



SEASONing

A Message from BVM Leadership

"Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.

–Shannon L. Alder

This advice by popular author Shannon

L. Alder exquisitely captures the theme of this issue of Salt magazine. BVMs are all about hearts, not tombstones!

In the pages ahead, you can meet Sr. Jean Agnes Phillips through her nephew's memories, read benefactor Gerald Hoeger's reflections on Catholic sisters, get acquainted with the Gannon Scholars of Loyola University Chicago, and travel to Ecuador with participants in BVMsponsored immersion trips. Forming relationships by touching hearts is at the core of the BVM mission.

Stories about the BVM Disaster Fund, BVM Marie Greaney's 67-year history of giving blood, and the Mount Carmel Knit Wits provide glimpses of new and creative ways in which BVMs and their partners keep the BVM mission vital. As our authors illustrate, the BVM legacy of relationship-building, meeting critical

needs, and sharing the congregation's blessings continues to be written on the hearts and etched into the minds of others.

This issue also offers BVM Perspective, our annual development report. New Development Director and Grants Administrator Ann Sweeney, a Clarke University alum, introduces herself and highlights the achievements of the past year. Her message makes clear that the BVM legacy is carried in thousands of hearts.

When BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke consoled her sisters with "I have no fears but that God will aid us as in the past as long as you are working unitedly," she had no idea that more than 100 years later, alums, colleagues, family members, and friends would be supporting and working alongside BVMs to keep her legacy alive and growing.

As you read this issue of Salt, please know that we wholeheartedly endorse BVM Georgeann Quinlan's expression of gratitude: "It seems very important that we stay in touch with our donors in a personal way. The donations which come in are 'part of the hundredfold' we heard about as novices. Our BVM congregation is blessed...."

Dear readers, we are truly blessed by your prayers, messages of care, and financial gifts. You, too, etch your legacy in minds and hearts by partnering with us to serve others. We are grateful.

Les Hadro BYM

Lou anglin, Bom

Jadonna Manternach, BVM



Winter Two Thousand Twenty Volume 48, Number 2

Mission Statement: The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a community of Catholic women religious who, in response to a personal call from God, have chosen a vowed life of prayer, ministry, and community. BVMs express their mission of being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in service to God's people though their core values of freedom, education, charity, and justice.

Salt is published three times per year for friends and family of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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Calendar of Events

March 2020

Loretto Community NGO Delegation to the Annual Commission on the Status of Women, New York

April 2020

14-19 2020 Congregational Assembly Dubuque, Iowa

17 - 20**Ecumenical Advocacy Days** Washington, D.C.

26 Immaculata HS Alumnae Luncheon Niles, III.

St. Mary HS Alumnae Luncheon 26 Lombard, III.

May 2020

Great Give Day

17 Memorial Mass, Mount Carmel Dubuque, Iowa

July 2020

Silver Jubilee Celebration Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

26 Installation of New Leadership Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

Set of 1960, 60th Celebration Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa

For more events and information, visit: bvmsisters.org/events.









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Preserving Legacy for 25 Years

Mount Carmel Bluffs

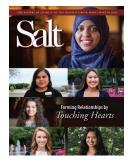
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On the cover: In this issue of **Salt**, read how BVMs leave their legacy on hearts, not tombstones, to paraphrase Shannon L. Alder as quoted in "Seasoning." Writers explore how BVMs continue to educate, as seen through the eyes of Gannon Scholars; how they touch others' lives by giving blood; how they help preserve and share the history of women leaders; how they inspire others to experience another culture; and how they prepare to share their home through Mount Carmel Bluffs.



 $Thirty-seven women \ at \ Loyola\ University\ Chicago\ are\ 2019-20\ Gannon\ Scholars. The\ program\ is\ named\ for\ BVM\ Ann\ Ida\ Gannon\ , who\ hoped$ women would be inspired "not only to achieve their rightful place in society, but also to be able to use their gifts in bettering the world." Photos provided by Loyola University Chicago.

Gannon Scholars Learn to Lead

by Mary Fran McLaughlin, BVM

The Gannon Scholars Program,

a jewel of the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership at Loyola University Chicago (LUC), is a progressive fouryear program that engages students in leadership, service, and research.

Founded in 1984, the program continues Mundelein College's legacy of academics and service. Appropriately, the Gannon Center was named to honor the late Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, a pioneer in women's education and leadership who served as Mundelein's president from 1957 to 1975.

In the midst of about 12,000 undergraduate students at LUC, Gannon Scholars shine, claiming some of the most coveted academic awards, holding on-campus leadership positions, and volunteering or interning in community organizations.

Recently two Gannon seniors, Juana Fonseca and Emily Robertson, received the President's Medallion, given to an outstanding student in each of Loyola's 14 Schools.



Juana, from Chicago, is a biology major on a pre-medicine school track. She is currently engaged in a two-year

research project focused on the socioemotional challenges facing undocumented women in the United States.



Emily, from Avon, Ohio, is one of the first students in the School of Communication's new creative

advertising major and is the firm director of Inigo Communication, Loyola's unique student-run communications agency.

As director, she spearheaded an organization restructure—possible because of her vision, her ability to communicate that vision, and her steadfast commitment to results.

Scholars in Many Fields

This year, 37 women are enrolled as Gannon Scholars: six are first-generation college students and 14 are women of color. In the spring of 2019, their median GPA was 3.92,

and 14 participate in the interdisciplinary and one in the business honors program. Their majors represent 26 areas of study.

The \$8,000 Gannon scholarships are awarded annually to incoming first-year students and are renewable for three additional years based on successful participation.

More than 1,200 applications are received annually for 10 places!

Gabrielle Buckley, Mundelein '77, director of the Gannon Center, and Sarah Hallett, program coordinator, sift through initial applications before potential Gannon Scholars join them in the final steps: inviting 40 candidates for an interview, actively participating in the interviews, and selecting the next class.



