister Ellen Clare Measner, D.C.  
**February 13, 1955**
Sister Ellen Clare has served as a School of Nursing Instructor, Catechist, High School Science Teacher, House Mother, Social Worker, Staff Nurse, Local Community Superior, in Elderly Outreach, and in Home Care in Indiana, Illinois, Texas, and Alabama. She currently lives in Evansville, IN, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Maurice Naquin, D.C.  
**February 13, 1955**
A Pediatric Nurse and Foreign Missionary, Sister Maurice served in Illinois and for 50 years in Japan. Sister now serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Marie Poole, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
Sister Marie has served as a Teacher, in Formation Ministry, as a Foreign Missionary, as part of the Vincentian Translation Project, as an Assistant Principal, Secretary at the Motherhouse in Paris, Local Community Superior, and as Provincial Secretary for the Congregation of the Mission. Sister has served in Maryland, New York, Virginia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and France. Today, Sister lives in Emmitsburg, MD, where she continues her work with the Vincentian Translation Project.

Sister Kathleen Marie Saffa, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
A Teacher, Pastoral Care Director, and Assistant to the Sister Servant, Sister Kathleen has served in Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Georgia, and Florida. Today, Sister lives in Emmitsburg, MD, where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Mary Jean Tague, D.C.  
**January 26, 1955**
Sister Mary Jean has served as a Teacher, Local Community Superior, Pharmacist, Nurse, and Foreign Missionary and has served in South Carolina, New York, Michigan, Bolivia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Angola, Africa, and Texas. Today, she serves at Proyecto Juan Diego in Brownsville, TX.
Sister Margaret Tuley, D.C.
*January 26, 1955*
A Teacher, Nurse, Hospital Administrator, Local Community Superior, and Board Chair.
Sister Margaret has served in New York, Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Sister Margaret currently serves as Sister Servant at St. Louise House in Albany, NY.

50 Years Vocation
Sister Rose Ann Aguilar, D.C.
*August 14, 1965*
A Social Worker and Local Community Superior, Sister Rose Ann has served in Community Outreach and Hispanic Ministry as well as in Governance in Texas and Missouri. Today, she serves as a Provincial Councillor for the Province of St. Louise in St. Louis, MO.

Sister Clarisse Correia, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*
Nurse, Educator, Administrator, Hospital Board Member, and Local Community Superior, Sister Clarisse has served in Maryland, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. She currently serves as the Daughters’ Emmitsburg, MD, Campus Coordinator and Sister Servant of Villa St. Michael in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Joanne Donovan, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*
Child Care Provider, Clinical Social Worker, Elder Care with Senior Sisters, Local Community Superior, and Moderator for Ladies of Charity, Sister Joanne has served in Washington, D.C., Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey. Sister currently serves at the Avila Institute/Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home in Bayside, NY.

Sister Mary Jean Doyle, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*
Dietitian, Social Worker, Local Community Superior, Administrator, who also served in Childcare and Community Outreach Ministry, Sister Mary Jean has served in Maryland, South Carolina, Florida, and Washington, D.C. Today, Sister serves at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Sister Patricia Dunne, D.C.
*June 5, 1965*
Teacher, Social Worker, Day Care Administrator, Provincial Councillor, and Local Community Superior, Sister Patricia has served in Washington, Illinois, Mississippi, Tennessee, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Sister currently serves at Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg, MD.

Sister Almeda Golson, D.C.
*June 5, 1965*
Nurse, Hospital Administrator, and Local Community Superior who served in Governance, Sister Almeda served in Indiana, Alabama, and Tennessee. Today, Sister serves in the Ministry of Prayer in Evansville, IN.

Sister Carol Keehan, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*
Nurse, Nursing Administrator, and Local Community Superior who has served in Governance and Pastoral Care, Sister Carol has served in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Florida. Sister currently serves at the Catholic Health Association in Washington, D.C.

Sister Joan Kuester, D.C.
*August 14, 1965*
A Nurse, Nurse Supervisor, Health Care Administrator, Provincial Treasurer, and Hospital Board Member, Sister Joan now serves as the Executive Director of the Daughters of Charity Foundation in St. Louis, MO. Sister has ministered in Missouri, Indiana, Louisiana, and Texas.

