



DAUGHTERS
of CHARITY

PROVINCE of ST. LOUISE

Fall
2021

Faith Afire



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

Inside this Issue:

- 4 Ephata Continues to Call to the Daughters
- 6 The Band of 1958: Daughters of Charity on the Journey of a Lifetime
- 17 2021 Jubilarians
- 22 Three Sisters Called to Serve in Rural South Carolina
- 26 In Memory
- 28 Province News
- 32 Sister Josephine Sent on Mission



My Dear Friends,

We approach the close of 2021. For many, the COVID-19 virus has a daily impact on their lives—whether directly through a diagnosis for themselves, loved ones, neighbors, co-workers, or friends; for others, less directly, through difficulties scheduling doctors' appointments, elective surgeries, grocery store hours, or other restrictions. For me and the other Provincials of the Daughters' Provinces around the world, it meant the postponement from fall 2020 to fall 2021 of our every-six-year General Assembly.

As you read this letter, Sister Teresa George, Councillor and Treasurer for our Province and Elected Delegate to the 2021 General Assembly, and I are ending our time in Paris, France for the General Assembly. We, and our fellow Provincials and Delegates from around the world will be returning home.

We met at the Motherhouse on Rue du Bac. We prayed in the Motherhouse Chapel, the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal, where 191 years ago at the end of November 1830, the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Labouré for the second time and instructed, "have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces: they shall wear it around their neck. Great graces will abound for those who wear it with confidence." Many of us know well the medal that has become known as the Miraculous Medal.

Perhaps in these times of uncertainty and difficulty, it would be wise to turn to St. Catherine as an example of one who followed Christ with unwavering faith. St. Catherine shared, "One must see God in everyone."

These words of St. Catherine are my prayer for all of us...that we may see God in all we meet. That we may strive to be less aggravated and more patient; less harsh and more gentle.

Blessings to you and yours,

Sister Catherine Mary Norris, D.C.
Provincial

Dear Friends,

Friends who know me will tell you that I am a "Christmas person!" While others are planning their Black Friday strategy, I am putting up Christmas decorations and playing Christmas music! But this year, truth be told, I am looking forward to celebrating Advent and I lay the blame for this conversion squarely on Pope Francis! Even a casual reading of the homilies and writings of Pope Francis highlight certain recurring themes such as ENCOUNTER, LISTEN, DISCERN. I believe these three concepts can guide us through Advent to a deeper and richer celebration of Christmas.

Encounter: the Pope points out that Jesus in the Gospels is often pictured on a journey, he walks alongside people and listens to their questions and concerns, Jesus doesn't stand aloof, he is open to encounter. He meets people where they are on life's journey. I picture Jesus asking to journey with us during Advent so that we may encounter him in new ways as we listen together to the Scripture Readings of Advent, opening our hearts to him and sharing our hopes and dreams, hurts and anxieties. Jesus is asking us to let him heal us and challenge us and guide us to a deeper relationship with him.

Listen: the Pope mentions that Jesus listens not only with his ears but also with his heart, he hears not just our words but the pain and hurt, the joy and excitement behind our words. Jesus is not a clock watcher but rather gives his full attention to us when we turn to him. As Pope Francis says, "God's style is nearness, compassion, and tenderness. He always draws near to us, is compassionate and tender." Knowing that he desires to listen to us encourages us to speak honestly and comfortably with him.

Discern: the Pope mentions that we cannot encounter and listen to Jesus without being changed in some way. Jesus discerns the thoughts and intentions of our hearts and knows well those areas of our life that need healing and change. He will gently lead us in the path of conversion as we follow him this Advent season. My prayer for all of us is that we become Advent People who encounter and listen to Jesus, discerning how better to follow him on the road of life.

In Vincent and Louise,

Father John Kettelberger, C.M.
Provincial Director



On the Cover:

Sister Consuelo Tovar, Sister Meggie Flores, and Father Orlando Cardona visit the original church of St. John of the Cross in Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina (the area now has a larger church to accommodate the growing Hispanic congregation). The Sisters and Father Orlando are a part of new ministry efforts to migrant farmworkers in Saluda County, South Carolina. Please read the story beginning on page 22.

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Ephata Continues to Call to the Daughters



General Assembly Photos, top left: Sister Françoise Petit, Superioress General, Sister Katie Norris and Sister Teresa George take a minute to smile for the camera during the General Assembly in Paris; lower left, the courtyard at the Motherhouse in Paris. Provincial Assembly photos top right, the “broadcast” hub from the Provincial office in St. Louis, Mo.; middle left, Sister Nancy Murphy, Councillor, readies for Mass; middle right, Sister Teresa George, Councillor and Treasurer, updates the Sisters via Zoom; bottom photo, Sister Julie Cutter, Councillor, greets the Sisters at the start of the Provincial Assembly.

Daughters from the Province of St. Louise gathered this past March to continue their Provincial Meeting begun in July 2020. Part 2 focused on Provincial ideas and proved once again, to be successful only because of technology. More than 200 Sisters were gathered at times to celebrate Mass, attend informational sessions, pray, and divide into virtual break-out rooms via the Zoom online platform.

Ephata, “be opened,” continues as the call for the Daughters of the Province of St. Louise and the Daughters throughout the world. The Aramaic word, spoken by Jesus as he opens the ears of the

deaf man in Mark’s Gospel, is clear, “be opened.” Throughout the Provincial Assembly, the Sisters challenged each other to be open to new ideas for ministries, and to the needs of the poor. In the article beginning on page 22, readers will learn about a new mission and subsequent ministries beginning in rural South Carolina.

Postponed a year from fall 2020 to fall 2021 because of the COVID-19 virus is the Daughters of Charity worldwide General Assembly being held this month (November 2021) at the Motherhouse in Paris, France. There, the Provincials (Visitatrixes)

and elected Delegates from each Daughter of Charity around the globe joined in a month-long series of meetings and elections accompanied by celebrations of the Liturgy and prayers. Sister Katie Norris, Provincial for the Province of St. Louise was accompanied to this General Assembly by Sister Teresa George, Province Councillor and Treasurer. The two joined other Provincials and Elected Delegates in sessions where, with tiered rows of seating and translation booths, a “UN-like” feeling can be paralleled. The call of Ephata was front and center as the Sisters gathered to learn, pray, and make unified plans for the coming six years. As

expected, the focus of all the Daughters worldwide are gravely important concerns about modern slavery or trafficking, migration, racism, hunger, Earth, and more.

When Sister Katie and Sister Teresa return to the Province of St. Louise, they will bring with them the Interprovincial Assemblies Documents that, in turn, will be shared with the Sisters of the Province. From those, the Sisters will work toward plans and endeavors to animate the calls of service throughout the world.

The Band of 1958: Daughters of Charity on the Journey of a Lifetime

by Anna M. Ross

“BAND”: It’s a familiar word with a variety of meanings. In biblical terms, a “band” joins forces to ward off oppressors. A “band” is also a musical ensemble, musicians in harmony creating a beautiful piece. The rubber “band” is an elastic loop that winds and wraps to hold parts together. A “Band”-Aid covers and protects until a hurt is healed. The wedding “band” signifies strength with its precious metal and eternal love with its circular design.

Another type of “band” embraces all the meanings above yet is unfamiliar to many. This “band’s” significance relates to a time and place in the lives of a group of young women who came to Normandy, Missouri in 1957, in answer to a call: to become a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

An Afternoon to Remember
(L to R): Sisters Jane Burger, Angele Hinkey, Barbara Dingman, Karen Flaherty and Sharon Groetsch revisit their early years, courtesy of Sister Angele’s photo album.

Each woman arrived separately, but nine months later, they were a unified body, ready to take the next step in their vocation journey. They walked to the Seminary, where they would spend the next year. On June 5, 1958, Feast of the Sacred Heart, they were admitted into the Company of the Daughters of Charity – and now forever known as the “Band of 1958.”

Sixty-three years later, 13 Sisters remain of the band. Ten Sisters were interviewed in person, by phone, by email. Five spent an afternoon together in Evansville, Indiana, sharing their reflections. Some stories had shifted, from worrisome foibles to amusing anecdotes. Others were perhaps too painful to recall, tucked deep within, handed over to God years ago for safekeeping.

In Postulatum

On September 25, 1957, thirty-eight young women arrived at Marillac Provincial House; eager, excited, a bit anxious yet relieved to have finally said their goodbyes. Months ago, these women had been scrutinized and interviewed by those who knew best the discipline a vocation would require. They had been questioned and teased by those who doubted their commitment. Some would wonder whether they had truly been called to this life; a life admired by some, a self-sacrifice to most.

Would their journey end before it had even begun?