Gannon sophomore Sarah Lehmann, a psychology major from Rapid City, S.D., says she was feeling scared

and alone before the interview, where she experienced, with great relief, "unconditional love and care."

Returning in August, she coped with homesickness and adjustment to new surroundings. Gannon proved to be her "home away from home. It changed my life and I am not alone."

She is discerning where her psychology major will lead her and "what God wants for me." She is drawn to a career in health services with special attention to mental health.

Program Provides a Sense of Belonging



Valeria Monreal, firstyear Gannon Scholar from Chicago studying biomedical engineering, is looking forward to a career

in stem cell research.

Her strong commitment and drive to keep up with her challenging STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) classes, including her first physics class, indicates potential academic achievement and success.

She is already involved in several

As it moves into

the future, the Gannon

Center will extend

its influence beyond

Mundelein College,

Loyola University

Chicago, and the United

States to inspire women

throughout the world..."

—Ann Ida Gannon, BVM

2009

student organizations on campus, including **Engineers for Social** Justice and the Latin American Student Association.

As a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) student, she is passionate about immigration and separation of families; the environment and gender equity in STEM are also priorities for her.

"I would not love

Loyola as much if I were not in Gannon," she says, adding that among the Gannon Scholars she has found strong group support, even a physics tutor, and a bond of belonging that was sparked with a retreat early in the semester.

Gannon Scholars meet weekly on Monday evening for one hour to "check in" and explore areas of interest and women's leadership.

Sarah works with Gannon presenters who take turns to facilitate and prepare the topic. Topics include social justice, feminism, and professional and leadership skills.

Research Draws Scholars



The opportunity to do research was what attracted Rachel Phan, a senior accounting major from Beaverton, Ore., to apply for the Gannon scholarship.

Her research project deals with sustainability accounting for investors. Rachel plans to stay at LUC next year to complete her master of science in accountancy and eventually earn a CPA.

Environmental issues are extremely important to her. In her first year, she joined Alternate Break Immersion through campus ministry during spring break to visit an organic farm in Michigan.

Participants helped to "clear the land" and care for some of the smaller animals on this 150-acre family farm.

Last summer she returned to work and live on the farm—planting and harvesting crops and preparing meals for the workers from fresh seasonal produce. She found rich multi-cultural and intergenerational diversity among fellow workers and created a variety of new menus featuring seasonal plants, fresh from the farm.

She truly values the Gannon program for "single-gender space where you can be yourself, speak openly about what you think, disagree with a different view or opinion, put aside fear of being or looking too smart."

Encouragement Sustains Studies



Lastly, senior Radia Daud, from Chicago, will launch her nursing career this summer.

Now a U.S. citizen, Radia

was born in Eritrea in East Africa and as a toddler fled with her mother to Ethiopia, where they lived in refugee camps while seeking asylum in the United States.

This bright young student learned English quickly when she entered public school and advanced in her studies, completing an International Baccalaureate certificate in high school.

She applied for the Gannon scholarship in order to attend LUC. She realizes how much she has received, "especially the encouragement to do my best."

Her research explores the health care of refugees who are underserved because of language barriers and lack of finances. Radia intends to work on a doctorate in nursing practices while she gains experience in the field of nursing.

Ann Ida wrote in 2009, "As it moves into the future, the Gannon Center will extend its influence beyond Mundelein College, Loyola University Chicago, and the United States to inspire women throughout the world who are struggling not only to achieve their rightful place in society but also to use their gifts in bettering the world."

Gannon Scholars, past and present, stand up and take a bow!■

About the author: Mary Fran (Virginia Mary) McLaughlin, BVM is enjoying retirement in Chicago and is a board member at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep, a Cristo Rey School in the Austin neighborhood.



Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Women and Leadership Archives are (I. to r.) BVMs Joellen McCarthy, Diane (Malia) Rapozo, and Jean Dolores Schmidt; Susan Ross, Pamela Caughie; BVM Carolyn Farrell; and Kate Kucera. Photo by Noah Johnsen, Rambler Productions.

Women and Leadership Archives Celebrates 25 Years

by Carolyn Farrell, BVM

Anniversaries are significant markers in life:

a marriage, a graduation, a declaration of war. The date arrives each year wrapped in memories of the past. The joys and the sorrows of the event surface once again as stories are shared or held in the silence of mind and heart.

Mundelein College, founded in Chicago by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1929, became part of Loyola University Chicago in June 1991 with the signing of the memorandum of agreement by the chairs of the respective board of trustees of each school.

That fall a committee of Mundelein and Loyola faculty and staff came together to consider an appropriate plan to carry forth Mundelein's legacy. The outcome of their work was the Ann Ida Gannon, BVM Center for Women and Leadership; the Women and Leadership Archives (WLA) are a part of the center.

The archives house the collections of women or groups of women associated with leadership in the best sense of the word: making the world a better place. Many of our own BVMs have collections in the archives (see below).

On Sept. 27, 2019, the WLA at Loyola University Chicago celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Faculty and staff from both Mundelein and Loyola, as well as donors to the archives and interested friends, gathered at Piper Hall. It was a festive event, as those present were aware of the significance of this celebration.

Two notable WLA donors who attended the anniversary celebration included Antoinette Trela and husband John W. Schoen. They completed the funding needed for the Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA) preservation project. This project will preserve and digitize photos and ledgers in the PWAA, which are in the WLA.

Kathryn "Kate" Kucera, sister of deceased BVM Barbara Kutchera, represented Artemisia Gallery, one of the first women artists' cooperatives in the Midwest, which closed in 2003 after 30 years in Chicago. Her papers are in the archives, as are the papers of more than 20 artists who were a part of Artemisia.

Through the WLA, the intertwined history of Mundelein, Loyola, BVM Sisters, and women leaders is preserved for scholars, researchers, and historians.

About the author: Carolyn (Lester) Farrell, BVM is retired and living at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, after an administrative and teaching career.