Sister Therese MacKinnon, D.C.
*June 5, 1965*
Elementary School Teacher, Director of Religious Education, Local Community Superior, and Parish Pastoral Associate, Sister Therese has served in Missouri, Ohio, Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Sister currently is in ministry at Corpus Christi Parish in Detroit, MI.

Sister Barbara Maggio, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*

Sister Betty Ann McNeil, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*
A Child Care Worker, Social Worker, Administrator, Development Director, Heritage Specialist, Archivist, and member of the Vincentian Studies Institute, Sister Betty Ann has served in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Illinois. Sister currently is a Vincentian Scholar-in-Residence at DePaul University, Chicago, IL.

Sister Andrea Miller, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*
A Child Care Provider and Local Community Superior who also served in Social Services and Healthcare Ministry, Sister Andrea has served in Maryland, Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Alabama. Today, Sister ministers in Social Services at Allen Memorial Home in Mobile, AL.

Sister Maureen Schmalzried, D.C.
*June 27, 1965*
Elementary Teacher and Principal, Seminary Directress, Pastoral Associate, Provincial Secretary and Councillor, and Local Community Superior.
Province News

Daughters Recognized

Sister Cheryl Ann Hillig was inducted into the DePaul Catholic School Hall of Fame in Philadelphia in March. Sister Cheryl, formerly Principal there, was honored for her “outstanding contribution to the children of Germantown in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.”

Sister Caroline Clark received the Top Hat Award at the St. Vincent de Paul 27th Annual Awards Banquet in Detroit, MI.

Sister Phylis Peters was honored with two recognitions in Brownsville: Zonta Club of Brownsville’s Woman of the Year and Molina Healthcare of Texas’s Community Champions Award for those who demonstrate selfless dedication to improving the quality of life in the communities they serve.

Sister Margaret Tuley was honored with the St. Joseph the Worker Award recognized as an extraordinary alumna from Cathedral High School in Boston, MA.

In April, Sister Carol Keehan was honored with two awards: The Matthew F. McNulty Award for significant and memorable contributions to the health care field, and the “Robert M. Holstein: Faith Doing Justice Award” for demonstrating significant commitment to leadership for social justice grounded in the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Sister Marian Hamwey recently received the Sister Mary Coons Award presented by the Food Pantries of the Capital District of Albany, NY. Sister Marian was recognized for her spirit of working together to feed the hungry. Sister is in ministry at Catholic Charities Roarke Center in Troy, NY.
Jericho Way Center in Little Rock Up and Running

Jericho Way Center, under the direction of Sister Elizabeth Greim, held a re-opening ceremony in Little Rock, AR. Now managed by Depaul USA, Jericho Way is a day resource center for the homeless in Little Rock and provides social services, referrals, showers, laundry, telephones, computers and encouragement. Pictured are: Sister Elizabeth Greim, second from left, and Little Rock Ladies of Charity President Nancy Barrett joined by workers at the Jericho Way Center. More at: http://www.depaulusa.org/our-programs/little-rock-ar/

Seton Village Dedicated in Emmitsburg

In June, Seton Village—an independent living facility for senior citizens—was dedicated on the Emmitsburg Campus. Pictured are Jean and Jim Hobbs, residents; Sister Jane Graves, Treasurer; Tom Beck, Province CFO; Sister Jean Rhoads, Councillor; and Ken Bancroft, who initiated the concept and helped the Daughters to find the Homes for America partner. The Village provides safe, affordable housing for seniors.

Vincentian Family Gathers

In October, Daughters of Charity joined others at the Vincentian Gathering North America—A Family Affair. Two hundred members gathered in Denver to share, pray, and to focus on homelessness.