Arrivals took place throughout the day; a hive of activity as the Habit Sisters prepared to accommodate the largest group of postulants they had ever had (or ever would). Some arrived by car filled with the whole family, such as Sister Barbara Dingman, oldest of seven and second mother to a brood of four babies, including a two-month-old boy. The family lived a short distance from Marillac, often trading visits between Sister Sylvia at Marillac and the Dingman home. A good friend and helper to Sister Barbara’s mother, it was Sister Sylvia’s recommendation – her first and only one – that facilitated Sister Barbara’s acceptance as a postulant.

“And that joy in realizing my purpose according to God’s plan has never changed,” she says today.”

- Sister Sharon Groetsch

for her large family. **Sister Sharon** (right) had been taught by the Daughters of Charity in grade school and recalls her excitement as she was driven to Marillac. “I couldn’t wait to become a teacher, to become a Daughter. And that joy in realizing my purpose according to God’s plan has never changed.”



Sister Jean Maher arrived by train from Wisconsin, also alone. An only daughter with three brothers, Sister Jean made her decision to become a Daughter on the Feast Day of St. Louise, then recognized on March 15. “But,” she says today, “I waited until St.

Patrick’s Day two days later to tell my family, hoping a more festive occasion might soften the blow.” A long pause. “It didn’t.”

Sister Jean remembers how she pictured life as a Daughter or, rather, the steps necessary to become one. “I think I got through those early years because I had youth on my side,” she says reflectively. “I also had the openness to accept how things would be done, even if I didn’t

necessarily agree with them.” A little laugh, before admitting, “I also thought that I would never smile again.”

Riding in the car to Marillac with her family from their hometown of Jasper, Indiana, Sister Jane Burger recalls most the silence. “I think we all were grappling with the idea of my decision: the strictness of the Daughters, not knowing the Daughters as we did the Sisters of Providence who had taught us and, most importantly, the realization that I could *never* go home again.”

Sister Angele Hinkey (right) from Chicago was the last to arrive, having told her parents, “If you bring me, I won’t be able to make it through the doors.” Instead, her brother, his best friend and the family priest brought her. But the foursome cut the trip a bit close, arriving at Marillac just as the doors were closing.



Sister Carol Hoelscher

(left) also was from St. Louis and familiar with the Daughters after working as a college volunteer at Guardian Angel Settlement. She recalls as a little girl walking with her father and seeing Daughters in their habit and winged cornette waiting for the streetcar. Fascinated, she said to her

father, “Daddy, who *are* those people?”

Sister Carol’s family dropped her off at Guardian Angel Settlement on arrival day, with her father meeting the Daughters who’d take her to Marillac. “My father became a ‘convert’ that day to the Daughters,” she recalls. “From then on, he was their champion!”

Sister Sharon Groetsch flew to Lambert Airport from New Orleans alone, the cost of airfare too steep



Sister Angele recalls that “I made it inside just as the grandfather clock chimed 6:00 o’clock. Everyone was already seated at the dining tables saying prayers. They were in postulant dress – an all-black skirt, blouse, stockings and shoes, and a black cap with lace on the outside and two ribbons in back called the dignity. And here I am,” she says with a laugh, “standing there in a pleated skirt and 3-inch heels!”

The women were taken to an annex of Marillac Provincial House, where for the next nine months they would live in community. It would be a time of discovery, of learning what it meant to *become* a Daughter of Charity. As a group, they would follow a daily schedule, sleep in dormitories, eat meals, recite prayers, study founders St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, and perform household duties. They would learn the meaning of an apostolic community – a community that asked of them to “go out and be of service to the poor.”

It wasn’t long before this sense of community took hold among them. One day on their way to chapel, a pact was made to pray every Thursday for one another. Just who suggested the idea has long since faded from memory, but 63 years later, each is fully aware that every Thursday, she has a promise to keep.



As postulants (called Miss with their surname), they would attend the newly opened Marillac College (1955) for two semesters. Founded by the Daughters of Charity through the efforts of **Sister Bertrande Meyers** (left), who became its first President and Dean, the Catholic Sisters’ formation college provided a top-notch liberal arts education

(accredited in 1960) and full four-year bachelor’s granting program. It also was instrumental in shaping future sisters and nuns in their spiritual formation. Over 25 women religious orders and communities would be represented in the student body, with 15 represented on faculty.

Each of the newly arrived young women, ranging in age between 18 and 22, brought to Marillac her

own unique personality, from the outgoing to the chatty, to the shy. While some came from urban cities such as Sister Germaine Sarrazin from Los Angeles and Sister Angele Hinkey from Chicago, others came from small farming communities such as **Sister Germaine Price** (below) from Stockbridge, Wisconsin.

“And right then, I knew I belonged.”

- Sister Germaine Price



Sister Germaine recalls growing up on a farm with four brothers and three sisters and how neighbors would gather in times of need. It was this spirit of community that enabled Sister Germaine to realize the importance that one had for another that a shared life brings. She recalls her arrival at Marillac, knowing no one and feeling a bit lost. She went to the basement and “a Sister greeted me by name,” Sister Germaine relates, still impressed today. “And right then, I knew I belonged.”

Sister Jane Burger remembers hard work and good times spent with her family in Jasper, Indiana. Outgoing, active and “very gregarious like both my parents,” she had been taught by the Sisters of Providence in grade school. But it was at St. Vincent Nursing School in Indianapolis, run by the Daughters, where she discovered where her vocation would lead her.

At a retreat there, Sister Jane recalls, “The Scripture spoke powerfully to me, personally”: *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts* (Isaiah 55-8-9).

When the hospital chaplain asked her, “in which Community would you be helping the Church?” Sister Jane’s answer was immediate: “The Daughters of Charity.” Drawn to their commitment to serve the poor and after reading a book on the life of St. Louise de Marillac, Sister Jane waited until after her sister’s wedding in April to tell her parents and friends of her decision to enter. “Nobody believed me when I told them,” she says today with a smile.

Sister Judith (Jude) Hebert, the youngest of six with four brothers and a sister, arrived from Boston, Massachusetts, the only Sister in the band from the East. She relates “while I didn’t know any Daughters personally, I would watch them from my high school window with the schoolkids on the playground. I admired how they related to the children in a very human and caring way.”

Sister Judith’s decision to enter, however, was met with a sense of skepticism and a bit of innocent gambling: “Friends and neighbors were taking bets on how long I would last, the longest being six weeks!”



The last postulant to arrive and two weeks later was **Sister Germaine Sarrazin** (left) from California, delayed because of an emergency appendectomy. (Sister Germaine is one of three Daughters in the band who eventually joined the Province of the West in Los Altos Hills, California.)

Her late arrival meant she couldn’t start college with the others, but quickly fit in with the group, whom she called “warm and welcoming.”

Sister Germaine realized she belonged with the Daughters after much prayer and a few choice words with God. Arriving early for high school choir practice, she would stop first in the chapel to pray, the prayer never varying: “Here I am, Lord – and I have no idea what I want to do.” She admits to having a few arguments with God about His ideas for what she *should* be doing and her thoughts on them. In the end, God won.

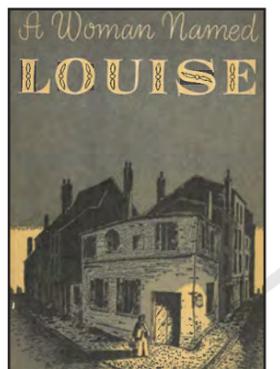
When she told her parents of her decision, both were fully supportive, especially her father. “He had a gruff voice and a teddy bear heart,” she recalls, continuing, “and would boast to anyone and everyone about his ‘Daughter daughter.’”

Some parents opposed their daughter’s decision, primarily because of the rule that they could not go

home. It was this rule, echoed by nearly all today, that “caused the most pain – and our parents’ greatest sacrifice.” It would be another 12 years before Daughters could stay with family on home visits.

This sense of permanent separation from one’s family is difficult for any parent to accept. Sister Jean Maher’s mother remained adamant in her opposition, letting her feelings be known in her letters to Sister Jean. “The Visitatrix finally spoke to her, saying how upsetting her letters were to me,” Sister Jean recalls. “But,” she admits with humor, “I was asked if I could write something more interesting than the daily menu and what I had had.”

For some who first realized a call to religious life, it was as if by chance – or God’s will – that directed them to the Daughters of Charity. Sister Bertrande Meyers at Marillac College played a crucial role in encouraging young girls to consider a vocation, sending magazines such as “Sacred Heart” and “Jubilee,” and her book, “A Woman Named Louise,” to provide insight into the community’s charism and their foundress.



Sister Karen Flaherty (below), from St. Edward, Nebraska, speaks of Sister Bertrande’s influence on her. With no Catholic grade school in St. Edward, Sister Karen’s Catholic faith entailed “church on Sundays and two weeks every summer at a Bible camp.”



When the family moved to Lincoln, Sister Karen attended Cathedral High School, and it was as a junior that she and her classmates heard from Sister Bertrande. “The girls were asking one another if they’d received anything in the mail.”