Just a Pinch

BVMs whose papers are a part of the WLA collection include:

- Ann Ida Gannon
- Carol Frances Jegen
- Mary Christine (Christophil) Athans
- Anne E. (Mary Anne David) Carr
- Irma Corcoran
- Ann Credidio
- Joan Frances Crowley
- Mary (Donatus) DeCock
- Blanche Marie Gallagher

- Mary Patricia (St. Thomas) Haley
- Ann (St. Remi) Harrington
- Mary Anne (Bernarde Marie) Hoope
- Barbara (George Mary) Kutchera
- Catherine "Katie" (St. Thoma) McHugh
- Jean Dolores Schmidt
- Margaret (Crescentia) Thornton
- Carolyn (Lester) Farrell

To learn more about the Women and Leadership Archives, visit: luc.edu/wla.



Members of PWAA send care packages to prisoners of war in Poland during World War II, Circa 1940. Photo courtesy of the Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

When Disaster Strikes, BVMs

'Attend to Those in Need'

In the autumn of 1886, the

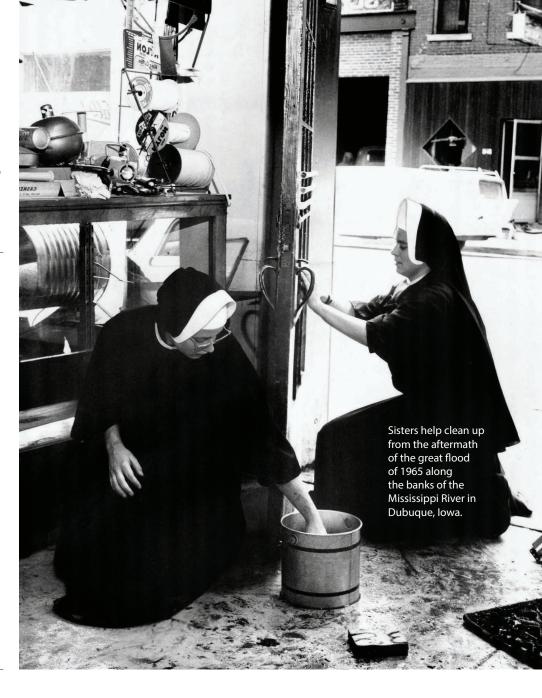
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary living on the prairie suffered the loss of the hogs clearly a tragedy as they were "dependent on the money from the sale of the hogs to get them through the winter."

BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke called on the sisters for help in her letter of Nov. 26: "... I would ask you if you could lend me a little money if you had it to spare before Christmas. I have never asked such a favor from the Sisters before but I cannot help it now . . . "

This early crisis might be seen as a model for the current BVM Disaster Fund. Today when significant catastrophic events, such as hurricanes, fires, or floods, occur locally, nationally, or around the world, sisters and associates are invited to make contributions to support those impacted by the disaster.

In such cases, BVMs are "compelled by the example and word of Mary Frances Clarke in her sensitive response to critical human situations, and strive to seek out and attend to those in need . . ." (BVM Constitutions #15)

To ensure that those with the greatest need receive the Disaster Fund monies, care is taken to identify reputable organizations that interface directly with those affected.



Frequently, funds are channeled through Catholic Relief Services or designated funds in the local diocese.

At times when a disaster impacts a particularly large area where the need is widespread, the congregation matches the amount contributed by the sisters and sends funds to more than one location.

Whether the contributions for the Disaster Fund originate from an individual or the congregation, participation enables sisters and associates to continue in mission as they partner with various organizations who serve and assist those in need.

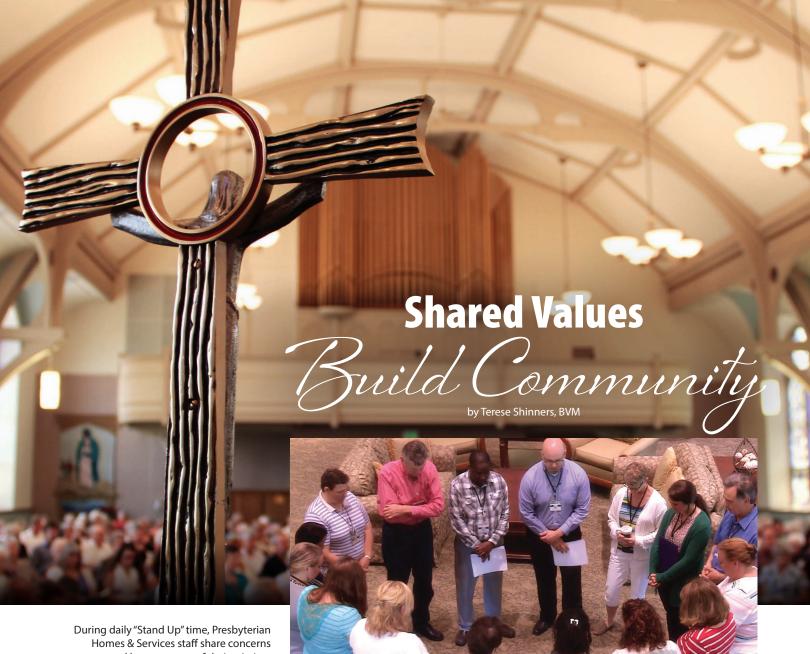
About the Author: Kate Hendel, BVM is secretary of the congregation in Dubuque, Iowa.

Just a Pinch

In September 2019, a total of \$5,500 was collected by sisters and associates for the victims of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. Contributions to the BVM Disaster Fund were sent to Catholic Relief Services.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Seaman Erik Villa Rodriguez tinyurl.com/tsn4oq8.





and hopes as part of their mission. Photo contributed by Presbyterian Homes & Services.

This year there will be a

dramatic shift in the trajectory of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary story.