Social Justice Update

Members of the Interprovincial Social Justice Committee (Province of St. Louise and Province of Los Altos Hills) recently traveled to El Paso, TX, to learn first-hand about many of the immigration issues facing those on the border. The Sisters were privileged to have Sister Mary Ann Azar and local mission Sisters as their guides who planned an educational day for the Committee that included a tour of the border, talks on asylum and detention, the state of homelessness, human trafficking, and the common culture that unites the two cities—Juarez and El Paso.
Daughters of Charity Attend Masses Celebrated by Pope Francis and Share in the Gift to the Holy Father

Daughters of Charity, some of their school students, and some of their serious discerners were on hand as the Holy Father visited the U.S. Below, left is a photo taken by Sister Nora Gatto at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City as the Holy Father processed in for Vespers. Next, Sisters Mary Walz, Louise Gallahue, Mary Bader, and Ellen LaCapria await Pope Francis’s White House address. Third, Sisters and serious discerners met in Philadelphia and posed with “the Pope” before heading to the World Meeting of Families. Last, one of two original keys to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’ Emmitsburg Stone House that was given to the Holy Father by President Obama. Dating from 1809, the key’s symbolism sets it apart – it literally and figuratively opened the door to let in new students who would experience Catholic education, and to send out women religious to care for the poor and voiceless by opening service ministries that continue on into our own century.

Mardi Gras in New Orleans

No one supports Catholic schools quite like the Sisters in New Orleans! The St. Stephen’s fundraiser along the parade route was the perfect spot to watch Catholic school marching bands and catch a few throws (for use in ministry of course!).

Balm of Hope Published

Sister Betty Ann McNeil’s new book Balm of Hope: Charity Afire Impels Daughters of Charity to Civil War Nursing is now available for purchase in the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s gift shop and from its website. Sister’s discovery of 500 pages of handwritten memoirs by Daughters of Charity Civil War nurses led her into a multi-year project to transcribe, annotate, index, and publish Balm of Hope: Charity Afire Impels Daughters of Charity Civil War Nurses. This compendium includes: 1. Notes of the Sisters’ Services in Military Hospitals; 2. Civil War Recollections and Accounts; and 3. Correspondence. The texts invite readers to listen to courageous women reminisce in their own words about nursing amid the ravages of war.
From offering a cool refreshment to those passing by on the way to the World Meeting of Families with Pope Francis in Philly (top left), to planning, to coordinating volunteer opportunities (top right), like these student groups from St. John’s University (lower left and lower right), Sister Sharon, Darcy O’Hara, and Emily Bland keep busy sharing the Vincentian Charism.

Learn more about St. Vincent de Paul Center: www.svdpcenter.org and Vincentian Mission Corps: www.vincentianmissioncorps.net/
Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly and “Sisterly” Love

Many say that William Penn envisioned Philadelphia as a “City of Brotherly Love.” What Penn did not know was that the Daughters of Charity, now celebrating their 201st anniversary of ministry in the city, would work closely with Vincentian priests, brothers, and other members of the Vincentian Family to bring about systemic change in this historic city.

Originally sent to Philadelphia to help cholera victims, Civil War soldiers, and orphans, the Daughters today collaborate a great deal with others in their “family.” Seven Sisters currently are missioned in Philly. Their ministries include education, youth and young adult ministry, support for the Vincentians’ Eastern Province, diocesan ministry, and Vincentian Family projects.

The year 2015 was proclaimed the “Year of Vincentian Collaboration” by Superior General Father Gregory Gay, C.M. The theme set aside for the year, “Together in Christ We Vincentians Make a Difference,” permeates the efforts of two growing ministries in Philadelphia. They are the St. Vincent DePaul Young Adult Center and the Vincentian Mission Corps, which, in the next year, is expanding in Philadelphia.

The St. Vincent de Paul Center was founded in direct response to the then Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Robert Maloney, C.M., in 2000. The Center invites youth to serve with community partners such as social service agencies, food banks, and schools in direct service. The Center provides opportunities for high school students and young adults (college and post-college) to serve for and with the poor and marginalized on a short-term basis. In addition, volunteers reflect upon their experience and the impact those they served had on their lives. “They also experience community among themselves and learn about the Vincentian Charism, Catholic Social Justice teaching, causes of poverty, and possible solutions toward systemic change,” explains Sister Sharon Horace, Director. Under Sister Sharon’s direction, the Center hosts up to 23 volunteers at a time.