One day on their way to chapel, a pact was made to pray every Thursday for one another.

Sister Karen recalls. "I wrote her back and we began exchanging letters. I told her I wanted to be a teacher like my mother and that I wanted to travel. After two years at the University of Nebraska, I went to St. Louis to meet her.

"While there, I visited St. Patrick School and stayed at St. Ann's Parish. I saw for myself the great needs of those living on the margins and how as a Daughter, I could serve. I decided becoming a Daughter would allow me to teach and to serve the poor," she says today. Her love of travel would also be realized; always ready to go no matter where or when.

Sister Sharon Groetsch's deep respect and love for the Daughters of Charity began in second grade with her teacher, Sister Margaret Quinn, D.C. "She captured my heart," Sister Sharon says, and "when discerning my vocation, I focused on the Daughters and the Vincentian spirit of their charism. My parents only asked one question: 'Is becoming a Daughter of Charity going to make you happy?'"

Sister Sharon says today, "I never had a second thought about becoming a Daughter. But I've never forgotten walking to the plane the day I left home, turning back to wave at my dad. I yelled to him: "Dad, you take care of yourself. And take care of Mom."



Like Sister Karen Flaherty, Sister Judith Hebert (left) also found her vocation as a Daughter of Charity through the efforts of Sister Bertrande. "Since I knew no Daughters," she relates, "I

reached out to Sister Bertrande after receiving some literature from her. We began corresponding, and I entered at Marillac Provincial House in Normandy."

Sister Judith finds humor in what she anticipated her ministry to be when she entered, recalling, "I was attracted to the Daughters because I thought I wouldn't have to teach. And what happened? I landed in the classroom for over 20 years!"

Today, she writes, "It has all been God's plan." Following her teaching ministry, Sister Judith served in social justice ministries, her last ministry at a jail where, "I visited women, listened and prayed with them and conducted prayer services. And as I look back, it is clear each ministry experience prepared me for the next."

For Sister Germaine Price, the call to serve came from a single line in a Catholic newspaper. Living in a college town 35 miles away from the farm and sharing a house with several other working women, Sister Germaine was determined to save money and get her teaching degree. "My mother would send me the Catholic newspaper, she recalls, "and one day, there was a line that just popped out at me, that asked: 'How would you like to serve the poor?'"

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

offer a joyous way of religious life in the service of the poor, the lonely, the forsaken. Girls between eighteen and thirty who have the courage to respond to Christ's invitation to leave all and follow Him may find peace and happiness in a life dedicated to God. The Sisters engage in social work, teaching, nursing, the care of children, and serve in foreign missions.

<p>Origin</p>	<p>In 1633, St. Vincent de Paul, seeing the abject social condition of the poor of Paris, recognizing the need for some permanent form of helping widows, orphans, abandoned infants, the aged, sick and infirm of both sexes, organized the Daughters of Charity as a simple congregation. They are the first uncloistered community in the Church. They are, also, the largest.</p>	
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>The prime purpose of the Community is the personal sanctification of each of its members, and the service of the poor wherever, and in whatever condition found.</p>	
<p>Admission</p>	<p>Any Catholic girl of good moral character, sound mental and physical health, of average intelligence, good will, and right motive, may apply for admission to the Community of Daughters of Charity. She must furnish the following papers: 1) a record of physical health; 2) her baptismal and confirmation record, a transcript of her studies; 3) her parents' marriage certificate; 4) a letter of recommendation from her pastor or spiritual director.</p>	
<p>Preparatory Period</p>	<p>When an aspirant first enters the Community, she becomes a <i>postulant</i> for six months. During this time she becomes acquainted with the life and spirit of the Daughters of Charity, their works of zeal, and has time to study her own aptitude for this life. The daily schedule includes allotted times for prayer, meditation, study, exercises of piety, recreation, household duties, etc.</p>	
<p>Novitiate</p>	<p>The Daughters of Charity use the word <i>Novitiate</i> to designate the period of time called <i>novitiate</i> in most Communities. The Canonical Year is devoted to an intensive study of the religious life, the formation of a religious character, and the development of the particular spirit of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. Five years (including the Seminary year) intervene before first vows. During this time the obligations of the Vows and their virtues are studied under the guidance of competent directors.</p>	
<p>Academic and Professional Studies</p>	<p>Upon completion of the novitiate, the young Sister returns to Marillac College (in which she enrolled as a postulant) to continue her studies towards the baccalaureate degree, and such professional subjects as required in the field of her choice — teaching, nursing, or social work.</p>	

OCTOBER, 1960 17

Sister Germaine began corresponding with Sister Bertrande and finally returned to the farm. She wrote her thoughts out, leaving the sheet on the kitchen table for her parents and waiting outside for their response. When Sister Germaine said she was going to visit St. Louis, her mother insisted on accompanying her. It was the first time Sister Germaine had ever been out of Wisconsin.

Sister Germaine eventually earned her teaching degree — not as she planned but God had — traveling

far from Wisconsin and the farm she loved. Yet the farm remains her compass; filled with gratitude for the grounding it gave her and the spirit of community it taught her.

Sister Angele Hinkey from Ottawa, Illinois, had been considering the Daughters of Charity for five years, having learned of the Daughters from a Sister of Mercy at her high school. Sister Angele began corresponding with Sister Bertrande but remained uncertain. "After high school, I went to the Ringling Brothers Art School (now Ringling College of Art and Design) in Sarasota, Florida, for a year," she relates.

"But once home (May 1957), I felt this 'gnawing of the heart,' that kept growing more dominant," Sister Angele recalls. "One day, I went to my favorite place in the world — the Illinois River — and set out in my canoe. I asked myself, 'How can I ever give this up?' And in that moment, I knew that I *could* give up my river and my family for something greater. God gave me the grace to realize — and to accept — that my life would be for many, not just for myself, not with a family of my own. That moment was my miracle."

Sister Barbara Dingman's (below) family was one of the poor families visited by Sister Sylvia, the former secretary at Marillac who years earlier would visit her mother's family when her mother was little.

Sister Barbara's desire to join the community grew stronger during her teen years at Labouré High School, and with the support of her parents, she was accepted. "I thought with all my experience in looking after my younger siblings, that I could serve in childcare," she says today.



Although childcare was her initial intent, Sister Barbara would later find her greatest reward serving in the inner-city neighborhood

assisting the elderly. Today, she serves her senior Sisters, still protective, still mothering with a no-nonsense approach, a razor-sharp mind, and a very large heart.

The Seminary

Following Vocation Day held on June 5, 1958, the former postulants (now numbering 30) walked

It was in the Seminary that the band would learn the true meaning of living in community, growing together from separate parts to become a whole.

across the front courtyard of the Provincial House to the other side of the building to the Seminary. It was here that the band would learn the true meaning of living in community, growing together from separate parts to become a whole.

It was here they would become Daughters of Charity from within, shaped by the discipline of silence, the scrutiny of self, and a confidence in the guidance of God who had chosen them. Cloistered and no longer attending college, recreation was now limited to 30 minutes twice a day with three to a bench. However, every Wednesday afternoon an exception was made with an outdoor picnic: freshly baked bread, peanut butter and jam — and a chance to talk!

As Seminary Sisters, attire was a simple black dress with a *fichu* (piece of white cotton worn like a shawl), a white bonnet with starched sides, and a *capot* (a hood-like piece worn over the bonnet). A chaplet of brown beads on a white string and simple cross was worn on the left side.

Even in the silence, the Sisters were always together. And perhaps because the Seminary was so restrictive in its movement and rigid in its order, those from the band could easily recall the moments when discipline of mind and body briefly made their escape to laugh out loud.

One such moment was when Sister Angele was scrubbing a huge coffee pot. With her petite height (her mother told her that she had brought the four-pound baby home in a shoebox), it seemed inevitable that one day she would fall in. Harry, the baker, grabbed her by the ankles and lifted her to the rim; then climbed down, without saying a word. In the retelling, the mirth remains as fresh as his baked bread on Wednesdays.

Sister Carol Hoelscher sat in the middle of the bench during recreation, bemused by her chatty and her reserved bench mates. Sister Carol often heard the Seminary Sisters mention their fear of being sent home. "While there, I was thinking God was going to tell me it was time to go home."

Sister Germaine Sarrazin remembers rabbit soup, which was leftover chocolate rabbits from Easter, melted and mixed with milk to make hot cocoa.

More than 60 years later, the surprising treat remains a tasteful Seminary memory.

Sister Sharon Groetsch also afforded her band Sisters a fond Seminary story. A Southern transplant to the Midwest (the youngest of nine and a bit spoiled, she says), Sister Sharon struggled to keep up with the fast pace of Seminary life. One afternoon, she told the Directress, "I'm just too tired."