A new senior living community attached to the Mount Carmel Motherhouse in Dubuque, Iowa, will become home for BVMs and other older adults in the tri-state area.

The Motherhouse, home to BVMs since 1893 and now jointly owned by BVM Sisters and Presbyterian Homes & Services (PHS), will become the hub of Mount Carmel Bluffs.

This new community, product of the shared ministry of BVMs and PHS, emerged from exhaustive study by both organizations.

For almost 30 years, BVMs have been engaged in planning for a future with fewer and older sisters, but with a consistent determination to continue the BVM legacy despite these realities. This intent was a major criterion in searching for an entity to help make this possible.

Objective factors—including finances, Dubuque demographics, and the environment—figured into the decision leading to the collaboration with PHS.

But profoundly more important was the need to ensure alignment of values core to those of the BVM Sisters. Shared values have driven the process and will be intrinsic to the life of Mount Carmel Bluffs.

A deep and conscious commitment to Scripture has inspirited the PHS mission "to honor God by enriching the lives and touching the hearts of older adults."

This resonates deeply with the BVM mission of service through ministries chosen in the spirit of the BVM

Constitutions which call the sisters to live the Gospel of Jesus.

Prayer is part of the daily routine at PHS communities where, during the daily "Stand Up" time, staff share concerns and hopes in a scriptural context.

This meshes with the rhythm of BVM prayer. BVMs meet in groups to share a variety of prayer styles. Shared prayer is central to BVM Sisters and links them to the wider community through the BVM Prayer Association.

Meetings to plan this shared ministry are held in a context of prayer. BVMs and PHS celebrated prayerfully together the creation of the new entity and the groundbreaking for the new senior living community.

Responsible stewardship of resources is another mutual commitment of BVMs and PHS. Although the sisters' ability to engage in active ministry has diminished, the congregation shares its financial resources when possible through Ministry Partnership Grants to other churchrelated agencies reflecting congregational values. Donors to the Presbyterian Homes Foundation are given the opportunity to earmark gifts to the PHS benevolence fund which is used to address financial hardship that residents face from time to time.

Sensitive regard for individuals permeates the BVM and PHS ethos. BVM Philosophy of Retirement stems from congregational core values of charity, freedom, education, and justice. PHS values, summarized in CROSS (Christian Ministry, Ready and Engaged People, Operational Integrity, Service Excellence, Stewardship), ensure quality of life for residents.

The resonance of these strong value systems augurs well for the future of Mount Carmel Bluffs.

In fall of 2020 sisters will move into the Phase I building. Optimism, some trepidation, and trust in a very transparent process are in the sisters' hearts.

A strong undercurrent of peace is rooted in the words of BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke: "I have no fears so long as you are working unitedly." ■

About the author: Terese (Ellena) Shinners, BVM volunteers at St. Camillus Health Center in Milwaukee. She is a member of the BVM Future Planning Committee.

Mount Carmel Bluffs Reveals Logo

Mount Carmel Bluffs is a shared ministry of the Sisters of Charity, BVM and Presbyterian Homes & Services.

The blue, green, and yellow colors of the logo represent the peaceful surroundings of the Mount Carmel property which has been in the care of the BVM Sisters since 1889.

Each color symbolizes a different element of the beautiful nature of this sacred space. Blue represents the Mississippi River upon which Mount Carmel is located. The green path represents the rolling hills and bluffs above the river. The yellow leaf represents the beautiful sunrises that can be seen over the river.

The motion of the logo is designed to reflect an openness that is both



welcoming and relational to all future residents. The paths lead to the future signifying a new beginning and a continued legacy of the BVM Sisters.

Follow Mount Carmel Bluffs

Facebook:

facebook.com/mount-carmel-bluffs Website: mountcarmelbluffs.org

Mount Carmel Bluffs: Construction Update

We all know who the real "Snoopervisor" of the Mount Carmel Bluffs construction crew is. From her perch in the third floor turret, BVM Patricia Ann (Marjorie) Donahoe keeps a close watch on progress.

The construction crew continues with excavation and pouring of foundations as framework begins.







Marie Greaney, BVM has given blood since she was in the novitiate at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa.

"I know it saves lives. It doesn't hurt, and you can help people."

Giving the Gift of Life, Affirming Life in Ministries

by Margaret "Peggy" Geraghty, BVM

Marie (David Therese) Greaney,

BVM celebrated her 87th birthday by donating blood, something she has done often over the past 67 years.

Giving blood is a family tradition. Her father, a universal blood donor who was often called in the middle of the night to give blood at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, gave blood regularly throughout his lifetime.

As children, "we thought he saved every baby in the hospital," Marie says.

Her three brothers have also given blood regularly since their Navy days.

Marie first gave blood when she was in the novitiate at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, when an emergency call went out to area residents for blood donors.

Now she is among the most veteran donors at Versiti, formerly Heartland Blood Center, in Tinley Park, Ill., where they have calculated that she's given eight gallons of blood since her first donation there in 1987.

Working in hospitals, she has seen how important blood donations are.

"I just love being able to do that. I know it saves lives. It doesn't hurt, and you can help people," Marie says.

A medical scenario has been a familiar one for Marie, who has

devoted much of her life to pastoral care at Palos Community Hospital in Palos Heights, Ill.

She always felt that she received more than she could ever give. "People share so much. You feel so gifted by the trust that people place in you. It's been a gift to do something that means so much to people in happy and sad times in their lives," she says.

Pastoral care ministry began in Illinois

Marie began this ministry of pastoral care in the 1980s with a residency at Lutheran General Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill.

In 1982 she began her pastoral work at Palos Community Hospital in Palos Park, Ill., where she continued to minister for 21 years. In her role, she worked as chaplain in various areas of patient care.

For 11 years Marie was the director of pastoral services at Palos Community, the first woman to serve in that position. As director, her ministry expanded as she was instrumental in opening the hospital's first hospice center and establishing cancer support groups, as well as support groups for people dealing with infant death and miscarriage.