The Vincentian Mission Corps (VMC) is expanding its original St. Louis, MO-based year-long volunteer service opportunities to include volunteer opportunities in Philadelphia. Emily Bland now leads the Philly effort. “In the next few months,” explains Emily, “I will be working to find work sites for Philadelphia-based volunteers. By fall of 2016, we will open our first year of service in Philadelphia while maintaining our St. Louis effort as well. We expect many of the work sites will be at ministries that serve in the Vincentian Tradition.”
In Vocations news, Sisters from Vocation Ministry attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in November in Indianapolis. More than 22,000 young adults from across the country were in Indy for the Conference. This year, the Conference theme focused on “Here I Am Lord.” The Daughters shared, during personal and communal prayer, about their Vincentian spirituality.

The Directors of Vocations announce a new app for smartphones. The app may be a valuable tool in discernment journeys. Here are some things you can do with the app:

**See everything in one spot.** “Like” us on Facebook? Follow us on Twitter? Check out our YouTube videos? They’re all accessible right here in one place, through our app. Different tabs will show you what we’ve been sharing and allow you to interact and find us quickly.

**Register for a retreat.** See our upcoming events and discernment retreats directly from the app, and find out more about how to get going on your journey.

**Contact us.** Check out the Contact Us tab to ask us a quick question, ask us to pray for you or find out more about the Daughters of Charity.

**Catch our latest stories and important information.** In the News tab, find our latest blog posts featuring vocation stories from Sisters and discerners like you, and keep an eye out for details about retreats.
Two Postulants recently joined the Province. Kara Davis and Michelle Hoffman were officially accepted as Postulants. Kara lives and serves with the Daughters in New Orleans. Michelle lives and ministers with the Sisters in Philadelphia.

In Formation news, this past June, Daughters of Charity from the Province of St. Louise and the Province of Los Altos Hills who have been in Community for less than 10 years met for a Vow Institute focused on the theme, “Follow Me: The Vows as a Response to a Call,” led by Father Pat Griffin, C.M., past Director General of the Daughters of Charity.
In Memory

We remember the 12 Daughters of Charity who, in recent months, have gone to their Eternal Home.

Sister Margaret Flynn
April 30, 1918
March 20, 2015
72 years vocation
House Mother, Seminary
Directress, Social Worker, Provincial Councillor, Administrator, Archivist

Sister Mary Frances Loftin
March 25, 1928
April 1, 2015
67 years vocation
Nurse, Nurse Supervisor, Hospital Administrator & President,
Provincial Councillor, Diocesan Chancellor

Sister Mary Anne Brawley
May 19, 1934
June 6, 2015
60 years vocation
Teacher, Librarian, Hospital Board Chair, Local Community Superior

Sister Mary Junkin
December 5, 1925
June 24, 2015
62 years vocation
Teacher, Principal, Librarian, Local Community Superior

Sister Anna Marie Goodrich
December 24, 1918
August 7, 2015
72 years vocation
Nurse, Pastoral Minister, Administrator, Local Community Superior

Sister Catherine Cotter
September 6, 1930
August 15, 2015
61 years vocation
Child Care Provider, Local Community Superior, Social Minister
“Remain faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10

Sister Renée Poquet  
February 4, 1922  
August 18, 2015  
68 years vocation  
Nurse, Provincial Leader

Sister Dolores Coleman  
March 8, 1921  
August 25, 2015  
74 years vocation  
Teacher, Social Worker, Program Director, Pastoral Care Associate

Sister Muriel Levy  
October 7, 1921  
October 10, 2015  
75 years vocation  
Group Mother, Teacher, Pastoral Care and Parish Minister

Sister Francis Louviere  
May 3, 1925  
October 15, 2015  
70 years vocation  
Nurse, Nurse Supervisor, Parish Minister, Sacristan, Driver

Sister Mary Cecilia Schlebecker  
October 24, 1933  
October 18, 2015  
61 years vocation  
Business Manager, Administrator, Provincial Secretary, Motherhouse Secretary, Local Community Superior

Sister Margaret Rose McLaughlin  
December 6, 1923  
October 30, 2015  
70 years vocation  
Teacher, Local Community Superior

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Two Province Daughters Make Vows for First Time

On April 25, Sister Salvatrice Murphy (right) made Vows for the first time at St. Rita’s Church in New Orleans, LA. Sister Ellen Reilly made Vows for the first time at the DePaul House Chapel in Albany, NY, on July 11. Sister Ellen is pictured as the Daughters in Albany extended their hands in blessing over her and with her brother and father.