Unimpressed, the Directress told Sister Sharon "she should go to bed." Since it was only 4 o'clock, Sister Sharon slept through supper and evening prayers, only waking up when her Sisters returned. She got out of bed and put her habit on. And her dormmates response? "Go to bed."

Although the Seminary year might seem daunting to an outsider, several of the Sisters said how much this year would mean to them, discovering in the silence "that one could hear the voice of God."



Sister Jane Burger (left) said, "I loved the Seminary experience because of the clarity that God was giving me." Like Sister Jean Maher, she remembers being open to whatever was asked of her. While some rules were a challenge to accept, Sister Jane remembers knowing "that this time was only temporary, a preparation for who I would one day become."

For Sister Angele Hinkey, the Seminary was one of "sacredness, of becoming a part of a community with whom I would always be connected. And I realized from the silence how my relationship with God was deepened," she says reflectively. "I witnessed the spirit of being a Daughter of Charity as partly active, partly contemplative, but both so integral to formation. We needed to meld the active charism of service and mission with the contemplation of the spirit of God in our community."

Sister Jean Maher (top right) remembers Postulatum and the Seminary days as one of ambivalence, "knowing I was causing pain to someone I loved, my mother." She recalls Thomas Merton's book, "Seven Storey Mountain," and his struggle toward finding the interior peace of God after withdrawing from

the outside world. At Gethsemani Abbey, Merton "found the four walls of my new freedom"; an ideology that spoke to Sister Jean. "It was only when I was finally sent on mission, that all my ambivalent feelings disappeared. I knew I was who I needed to be," Sister Jean says.



Sister Karen Flaherty's enthusiasm for a life as a Daughter never dimmed, whether it was during her days in the Seminary or on mission traveling to parts unknown. She shares "the excitement of being led by God. I knew that He was offering me a gift, and I knew His was a gift I could not squander."

Sister Karen was missioned to New Orleans in 1961, where for the next 11 years, she would serve as a high school counselor, assistant principal and teacher. But she would step outside the classroom, undertaking with joy ministries such as the Learning Clubs and Outreach Endeavors.

One of Sister Karen's most memorable missions was in 2011 when she was in her seventies. When Sister heard the Most Honored Father ask: "Can't somebody go to Kenya?" she thought to herself: "Well, I can!" And she did.

Sister Karen spent six years in Kitale, Kenya teaching art to young students. One of her most cherished memories was being invited to a student's house for dinner. "When I walked in," she relates, "there, hanging on the walls, were all her student's paintings. It was so beautiful, and the parents so very proud. It was such a joy-filled time for me."

First Vows 1963 – Daughters of Charity on Mission

At the end of the year in the Seminary, the Band of 1958 numbered twenty-nine. Each Sister would submit in writing to the Visitatrix the request to "be sent in mission." They would begin wearing the habit of the Daughters and be called Sister with a first name. Sister Jean Maher recalls that they could submit three names; however, that didn't mean they would get any of them (Sister Jean didn't).

Others asked – and were allowed – to keep their baptismal names. (Eventually, for legal purposes, all Daughters would use baptismal names). Sister Jane Burger, for one, was relieved, revealing, "I don't think God knew who He was talking to when I was called 'Leola!'"

Following Seminary year, some band Sisters remained to complete their education at Marillac College. Others, like Sister Carol Hoelscher, who had earned her bachelor's degree before entering, were sent on mission. Even before she had made her decision to become a Daughter, Sister Carol knew that teaching wasn't her calling.

As fate would have it, an emergency came up and a first-grade teacher was needed at a grade school in Illinois. Sister Carol was caught unawares, unprepared to teach, especially not 50 first graders. Having been placed in the one ministry she had never desired, Sister Carol would spend the next 23 years as a teacher, often asking God if she was really doing His will.

Sister Carol went on to teach high school, enjoying the older students and their enthusiasm in her classes. She remembers a compliment from a high school senior who exclaimed: "Hamlet's just like watching a soap opera!" However, she still speaks gingerly of her first class, saying "I still pray today for each one of them."

Sister Angele Hinkey attended one year at Marillac College after Seminary, then was missioned to Chicago in 1960 where she would earn her Associate Arts degree. She returned to Marillac in 1963 to make First Vows with her band. Then, after 30 years in social service ministries, Sister Angele returned to her first love: the world of art (Faith Afire Winter 2021).

Today, Sister Angele says, "I feel blessed by my art ministry, helping female inmates discover themselves through painting." Since the pandemic, Sister Angele has been serving at Maximillian Kobe House in Chicago, hoping to one day soon return to the "greatest artists I have been privileged to know."

Sisters Germaine Price and Germaine Sarrazin traveled by train together in 1962, both with teaching degrees to begin their ministries. Sister Germaine Sarrazin recalls her amusement when the train stopped at Sister Germaine Price's first mission – in Price, Utah.

Sister Germaine Price would only be in Utah a year, but it was here, at her first school, that she experienced the power of community. "I was given a different subject to teach than what I had earned my degree in, the switch made out of respect for the feelings of another. And I discovered I loved the new subject even more!"



60th Jubilee Reunion 2018 (Front row, L to R): Sisters Angele Hinkey, André Aycock, Jane Burger. (Back row, L to R): Sisters Sharon Groetsch, Carol Hoelscher, Judith Hebert, Barbara Dingman, Germaine Price and Karen Faherty. (Missing: Sister Jean Maher left early).

Sister Germaine Price's first mission outside the United States was to Puerto Rico, then later, Haiti, Istanbul, Burundi, Africa, and Bucharest. And her feelings about these foreign missions? "I loved every minute, wherever I was sent. I received so many blessings from God; He gave me what I needed at that moment, whether it was grace or the awareness of His presence within me."

The rhetorical question of "How blessed has my life been?" assures one that Sister Germaine Price's life has indeed been bountiful. One of her greatest blessings, she recalls, took place in Bucharest, Romania, where thousands of HIV-Positive children lay on hospital beds, abandoned by their parents. Sister Germaine, with wonder in her voice, recalls, "I had the privilege of accompanying these poor young souls in the dying process. And as I held them, for the first time in their short lives, they knew the meaning of love."

Sister Germaine Sarrazin would return to California and become a part of the Province of the West in Los Altos, California. But after serving three times for a total of 30 years in Utah, she feels comfortable calling this beautiful state home. A first-grade teacher for 40 years, Sister Germaine speaks affectionately of her young students. "I've had many a first grader come up to me and say, 'Well, I *have* always known how to read!'"

In 2003, Sister Germaine Sarrazin retired from the classroom, recalling: "I didn't want to be the person that someone has to tell that it's time to go." She still teaches at an after-school program, helping the



children of those whom she taught so many years ago. She describes her life as a Daughter of Charity as being one of gratefulness: "God has given me so very much," she says, adding, "What blessings I have had!"

The band would reunite on March 25, 1963 at Marillac to take their First Vows on the Feast of the Annunciation (an annual renewal of vows that takes place for all Daughters around the world). And for Sister Jane Burger, the '60s and '70s would be a time of "sweeping change in the church, in the



community, and in society." The social conscience of a nation was stirring, awakening a slumbering collective consciousness that dared the young and the old to challenge the status quo.

In 1957, the year the band arrived at Marillac, there were already rumblings of change. Martin Luther King Jr., still relatively unknown on the national stage, spoke twice in St. Louis. To the crowd in Kiel Auditorium, Dr. King pricked their social consciences, giving voice to meaningful action.

On August 28, 1963, just five months after the band had made their First Vows, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. The powerful message of to "one day live in a country where my children would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," was mirrored in the charisma of the Daughters and those of the Band of 1958.

Pope John XXIII succeeded Pope Pius XII upon his death in 1958, and although his papacy would be short-lived (1958-1963), his convening of Vatican II in 1962 transformed the Catholic Church with sweeping reforms both from within and without. He challenged a society and a Church that refused to accept the truth of God's creation: "We are all made in God's image." It was a call to holiness, to becoming an ecumenical apostolic and inclusive interfaith society.

It was a call that echoed the sentiments of Daughter of Charity Blessed Sister Rosalie Rendu (1786-1856): "Hunt down poverty in order to give humanity its dignity." And the Company of the Daughters of Charity, like the Church and society, would experience its own awakening in the 1960s.

From the replacement of the cornette to the coiffe in 1964, to changing and updating the Constitutions, to placing a greater emphasis on formation, spiritually and professionally, the Daughters of Charity were witnesses to and a part of the vision for a new world, the Great Society.

Today, the Sisters in the Band of 1958 continue to serve, carrying out their ministries with the same dedication as they were called to do so many years ago. Sister Jean Maher has been in Harlingen, Texas since 2020, where she educates, engages and empowers under-served families in South Texas. She also serves at the Culture of Life Ministries in Harlingen, a healing health-care organization that addresses the health needs of the community.