Early in her retirement years she also served as health care coordinator for the BVM congregation in the Chicago area. This gave her an overview of health care needs in the BVM community and an opportunity to share her pastoral skills in another unique way.

Marie grew up in Chicago and after entering the BVMs, spent her early teaching years in primary education in Colorado, Iowa, Montana, and Chicago.

She had an early experience of working with the elderly and learning about aging on her first mission at St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines, Iowa, where she had the opportunity to work with older sisters. She feels like her early success and joy in this experience prepared her for the ministry of pastoral care that she embraced so wholeheartedly later in her ministry.

Keeping connected

Marie is a member of the Sisters Development Network, which connects BVMs with benefactors.

It is a wonderful way to get to know donors, she says.

"They've shared many wonderful experiences. They let us into parts of their private lives that they wouldn't share with anyone else," Marie says. "I think when I talk to people, the fact that I am a BVM makes them very comfortable because they have such respect and love for BVMs."

She continues to make other connections, too.

Now in retirement she has chosen to live in a Housing and Urban Development building where she often visits sick residents and drives people to appointments.

Marie is very conscious of ministering to people as they travel their journey with dignity to Eternal Life, as she says, "helping the sick and their families to treasure their memories, telling their stories for many generations to also treasure and share."

She shares that her frequent prayer is "asking God to continue to bless me as I travel my journey and to give me the strength I need to help others as they travel their journey." ■

About the author: Margaret "Peggy" (St. Cabrini) Geraghty, BVM lives in Chicago. She is currently chair of the board of Bethany House of Hospitality, a residence for young immigrant women in Hyde Park.

Just a Pinch

Marie's 87th birthday and her generous history of blood donation received special recognition this past October in a feature article in the Daily Southtown published by the Chicago Tribune.

Focus on her donation history was part of a campaign initiated by Versiti Blood Center of Illinois to encourage senior citizens to give blood. The article reported her activities in Palos, recognizing her blood donation record, but also highlighting her service in pastoral ministry at Palos Community Hospital.

Someone needs blood in the United States every two seconds. Regular blood donors like Marie are wonderful and appreciated, but they can't do it all by themselves. More donors are needed to meet the ongoing need for blood.

Versiti Blood Center of Illinois encourages Chicagoland residents to schedule lifesaving blood donations by calling 1-800-7TO-GIVE.

If you are looking for a local blood drive in your area, visit: redcross.org/give-blood.htm.



Mary (Loras) Martens, BVM is one of many sisters, associates, and staff who give the gift of life with each donation helping up to three people! The American Red Cross comes to Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, annually for a blood drive.





Volunteer service group members accompany a WBC social worker on a visit to the homes of families who are new to the center.

Travelers Share Insights, Adventures, Experiences From Ecuador

by Mary Glindinning

It was a journey to the middle of the world when

two groups took weeklong immersion trips to Quito, Ecuador, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.





Left: Danita and Liam Grant and Mary Ann Conzett make guagua de pan (sweet bread shaped like babies or dolls) to celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at the WBC. Right: LaDonna Manternach, BVM laughs with the children in the WBC comedor (dining room).



For some, last fall's excursion was a family trip: mother and daughter Tina and Tracy Bauer, husband and wife Tim and Mary Moothart, and mother and son Danita and Liam Grant.

Travelers stayed at the Working Boys' Center (WBC), where BVMs served as teachers, administrators, and volunteers for more than 50 years. WBC's staff encourage families in their commitment to their children and work hard to break the cycle of poverty.

"WBC makes a difference," says Mary Ann Conzett. "Providing now for girls,



boys, and families—they now have security, safety, education, nourishment, friendship, and family stability. What a gift, all from small steps."

Founded in 1964 by Father John Halligan, SJ, the WBC began by addressing the needs of boys working on the streets shining shoes.

A few years after its founding, Miguel Conway, BVM added education to the offerings.

But it is more than a school. The whole family is involved with programs and workshops to break the cycle of

poverty by learning skills, trades, and money management.

Over the years several groups have taken cultural and service immersion trips, many to see how people of another culture live and to be of help where they can. The groups visit schools and homes, and some paint or serve meals at the center.

During the recent immersion trips, each group gathered daily for prayer, Scripture reading, quiet reflection, and conversation about the day. A T-shirt created for the trip that says, "I volunteer to open my heart, to learn from others, and to make a difference" gave structure to the discussions.

The first night's conversation centered on volunteering; the next on opening hearts; the third on learning; and the fourth on making a difference. Quotes from BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke also sparked inspiration, prayers, and discussion.

Sometimes the experience could be heart wrenching and inspiring at the same time.

Ecuador continued on p. 14.



Tina Bauer (I.), Robert Monford, BVM LaDonna Manternach, Tracy Bauer, Associate Lori Ritz, and Debi Marek tour the historic part of Quito, Ecuador.



Tina (I.) and Tracy Bauer paint pillars at the WBC.

Ecuador continued from p. 13.

"It was a very emotional experience for some of the families to explain their situations to us, and for me, hearing about the struggles the families have," shares Danita Grant, who visited the homes in the countryside. "Seeing their living conditions firsthand really helped my understanding of what their daily lives are like."

Most homes are modest. Some don't have running water or heat, and some families live in one room divided by a blanket so you don't see the beds when vou enter.

"These homes were small and not built very well at all," says Debi Marek. "I was amazed at the courage, faith, and hope the mothers had. They took what they had and made it work. Everything

the parents did they did so their children could have a better life and be happy."

The people they visited want to save enough to build their own home, and one of the groups was able to help make that a reality.

"The minga (voluntary collaborative work, in this case helping a family to build a house) was a lot of fun. It was really great seeing everyone working together unitedly. Everyone pitched in and did their part to help out," says Liam, 14.

"At one point we even had an assembly line going where everyone would hand off the buckets filled with cement to the next person, and then the last person would dump it in a huge pile where the base of the house was to be made," says Liam. Even though he didn't think it seemed like much work was accomplished, "I still feel like we were able to give the family a

big helping hand considering how much longer it would have taken them to do it all by themselves."

Although the people they met struggle, they face the future with faith, generosity, and hope.

"We witnessed a unique Ecuadorian graduation and award ceremony for adult students who returned to school. We painted a few columns in the courtyard as gestures of service, but we are humbled by the magnitude of the genuine nature of the people that we have had the privilege to know here," says Mary Moothart.

The people they met are grateful for those who touch their lives, and the visitors were grateful to have met them.

"I think throughout all of our days here we have seen Ecuadorians wear all different 'hats' of who or what they are meant to be," says Tracy Bauer. "From my point of view, they are setting the world on fire with their gifts, genuineness, and hard work. They inspire me to work hard, continue learning, and be thankful, grateful, and blessed."

If you are interested in joining a future Ecuador immersion service or cultural discovery trip, contact Lori Ritz, director of the office of BVM Life and Mission, Iritz@bvmsisters.org or 563-588-2351.

About the author: Mary Glindinning is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Just a Pinch

Read participants Ecuadorian reflections on the BVM Blog – Walk With Us.



Volunteer Service Trip Reflections: tinyurl.com/vtk5rhl.



Cultural Immersion Trip Reflections: tinyurl.com/sl48jjj.



In the midst of a whirlwind of change, it's necessary to stop and take care of yourself.

We learn literally to stop in the first of three reflections by Associate Katie Pfiffner to be published in Salt that will explore topics such as mindfulness, gratitude, respect, tolerance, and compassion.

Katie is pastoral services minister for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa. She meets with the sisters for mindfulness meditation, Omega discussion groups (based on the work of Sister Ilia Delio, OSF), Praying into the Moment with chair yoga and breath practices, and other activities.

Stop, Take a Breath, Observe, and Proceed

by Associate Katie Pfiffner

"All you need to know is that the future is wide open and you are about to create it by what you do."

—Pema Chodron



There is no denying the excitement in the air as we think about 2020. When we look to the year ahead and consider all the change coming within the congregation,

within the walls of Mount Carmel, throughout the United States and the world, it's easy to get wrapped up in something that has yet to happen, all the while missing the moment we are in.

Pausing for a deep breath can bring us out of our ruminations of the future right into the body, which can only exist in the present moment. Mindfulness—intentional present moment awareness without judgment-can help us stay tuned into our mind and heart, choosing our response, rather than getting lost in anticipation or expectation of what is to come.

There is a practice in mindfulness called S.T.O.P., and utilizing this throughout the

day can lower our stress and enable us to create the space needed to be present.

- **S** = **Stop.** Take a break from what you are doing and pause.
- T = Take a couple breaths. This could be for a few seconds or a few minutes. Notice the air coming in and notice the air going out.
- O = Observe the moment as it is. Observe what you are experiencing in this moment physically, mentally, and emotionally. Just notice, without judging it as good or bad.
- **P** = **Proceed**. Proceed with a sense of gentleness and a fresh perspective of how you are receiving this moment.

In many Eastern languages, the same word is used for 'mind' and 'heart.' This awareness helps us tune into the connection between our thoughts, feelings, and sensations in the body. It is through these same connections that we influence each moment, creating the future by what we do.

As we move through the coming days, weeks, and months, can we pause, breathe, and be present to ourselves and to one another, creating a space of gentleness and compassion as we create this future together?

(In (Memoriam

Please pray for the BVMs who have died October 2019–January 2020.



Geneve Moran, BVM Nov. 30, 1925-Oct. 5, 2019

Geneve taught in Fort Dodge, Iowa; Chicago; Casper, Wyo.; West Hempstead, N.Y.; and Wilmette, Ill.

"While teaching at Regina, Geneve moved into an apartment with her mother, who could no longer live alone. For many years, Geneve cared for her with gentleness, patience, and love. It was during this time that Geneve met her good friend, Karen Malca, whose influence turned Geneve into a world traveler.

"She journeyed throughout Europe and Mexico, sometimes on educational tours with students or other teachers and sometimes just for fun. Her family, being quiet, at-home people, were amazed as her adventurous side emerged, while Geneve was deeply grateful to all who cared for her mother when she was away." (Eulogy)



Mary Adele Henneberry, BVM Aug. 21, 1927-Nov. 7, 2019

Mary Adele served in Dubuque, Fort Dodge, and Boone, Iowa; Chicago; Grayslake, Ill.; Hempstead, N.Y.; Milwaukee; and Santa Rosa, Calif.

"Adele was a kind, sweet, woman with a beautiful smile and a great sense of humor. She was gifted with intelligence, perceptivity, enthusiasm, and creativity that she used well to serve others. She knew how to free people to become their best by encouraging them with unfailing support and loving honesty.

"Adele wrote 'One of the greatest joys of my life has been the opportunity I have had to teach music to children and to share it with others. I pray that music will continue to brighten their lives and our own lives and will bring us all closer to God as it surely has done for me!" (Eulogy)



Marie (Charles Marie) Neff, BVM June 11, 1929-Nov. 14, 2019

Marie served in Kansas City and Hickman Hills, Mo.; San Francisco and Petaluma, Calif.; Omaha and Lincoln, Neb.; and Wichita, Kan.

"St. Paul wrote, 'Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.' (Colossians 3:17). This is the way Marie lived. Her words were open and honest, her deeds thoughtful, kind, and loving.

"She had a sense of humor and enjoyed life. She was a good listener who could anticipate the needs of others. She was generous with her time and a hard worker—the first person people sought out when something needed to be done. She was grateful for all that people did for her, but even more grateful to have the opportunity to serve others." (Eulogy)



Georg Ek Jan. 23, 1930-Dec. 15, 2019 Mary Elizabeth Luckey Maglione Feb. 1, 1928-Dec. 24, 2019





Mary Christine (Christophil) Athans, BVM April 7, 1932-Dec. 7, 2019

Mary Christine served in Claremont, Calif; Champaign, Ill.; Chicago; Phoenix; and St. Paul, Minn.