Sister Germaine Price continues to embrace the spirit of community, currently assisting at the Suds of Love program at St. Vincent's Parish in St. Louis, where once a month, those in need are provided with quarters and detergent to wash their clothes. They and the volunteers form a community, sharing in the importance of human dignity to one's soul, the basic need for human contact. Sister Germaine also lives at the Seminary, located in the city. Currently, there are five Sisters at the Seminary who wonder, as Sister Germaine's band did so many years ago, if they, too, have been called.

Sister Carol Hoelscher serves at the front desk of the St. Louise Province Office in St. Louis. She often listened for His voice during her earliest years, waiting for His permission to leave. But her daily acts of kindness, her thoughtful care of each person who enters the office, her unfailing good humor, offer tangible proof that God remained silent for a reason. He knew where – and to whom – she belongs.

Sister Jane Burger remains as she did as a young postulant – active, gregarious, unafraid to take a stance against injustice. She is, most importantly, a grateful Daughter who accepted "the Lord's invitation to follow Him." She, like many in her band, have conquered the challenge of learning a new language – technology – with all its clicks and dings. Sister Jane currently serves as Vincentian Spiritual Advisor for the Evansville Ladies of Charity.

The Daughters of the Band of 1958 speak of living a life of privilege, not one of sacrifice as some might assume. Never worldly, but very much a part of the world, they've sought the success of those whom they serve, those they have taught to hope, to experience compassionate love.

Eighteen Sisters left the community in the years following the band's First Vows in 1963. None of those who remained questioned why; rather, mourned the missing piece of their whole. Four Daughters of the band are deceased, most recently Sister Annette LeDuc, who passed away in 2020.



Sister André Aycock (left) could not attend the interview in Evansville, but her name readily evokes a smile and a story. From Lockport, Louisiana, the only girl with five adoring brothers, Sister André served as a nurse throughout her years on mission. Her free spirit, quick wit

and wonderful sense of humor, traits agreed upon by the group, were on full display during her days at St. Mary's Hospital in Taiwan – pulling up each morning on her motorcycle.

All the Sisters of the Band of 1958 (as did the bands who came before and after) left loving families, parents who made the sacrifice to let their daughter go and siblings too young to understand. Sister Carol Hoelscher recalls taking her little sister and carrying her everywhere when she was small. When the family dropped Sister Carol off, she recalls thinking: "I wonder if she understands why I am leaving."

Sister Barbara Dingman's mother died in 1970, and Sister Barbara by good fortune was at Marillac College, finishing her bachelor's degree. "When my mother died, my father was alone, doing his best to care for four teenagers – all in high school! I helped out when I could, but I know it was a trying time for him," she says.

Sister Jean Maher's mother never gave up hope for her return home. After her mother died, Sister Jean looked around the empty house, thinking, "There's nothing that I really wanted, no things that I wanted to take. So, I took one of her plants, later worrying that if the plant died, it would be like Mother dying all over again."

The plant flourished, growing so big that Sister Jean couldn't take it on her next mission. And although Sister Jean had never considered leaving the community, she received a phone call from her sister-in-law who said, "This will always be your home and you are always a part of this family." Sister Jean hesitates in the retelling, saying quietly: "I don't think I ever told her how much I appreciated those words."

But with her mother's plant, sturdy and standing on its own, and a phone call to remind her that she will always be a part of the family. Sister Jean realized that her mother is with her still, speaking to her through God with a love that sets both free: "You are right where you belong."

Sister Jean's band knows that she belongs with them, too. They have belonged to one another since September 25, 1957. They never forgot their first families; God simply widened their hearts to hold a second. Theirs has been a band as strong as precious metal and as eternal as a ring's design. A band whose fidelity to one another was pledged 63 years ago:

"Every Thursday, we will pray for one another."

Top two photos: The Sisters always took time to pose for a group photo whenever they gathered.



2009: A Golden Reunion in the Golden State (L to R): Sisters Annette LeDuc (dec.); Sharon Groetsch; Judith Hebert, Germaine Sarrazin (West); Margaret Ann Gainey (West); Jean Maher; Evelyn Candelaria (West); Linda Delery (dec.); Germaine Price; Angele Hinkey; Karen Flaherty; Barbara Dingman.

Celebrating 2,430 Years of Serving Christ in Those in Need

During January through December 2021, 39 Daughters celebrate jubilees.



DAUGHTERS
of CHARITY
PROVINCE of ST. LOUISE

From left to right, top to bottom: Sister Grace Calvisi, Sister Mary Gilbert, Sister Carol Durkin, Sister Judith Rojas, Sister Mary Ann Szydlowski, Sister Alice Matthews, Sister Dorothy Lyons. Second Row: Sharon Horace, Sister Michelle Nguyen, Sister Frederica Dunn, Sister Jean Thomas Dwyer, Sister Suzanne Anglim., Sister Martha Beaudoin, Sister JoAnne Goecke. Third Row: Sister Mary John Tintea, Sister Mary Thurlough, Sister Lucie Thai, Sister Joan Pytlik, Sister Ann Marie Butler, Sister Mary Grace Higgins, Sister Loretto Gettemeier. Fourth Row: Sister Catherine Kline, Sister Josephine Murphy, Sister Mary Albert Berry, Sister Marilyn Perkins, Sister Helen Marie Kling, Sister Mary Kay Schreier, Sister Catherine Clemons. Fifth Row: Sister Mary Louise Zollars, Sister Gertrude Levy, Sister Dinah White, Sister Marie Judith Haupt, Sister Elizabeth Greim, Sister Eleanor Casey, Sister Mary Catherine Conway. Sixth Row: Sister Mary Xavier McKenna, Sister Marillac Grabinski, Sister Marie-Claude Roux, Sister Patricia Ann O'Brien.

2021 Jubilarians

85 Years Vocation

Sister Gertrude Levy, D.C.

October 13, 1936

An Elementary and Secondary Teacher, Housemother, Home Life Supervisor, Development Director, Mission Coordinator, Volunteers Director, Community Ambassador and Board Member, Sister Gertrude has served in Mississippi, Alabama, California, Louisiana, Texas and Missouri. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Evansville, Ind.

80 Years Vocation

Sister Mary Albert Berry, D.C.

December 15, 1941

A Teacher and Pastoral Care Associate, Sister Mary Albert has served in Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Albany, N.Y.

75 Years Vocation

Sister Loretto Gettemeier, D.C.

December 2, 1946

A Teacher in the U.S. and Japan, Guidance Counselor, VP of Mission, Provincial Assistant and Councillor, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Loretto has served in Louisiana, Texas, California, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri and Japan. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Bridgeton, Mo.

Sister Mary Grace Higgins, D.C.

December 5, 1946

A Teacher, Social Worker, Director Child Care Center, Assistant Administrator, Pastoral Associate, Docent, Ladies of Charity Moderator and Local Community

Superior, Sister Mary Grace has served in Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. She now serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Albany, N.Y.

Sister Josephine Murphy, D.C.

April 7, 1946

A Social Worker, Administrator, Pastoral Assistant and Local Community Superior, Sister Josephine has served in Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and South Carolina. Today, she serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Emmitsburg, Md.

70 Years Vocation

Sister Grace Calvisi, D.C.

December 30, 1951

An Elementary and Special Education Teacher, Child Care Worker, Administrator, Provincial Councillor, Hispanic Religion Coordinator and Local Community Superior, Sister Grace has served in Maryland, New York, West Virginia and Georgia. She now serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Marillac Grabinski, D.C.

September 26, 1951

A Teacher, Docent, Outreach Minister, Social Services Worker and Local Community Superior, Sister Marillac has served in served in Missouri, Utah, Alabama, Illinois, Maryland, Indiana and Michigan. She was missioned from Evansville, Ind., in 2019 to Bridgeton, Mo., where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Catherine Kline, D.C.

September 26, 1951

A Teacher, Pastoral Care Worker,

Missionary in Taiwan and Chongqing, China and Local Community Superior, Sister Catherine has served in Missouri, Louisiana, South Dakota, Illinois, California, Alaska, Indiana, Taiwan and China. In 2019, she was missioned from Bridgeton, Mo., to Evansville, Ind., where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Dorothy Lyons, D.C.

December 30, 1951

An Elementary and High School Teacher, Secretary, Sister Dorothy has served in New York and Maryland. She currently serves at Elizabeth Seton High School in the school's bookstore, library, and work study program, Bladensburg, Md.

Sister Alice Matthews, D.C.

December 30, 1951

An Elementary Teacher, Office Clerk, Alumnae Director, Adult Literacy-Council Tutor and Local Community Superior, Sister Alice has served in Maryland, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania and Florida. She now serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Patricia Ann O'Brien, D.C.

December 30, 1951

A Teacher, Campus Minister, Liturgical Coordinator, Bible Study Coordinator, Parish Worker, and Local Community Superior, Sister Patricia Ann has served in Washington, D.C., Maryland, New York and Delaware. Today, she serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Albany, N.Y.