"Christine was a prolific author who wrote extensively on Jewish-Christian relations. She penned several books, most notably In Quest of the Jewish Mary: The Mother of Jesus in History, Theology, and Spirituality . . . [Her] gifts and activities were indeed many, but at all times she was a dynamic educator.

"The Director of the Office of Pastoral Planning in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis wrote, 'Sister Christine has a marvelous ability to present data in a lively, concise, and enthusiastic fashion. While telling the story, she makes it come alive . . . [She] is a great teacher of history. Through her vast experiences and extensive study, she is able to draw conclusions which are exciting, logical, and insightful." (Eulogy)



Deanna Marie (Bernita) Carr, BVM May 20, 1940-Jan. 1, 2020

Deanna ministered in Seattle; Stockett, Centerville, and Great Falls, Mont.; Port Orchard, Wash.; St. Paul, Minn.; Chicago; and Dubuque, Iowa.

"Liturgy was at the center of Deanna's spirituality; it was her source of strength and the key to her communion with God. She was traditional yet very attentive to early liturgical reforms.

"She was a woman of courage with the power to speak her truth regardless of the prevailing opinion. Yet, the litmus test for all her decisions was simple: Is this pastoral? She worked tirelessly to serve the church and its people. The lifeblood of her ministry flowed through her counseling, her home visitations, her work with abused spouses and children, and with the chemically dependent." (Eulogy)



Ernestina Molinari, BVM Oct. 30, 1930-Jan. 5, 2020

Ernestina taught or ministered in Chicago; Kauai, Hawaii; Los Angeles, San Francisco, Stockton, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Los Gatos, and Santa Clara, Calif.

"Ernestina's treasure, and perhaps her favorite 'hobby,' was connecting with people. With that famous effusive Italian personality–large, vibrant, alive-she was energy and joy personified. She not only enjoyed a good party, she made it a good party, lighting up a room with her effervescence.

"She totally engaged with people, making conversations with her easy and comfortable manner. Ernestina was always true to herself, even when she bubbled up outside conventional lines. She truly knew the meaning of 'being freed and helping others enjoy freedom in God's steadfast love." (Eulogy)

SALT | BRIEFS



A Warm Feeling: BVMs Make Hats and Scarves to Keep People Warm in Winter

It all started with a gift and became the gift that keeps

Several years ago, BVM Isidora Lorentz' family gave her looms and yarn, and she in turn gave it to the activities department.

And the Knit Wits were born. Since then, boxes of hats and scarves have left Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, and gone to children and adults to help keep them warm.

"It's not charity. It's love," said Catherine Dominick, BVM, who makes four or five hats a week. "I know in my heart that some person is going to be able to keep warm during the winter, their head at least. That gives me so much joy."

She makes the hats in her room while she watches television. "I wanted something to do besides sit there and twiddle my thumbs. I can't go out and feed somebody. But we're to clothe the naked, and that's what we're trying to do," Catherine says.

This year, the Mount Carmel Knit Wits sent 347 hats for kids to be distributed by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dubugue County, along with 56 scarves that Alice Kerker, BVM hand-knit. They also sent 45 men's hats to the Dubuque Rescue Mission, and 49 babies' hats to Birth Right.



Read more: tinyurl.com/ye98bb3l.

What's new on the web?



From Citizen of the Year to the top 10 sports event of the decade, read how BVMs are making the news: **bvmsisters.org/news.**

Recent stories:

- BVM Christmas Service Tradition Lives On at Dowling HS
- · More Than a Meal: Servers and Diners Feel Nourished
- Mount Carmel Food, Cash Donations Timely, Needed
- Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign Buys Wigs for Patients



Virginia Piecuch (l.) and **Helen Gabel** celebrated 25 years as BVM associates in December with sisters, associates, family and friends in Chicago.

"Being an associate of the BVMs for 25 years means being in a growth relationship with wonderful, loving, believing, strong women," Virginia says.

When she was first invited "to spend an afternoon with BVM friends, I thought it would be a nice way to meet new people and spend a few hours," Helen says. "Little did I know! That 'nice' afternoon turned out to be one of the best things I have done in my life. The relationships I have formed, the friends I have made, turned my life upside down."

The 25-year celebration was the culmination of all those vears of friendship and love. Helen says.



The Dubuque, Iowa, County Board of Supervisors signed a proclamation declaring January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. The proclamation recognized the work of the Tri-State Coalition Against Human **Trafficking and Slavery** that BVMs and other congregations helped form. The coalition engages in education and advocacy to eradicate human trafficking in Dubuque and the surrounding area.



Read more: tinyurl.com/yg5uf2oh.



BVMs attended the SOA rally in November 2009.

BVMs joined in prayer and solidarity with the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Central American University Massacre.

SOA is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers whose graduates have committed unspeakable acts of violence.



Read about the BVMs' long-standing presence at the annual vigil: tinyurl.com/yqdsd3s8.

BVM Perspective 2018-2019 Annual Report

Office of BVM Development

Donor Profile:

Families Share Sister, Memories, and Spiritual Strength

by Mary Glindinning

The way her relatives see it, Jean

Agnes Phillips, BVM was blessed with three families: her biological family, her BVM Sisters, and the families she served.

"We shared her," Jeff Smoller says of the woman he called Aunt Gen. "She was one person who had many families. Each family has to appreciate the others."

His aunt died in 2004, but the relationship with the BVMs continues. He and his sister Susan Thiel attend Memorial and Benefactor Masses at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, as they did with their mother before she died in 2016.

Relatives of deceased sisters are invited to Memorial Masses, and donors are invited to Benefactor Masses.