Sister Mary Ann Szydlowski, D.C.

March 6, 1951

Nurse Supervisor, Instructor and

Administrator, Foreign Missionary, Consultant, Moderator, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Mary Ann has served in Illinois, Texas, Louisiana, Indiana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri and on mission in Bangkok, Angola and Cook Islands. Today, she serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Bridgeton, Mo.

Sister Mary John Tintea, D.C.

December 30, 1951

A Teacher, Housemother, Driver, Pastoral Care Associate, Cardiac Program Patient Liaison, Chaplain, and Board Member, Sister Mary John has served in Michigan, Maryland, West Virginia, Alabama and Indiana. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Evansville, Ind.

Sister Mary Louise Zollars, D.C.

June 16, 1951

A Teacher, Social Worker, Director, Instructor, Administrator, Counselor, Pastoral Care Minister, Mission Integration, Special Needs Volunteer and Local Community Superior, Sister Mary Louise has served in Maryland, New York, Washington, D.C. and North Carolina. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Emmitsburg, Md.

60 Years Vocation

Sister Suzanne Anglim, D.C.

January 24, 1961

A Teacher, Spirituality and Pastoral Care Associate, Hispanic Minister, Mission Integration Director, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Suzanne has served in California, Missouri, Texas, and Louisiana. She currently ministers at the

Rebuild Center for the homeless, and welcoming immigrant families in New Orleans.

Sister Martha Beaudoin, D.C.

August 11, 1961

A High School French Teacher, Department Chair; French Teacher and Supervisor in Tehran, Iran; Social Worker, Provincial Secretary, Family Services Counselor, Administrator, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Martha has served in Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Iran. Today, she serves as Outreach Director, Seton Center, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Ann Marie Butler, D.C.

June 4, 1961

A Teacher, Principal, Diocesan Coordinator, Retreat and Spiritual Director, Board Member, and Local Community Superior, Sister Ann Marie has served in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Mississippi. She currently serves as Spiritual Director at Mater Dei High School, Evansville, Ind.

Sister Eleanor Casey, D.C.

August 11, 1961

A Teacher, Pastoral Associate, Education Programs Coordinator, Archival Assistant, Health Assistant and Board Member, Sister Eleanor has served in Maryland, Connecticut, Virginia, South Carolina and Missouri. She currently serves as a Teacher at Elizabeth Seton High School, Bladensburg, Md.

Sister Catherine Clemons, D.C.

August 11, 1961

A Teacher, Child Care Supervisor, Pastoral Associate, Outreach Worker, Resource Teacher and

Test Coordinator, Sister Catherine has served in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Arizona, Washington, D.C., New Mexico and Alabama. She currently serves as a Religion Teacher at Most Pure Heart of Mary School, Mobile, Ala.

Sister Mary Catherine Conway, D.C.

August 11, 1961

A Teacher, Principal, Vincentian Youth Director, Mission Integration Director, Program Coordinator, and Local Community Superior, Sister Mary Catherine has served in Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Indiana. She now serves in the Seeds of Hope Program at Seton Heritage Ministries, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Carol Durkin, D.C.

August 11, 1961

A Principal, Outreach Minister, Director, Provincial Councillor, Education Advocate, NGO Liaison, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Carol has served in Virginia, Georgia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and East St. Louis and Belleville, Ill. She currently serves as an Assistant with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Belleville.

Sister Fredrica Dunn, D.C.

August 11, 1961

A Nurse and Healthcare Worker, Hospice Spiritual Care Nurse, Quilt Maker for NICU Unit, Shelter Volunteer and Parish Minister, Sister Fredrica has served in Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New York. She currently serves at St. Peter's Hospital and St. Mavis Medical Respite Shelter, Albany, N.Y.

Sister Jean Thomas Dwyer, D.C.
September 8, 1961

A Teacher and Principal, Docent, Bookkeeper, Assistant Administrator, Mission Coordinator, Financial Analyst, Director, Consultant and Board Member, Sister Jean Thomas has served in Missouri, Iowa and Texas. She is currently on mission in San Antonio, Texas where she serves as an Advocate for anti-trafficking and immigration.

Sister Mary Gilbert, D.C.
August 11, 1961

A Dietitian, Teacher, Principal, Mission Integration Assistant, Provincial Secretary and Board Member, Sister Mary has served in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Ohio, Illinois and Virginia. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister JoAnne Goecke, D.C.
August 11, 1961

A Teacher and Principal, Provincial Councillor, Program Coordinator, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister JoAnne has served in Ohio, Washington, D.C., Maryland, the Carolinas, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia and Delaware. Today she serves as a Teacher and Librarian at St. Peter's Cathedral School, Wilmington, Del.

Sister Marie Judith Haupt, D.C.
June 4, 1961

A Housemother, Social Agency Administrator, Provincial Councillor, Recruitment Specialist and Director of Volunteers, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Marie Judith has served in California, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana. She currently serves at Mater Dei

Residence in Retreat Ministry and Hospitality, Evansville, Ind.

Sister Helen Marie Kling, D.C.
August 11, 1961

A Teacher, Principal, Administrator, Religious Education Director, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Helen Marie has served in Ohio, Maryland, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Florida and Illinois. She currently serves as an Outreach Minister at St. Joseph Parish, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Mary Xavier McKenna, D.C.
August 11, 1961

A Teacher, Principal, Pastoral Associate, Tutor and Local Community Superior, Sister Mary Xavier has served in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, New York and Washington, D.C. She currently serves as a Tutor at Mount St. Mary's University Borders Learning Center, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Marilyn Perkins, D.C.
August 11, 1961

A Nurse, Nursing Director, Provincial Councillor, VP of Mission Integration, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Marilyn has served in Maryland, Florida, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Arkansas. She now serves at Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Parish, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Sister Joan Pytlik, D.C.
September 8, 1961

A Nurse Supervisor and Practitioner, Executive Director, Regional Spiritual Advisor, Social Justice Advocate, Vicar for Religious, Board Member

and Local Community Superior, Sister Joan has served in Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Indiana. Today, she serves as a Spiritual Director, Evansville, Ind.

Sister Judith Rojas, D.C.
November 27, 1961

An Adult Education Teacher, Pastoral Care and Hispanic Parish Minister, Bilingual Chaplain and Board Member, Sister Judith has served in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. She currently ministers with Catholic Charities and serves as an Advocate for healthcare, immigration and community outreach, Bladensburg, Md.

Sister Marie-Claude Roux, D.C. (Canada)
August 13, 1961

A Nurse, Province and Regional Councillor, Community Outreach Volunteer and Local Community Superior, Sister Marie Claude has served in Montreal and Coaticook, Quebec throughout her ministry. She currently serves in Montreal as a Volunteer in Community Outreach and the Alpha Program.

Sister Mary Kay Schreier, D.C.
June 4, 1961

An Elementary and High School Teacher, Parish Minister, Pastoral Assistant and Local Community Superior, Sister Mary Kay has served in Missouri, Illinois, Mississippi, Arizona and Wisconsin. She currently serves as Pastoral Assistant at St. Peter Claver Church, Chicago, Ill.

Sister Mary Thurlough, D.C.
August 11, 1961

A Teacher, Social Worker,

Counselor, Supervisor, Diocesan Assistant Coordinator, Catholic Charities Director and Local Community Superior, Sister Mary has served in Michigan, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, North Carolina and Louisiana. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Emmitsburg, Md.

Sister Dinah White, D.C.
September 8, 1961

A Nurse Supervisor, Midwife, Educator, VP of Nursing, Administrator, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Dinah has served in Indiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Michigan and Maryland. She was missioned in 2021 from Emmitsburg, Md., to Evansville Ind., where she serves in the Ministry of Prayer.

50 Years Vocation

Sister Michelle Nguyen, D.C.
September 8, 1971

A Youth and Religious Educator, and Parish Minister and Pastoral Associate, Sister Michelle has served in Montreal, Canada; New York and Philadelphia. Sister is currently on mission in Philadelphia, Pa., where she serves the Vietnamese community of St. Helena Parish.

Sister Lucie Thai, D.C.
September 8, 1971

A Daycare Worker, Pastoral Care Minister, and Basilica Sacristan, Sister Lucie (originally from the Province of Vietnam, 1971-1990), has served in Maryland, Florida, and Washington D.C. She currently serves in the Ministry of Prayer, Emmitsburg, Md.

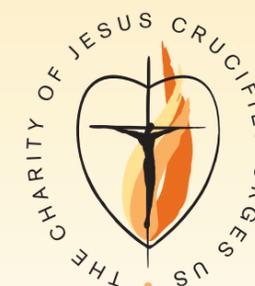
25 Years Vocation

Sister Elizabeth Greim, D.C.
August 10, 1996

An Assistant Director, HIV Clinic Manager, Refugee Services Director, Outreach Coordinator, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Elizabeth has served in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Arkansas, and New York. She currently serves at St. John's Outreach for Refugee Services, Utica, N.Y.

Sister Sharon Horace, D.C.
July 29, 1996

Youth Ministry and Education Coordinator, Director, Board Member and Local Community Superior, Sister Sharon has served in Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Haiti and Kenya. She currently serves as a volunteer with Missouri Green Schools and a Laudato Si Promoter for the Province, Harlingen, Texas.



DAUGHTERS
of CHARITY

PROVINCE *of* ST. LOUISE

Three Sisters Called to Serve in Rural South Carolina



Sisters Meggie Flores, Paula Gallant, and Consuelo Tovar take a minute to pose for a photo outside of their home in Lexington, S.C., from which they serve migrant farmworkers in the Saluda County area.



Top photo, Sisters took time this summer to talk with resident farmworkers at the women's dorms. They wanted to learn what services were most needed and how they could most assist. Lower photo, Sister Meggie (foreground) and Sister Denise and Father Orlando chat a bit with the women after a day in the fields.

Below, map: South Carolina, where the Daughters of the Province of St. Louise have served in Hardeeville since 2017 and now serve in the Saluda area along with the Vincentians.

Saluda County, South Carolina, population 20,473, sits in the northeast corner of the state. Here, up to 5,000 migrant farmworkers arrive each year. Men and women, sponsored by the farmers, come into the United

States legally for up to 10 months at a time to work in the fields. Peaches, corn, and vegetables are among the largest harvested crops. These farmworkers are part of about 1 million hired farmworkers in the United States, according to the National Center for Farmworkers Health, Inc. They support the \$28 billion fruit and vegetable industry in the US.

Unable to bring their children into the US, the farmworkers mostly live in dormitory-like residences where they sleep and cook on common stoves. The dormitories are designated "men's and women's" with a few available for couples. (The adults must leave their children behind in order to work in this US Visa program.) On Sundays, the hiring farms provide repurposed school buses to shuttle the farmworkers to small cities where they may do their laundry and shop for their week's groceries. Mondays through Saturdays, the hiring farms shuttle the workers to work

and back in those same buses. There is no opportunity for community prayer, sacraments, or pastoral care.

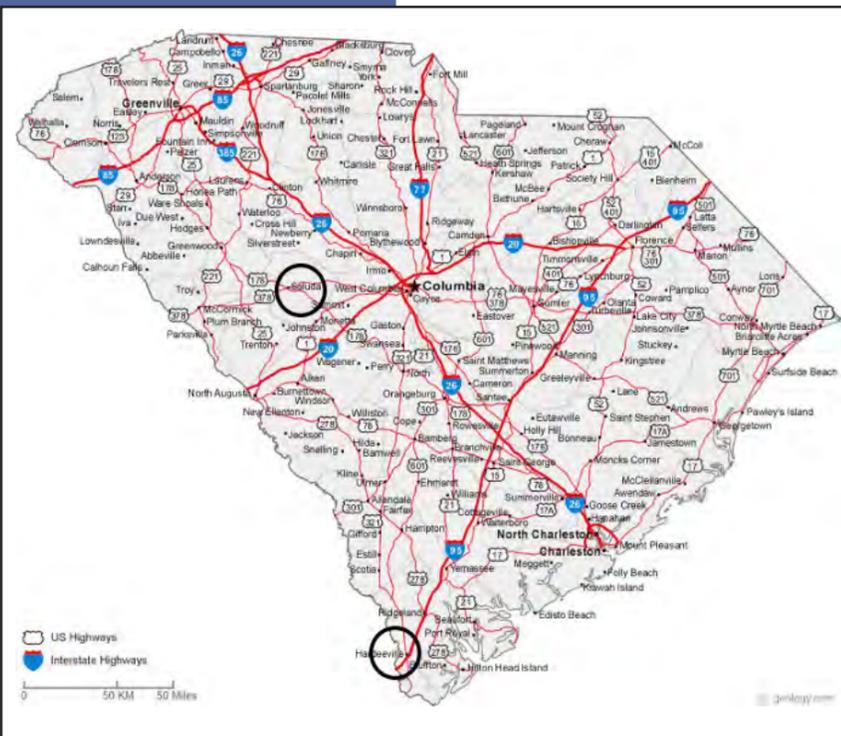
Working with Vincentian Father Greg Semeniuk, Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo of the Diocese of Charleston, and Gustavo Valdez, Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese, the Vincentian Family began to dialogue. Participating in that dialogue, too, were Father Tom Stehlik, C.M., from the Vincentians' Western Province, and Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C., from the Daughters' western Province of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Conversations continued about "what if?" What if we had a priest and several Sisters who could dedicate themselves in ministry to these farmworkers; what if there were opportunities to celebrate the liturgy, to enjoy fellowship, and to receive the sacraments? Fast forward a

year and the Vincentian Family mission in Saluda County, South Carolina has become a reality.

Three Daughters of Charity, Sisters Migdalia (Meggie) Flores, Paula Gallant, and Consuelo Tovar have settled into their new mission or home in Lexington, South Carolina. The Sisters along with Vincentian priest Father

Orlando Cardona, will begin to establish services for the migrant farm workers. Among those services will be celebrations of Mass, social services, and distribution of needed food and clothing.

Sister Denise LaRock, Provincial Councillor, worked with the three Sisters, Father Orlando, Father Greg, Father Anthony Droze (Diocese of Charleston) and Gustavo Valdez (Diocese of Charleston), to assess and evaluate needs and possible services. "We have been very impressed with the tremendous welcome we have received from Bishop Guglielmo and his team and their compassionate embrace of immigrants in the Diocese," explains Sister Denise. "It has been a blessing for us to join the outreach of their Diocese to those who travel so far from home and family to produce our food. The team will be providing for the spiritual needs of the farm workers, but also connecting with the services in the Diocese to provide food, clothing, and other needs which arise from the





Above: Sister Migdalia (Meggie) Flores shares about the new collaborative South Carolina ministry to migrant farmworkers with many at St. William's Church in Ward, South Carolina. Right: Taking a moment to pose for a photo following the November 7 Mass at the Camp, Sister Guadalupe Flores, OLVN, Director of Escuela de la Fe; Sister Paula, Sister Consuelo, Father Orlando; Isaak, one of the 70 farmworkers who attended Mass; and Sister Meggie. Father Orlando offered a special blessing to all for their journeys home as the farm season ends.



assessment process. Mr. Valdez continues to work closely with the team; for that, we are very grateful."

The Sisters home will be called, "Casa Encuentro," House of Encounter, and be an annex to the Daughters' mission in Hardeeville, South Carolina. As the Sisters live and move among the farm workers, they will develop an even greater understanding of needs, and, as time passes, new or different services may be added.

"As a long-time supporter of rural ministries of all kinds, I am excited to be a part of this new commitment (by the Diocese of

Charleston and the Vincentian family) to the spiritual lives of those who provide such necessary services for our everyday needs," explains Sister Paula. "I look forward to listening to the migrant farmworkers and learning how best to accompany them and help address the many challenges they face," adds Sister Consuelo. And, Sister Meggie continues, "so far, we have been able to provide migrants at the camps with Masses, rosaries, blessings of new migrant workers, blessing of houses, distribution of food/toiletries to three camps and an attentive presence. We also have participated in the Kermés parish festival fundraiser of St. William's Parish in Ward, the

Kermés of Corpus Christi Parish, quinceaneras masses and part of their receptions. I was also invited to meet with the Coordinator of Hispanic Youth Ministry to see possibilities to have young adults involved in our ministry. Sister Guadalupe Flores has also invited us to help with the Hispanic School of Faith. I will be giving Social Justice Teachings classes to St. John of the Cross Parish in January and February. Our warm mission is starting to take form and people are responding to God's call in such a graceful way. God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good. Blessed be his Holy Name."



Above, the Sisters greet the men who, after a day of working in the fields, were happy to hear good news about the planned ministry and also were happy to share ideas about needed services. Lower, Father Orlando celebrates the first Sunday Mass for the farmworkers!

In Memory

We remember the 17 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."
Revelation 2:10



Sister Rita Joyce DiNardo
June 5, 1940
December 11, 2020
43 years vocation
Elementary Teacher, Pastoral Care Associate, Music Minister, Librarian, Docent



Sister Jeanne Filor
May 21, 1935
December 15, 2020
64 years vocation
Teacher, Nurse Supervisor, Home Care Coordinator, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Pastoral Care



Sister Catherine Joseph McDonough
January 23, 1934
December 29, 2020
68 years vocation
Elementary School Teacher and Parish Minister



Sister Anthony Prugger
December 7, 1925
January 3, 2021
71 years vocation
Social Worker, Nurse, Outreach Worker, Administrator, Vocation Director, Local Community Superior



Sister Margaret Polheber
July 5, 1929
January 10, 2021
69 years vocation
Business Clerk, Director, Parish Visitor, Outreach Worker, Provincial Treasurer, Pastoral Associate, Parish Minister, Docent



Sister Mary Catherine Warehime
July 12, 1955
December 17, 2020
46 years vocation
Teacher and Principal, Vocation Director, Provincial Councillor and Secretary, Board Member, Local Community Superior



Sister Mary Ann Wiltzius
October 8, 1927
December 17, 2020
75 years vocation
Elementary Teacher, Social Worker, Administrator, Director, Parish Minister, Outreach Worker, Counselor, Local Community Superior



Sister Ellen Marie Adams
May 22, 1928
December 21, 2020
72 years vocation
Health Care and Social Worker, Nurse and Nurse Supervisor, Pastoral Care Associate, Hospitality Coordinator



Sister Brenda Monahan
May 23, 1964
February 28, 2021
29 years vocation
Teacher and Principal, Director, Mission Coordinator, Board Member, Local Community Superior



Sister Paula Slama
June 22, 1930
April 17, 2020
67 years vocation
Elementary and High School Teacher, Docent, Local Community Superior



Sister Marie Burns
April 5, 1933
July 29, 2021
61 years vocation
Director, Administrator, Local Community Superior



Sister Mary Anne Digenan
January 21, 1926
December 24, 2020
71 years vocation
Nursing Director and Instructor, Formation Councillor, Pastoral Care Director, VP Mission, Board Member, Local Community Superior



Sister Virginia Delaney
September 4, 1931
December 28, 2020
71 years vocation
Nurse Supervisor, Public Health Nurse, University Teacher, VP Mission, Director Mission Integration, Local Community Superior



Sister Eileen Kinnarney
June 9, 1922
December 28, 2020
68 years vocation
Nurse and Nursing Supervisor, Hospital Administrator, Board Member and Chair, Chaplain, Provincial Councillor and Assistant, Local Community Superior



Sister Catherine Fitzgerald
January 27, 1933
September 15, 2021
68 years vocation
Teacher, Principal, Director, Administrator, Pastoral Associate Ladies of Charity Spiritual Moderator



Sister Virginia Metz
October 13, 1917
September 15, 2021
84 years vocation
Medical Records Director, Construction Projects Administrator, Provincial Treasurer Assistant



Sister Elizabeth Ann Tonroe
July 10, 1927
September 27, 2021
74 years vocation
Teacher and Principal, Provincial Assistant and Councillor, Director of Educational Program, Elderly and Homebound Visitor, Local Community Superior

Province News



Sister Carol Schumer, St. Louis, has been honored as the recipient of the first Halbert Sullivan Legacy Award from the Fathers and Families Support Center. More than two decades ago, Sister Carol teamed up with Founder Halbert Sullivan to lead the parenting class in FFSC's six-week Family Formation program. Since then, hundreds of fathers who have graduated from FFSC still ask about Sister Carol and express gratitude for teaching them how to communicate and build relationships with their children. Sister Carol adds, "I was deeply honored by this recognition especially since my being the first recipient of the award was decided before Halbert Sullivan's death. It was like a final gift from him to me." Pictured, Jefferson Miller, FFSC Board Chair; Sister Carol; and Cheri Tillis, acting FSSC CEO.

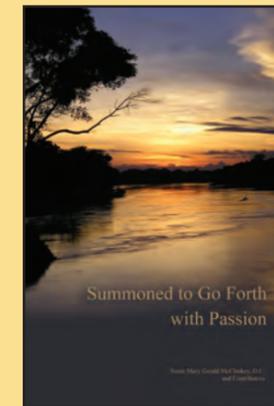


International Project Services' Director **Sister Mary Louise Stubbs** is a Member of the Vatican Committee focused on water and hygiene in

health care facilities. Featured in an online article published in Religion News Service, Sister Mary Louise shared how the Vatican water and hygiene initiative for health care facilities is an investment in life.



Sister Julia Huiskamp, Social Worker at Griffin Center, East St. Louis, Illinois, was among seven 2021-2022 Lumen Christi Award finalists. This year, 34 dioceses submitted nominees. Each finalist received a \$10,000 award to support and enhance their ministry. The Sisters applaud the work of Father Stan Jaszek, Lumen Christi award winner, who adopts the lifestyle of the Yup'ik communities he serves in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska. (Sister Julia's photo courtesy of Lumen Christi.)



Sister Mary Gerald McCloskey, a longtime missionary in Bolivia, worked to compile a book of memories before her death in spring 2020. Since that time, friends and fellow Sisters, helped to finish the book of memories—sweet, sad, and insightful—about her many years of service in South America. The

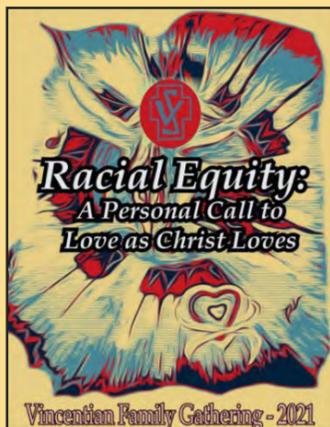
book, *Summoned to Go Forth with Passion*, was completed with the assistance of many Sister contributors and is available to read on the Province website, www.daughtersofcharity.org; click on MEDIA at the top; Select BOOKS in the drop-down menu, then click on "Read now."

In February 2021, the Province sponsored a workshop, "**The Practice of Systemic Change**," which focused on the topics of Systemic Change - Basic Notions; Collaboration and Collective Impact; Five Strategies to Fight Poverty; and Systemic Change as practiced in the Province through its Mission and Ministry Impact grants.



Sister Carol Keehan leads the Health Task Force, Vatican COVID-19 Commission. In the photo, Sister Carol greets Pope Francis at an audience the Holy Father held on September 27 for the Academy of Life meeting. Sister Carol was in Rome working on the Task Force and Commission work. In an August 16 Global Sisters Report article, "Sisters scramble to respond to delta variant amid longstanding local and global problems," shares, "The COVID-19 pandemic has reached a critical and even alarming point, say Catholic sisters and humanitarian leaders who are responding to the fast-spreading delta variant amid multiple problems." "Just pick your continent, and we have some incredible challenges," said Sister Carol.





Members of the Vincentian Family, including Sisters, volunteers, Ladies of Charity, Vincentian Mission Corps, Vincentian Lay Missionaries, members of the Congregation of the Mission, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul members, gathered in Atlanta in October to focus on **“Racial Equity: A Personal Call to Love as Christ Loves.”** The call to the Vincentian Family Gathering, “As members of the North American Vincentian Family, we commit to strengthen our collective impact in the face of inequity and injustice, seeking opportunities for service and systemic change,” introduced ways for attendees to deepen relationships with one another by engaging in meaningful and respectful dialogue concerning individual and collective experiences of race, diversity and inclusion in the Vincentian Family and beyond

Sister Sharon Horace, Sister Mary Jo Stein, and Marv Kemper (Administrator at the Daughters’ Evansville Campus) are, under the Provincial Council’s oversight, leading the efforts for the Province’s first year plan for Laudato Si. Included as action items in the first year are: 1) the study of the Sisters’ driving mileage and vehicle data followed by a proposal to reduce carbon emissions; and, 2) the identification of species on a section of property on the Sisters’ Emmitsburg Campus in collaboration with Mount St. Mary’s University—all in order to develop a land management plan to promote Care of Our Common Home.



The Emmitsburg Campus species study has begun. Two students, juniors at Mount St. Mary’s University, have engaged in this project. Under the guidance of Professor Abby Kula, the students will each work with two to three student volunteers.



Sister Alice Charles
Teacher - Second Grade

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
Pikesville, Maryland
1963-64

Sister Ursula
Principal

The Provincial Archives shares a photo from the 1963 to 1964 school year at St. Charles Borromeo School in Pikesville, Maryland. The saying “All in our places with bright shiny faces,” comes quickly to mind as the students in Sister Alice Charles’s second-grade school class pose for a group photo. The Archives, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is a treasure trove of photos and information about the history of the Sisters. Two online resources are open to the public: “Charity Speaks” includes oral histories of some of the Sisters of Charity Federation members including the Daughters: www.scfederationarchives.org; the “Hidden Catholic Collections” website includes information and photos about the Daughters’ service during World War II: <https://achahistory.org/hidden-catholic-collections/>



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May 22, **Sister Josephine Lomasney** was sent on her first mission to Emmitsburg, Maryland. There, Sister Josephine serves as a Teacher Assistant at Mother Seton School. Left photo, Sister Josephine poses with Sister Katie Norris near the statue of the Blessed Mother outside the Provincial House Chapel in St. Louis, Missouri. Right photo, Sister Josephine (left) being recommended for Mission to Sister Catherine Mary (Katie) Norris, Provincial, by Sister Marie Rachelle Cruz, Seminary Directress.