"We go for Aunt Gen, obviously. But there's a certain peace you feel when you go to Dubuque. It's hopeful and prayerful. It's a very holy place.

"When we go to Mount Carmel, we have sisters come up to us and say 'I remember Jean Agnes,' and then share the stories of one of her other families," he says.



Close Family Ties

Jeff drove his aunt back and forth between his mother's house in southeast Wisconsin and Mount Carmel for holidays, vacations, and times when the family needed to be together. "During big things, crisis moments, traumatic moments, when her presence was required, she was always there."

When his father was ill and could no

longer work, his aunt was a supportive sounding board.

"My mother was a brilliant woman, but had no occupation." Aunt Gen told her she could be a teacher, and helped her plan how to do it. Jeff's mother, Jeane Smoller, went on to teach for more than 35 years.

Families Share Sister continued on p. 22.

"For all that has been, thank you; for all that is to come, yes!"

—Dag Hammarskjöld

Dear Friends,

In this issue of *Salt*, we include our annual report, *BVM Perspective*, to recognize many of the ways you partnered with us during the last fiscal year between Sept. 1, 2018, and Aug. 31, 2019.

Our mission lives on because of partners like you. Thank you so much for your dedication, enthusiasm, passion, and resources in support of the various ministries of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are truly blessed by your continued generosity.

Last year embodied *A Legacy of Love* in celebration of the vitality of BVM mission for 185 years. In the following pages, we highlight some of the areas where your gifts allowed us to help others in the United States and abroad. Many of you met sisters in classrooms, and educating the next generation is still near and dear to their hearts. But they also feed the hungry, speak out against oppression, and work for justice.

BVM Perspective acknowledges donors whose cumulative contributions or contributions over the past fiscal year made them a member of one of four Donors of Distinction giving circles. The BVM Monthly Partners' circle honors friends who contribute monthly. The Mary Frances Clarke Society honors those whose lifetime giving reached \$10,000 or more. The Mount Carmel Partners' circle honors friends who show their generosity with gifts of \$1,000 or more during a fiscal year. The Legacy Partners Society honors those whose commitment to the future of the Sisters of Charity, BVM is demonstrated through estate plans.

Beyond the Donors of Distinction in this annual report, a full list of our nearly 4,400 donors can be found on our website at bymsisters.org. An electronic donor listing preserves resources and helps save the environment.

We appreciate your understanding as we make every effort to recognize all contributions and to protect the privacy of donors who requested to remain anonymous.

We are also aware that mistakes happen. If you notice that your name is omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly identified, please accept our sincere apologies and advise the Office of Development of the inaccuracy.

Preparing this annual report reminded me of how grateful I am to be working for the BVM Sisters and with such remarkable people. I am thrilled to serve alongside you as partners to advance their ministries that matter most.

Although I was born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa, I most recently lived in the state of Washington for almost 35 years while serving in the U.S. Army, attending graduate school, and working in various roles in the executive and judicial branches of state government. I recently returned to Dubuque to embark on this exciting journey as director of development and grant administrator.

I look forward to connecting with you more in the days ahead and hearing stories of your experiences with the BVM Sisters.

Thank you again for all you offer to the Sisters of Charity, BVM. We simply could not do the work we do without your commitment, partnership, and prayers. Please find peace in knowing you help make the world a better place.

Count on our prayers for you and your loved ones. We wish you peace, hope, and blessings in abundance as the new decade dawns.

With d

With deep gratitude,

Ann E. Sweeney
Director of Develo

Director of Development and Grant Administrator

The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is recognized as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, religious organization by the State of Iowa and the Federal Government.

All financial information in this report has been reviewed by Eide Bailly LLP.

Welcome New Members!

The BVM Sisters Development Network (SDN) serves as a key

connection between benefactors and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Founded in 1987 with an original group of 11 sisters, today the SND has 20 dedicated BVMs who assist the Office of Development. Over the past 30 years, more than 70 sisters have served on the SDN.

BVM Sisters Development Network



Jean (Jean Allan) Beste



Mary Anne (Leslie) Bradish



Alice (Alissio) Caulfield



Joyce (Petrine) Cox



Dolores (Sarah James) Doohan



Suzanne (Frances Carol) Effinger



Mary Jean (St. Christopher) Ferry



Maureen Patrice Fury



Marie (David Therese) Greaney



Brigid Mary Hart



Flo (Floretta) Heflin



Marjorie (Herberdette) Heidkamp



Loretta Hubl



Keating



Bernadette (Lucinus) McManigal



Julie O'Neill



Eileen (Robertrese) Powell



Georgeann (Immaculate) Quinlan



Diane (Malia) Rapozo



Meet four new members who share why they chose to be part of the BVM Sisters **Development Network.**

"My favorite ministries as a BVM led me to connect with others," says **Brigid Mary** Hart, BVM. "As a Montessori directress in Denver and working with senior BVMs and Cenacle Sisters in Chicago, each day brought new and unexpected delight and challenge. Being open to others continues as part of the BVM Sisters Development Network. I am glad to do my small part."

"I decided to join the development network shortly after I arrived at Mount Carmel to stay," says Suzanne (Frances Carol) Effinger, BVM. "I heard about it from the sisters who were in contact with our benefactors. I thought that that was something I could do. The connections I hope to have and that I am having are to know their names, learn where they live, and read about their experiences with the BVMs. I write a letter every once in a while to keep them informed about progress with the building [Mount Carmel Bluffs] and to let them know the vibrant home we have. They are helping to support our life and they need to know about the interesting things we have here as well as the fun things we do."

Georgeann (Immaculate) Quinlan, BVM

says, "It seems very important that we stay in touch with our donors in a personal way. The donations that come in are 'part of the hundredfold' we heard about as novices. Our BVM congregation is blessed to have you [donors]. That is an understatement. Be assured of my/our prayers even though I don't write as often as you deserve."

Being part of the SDN will "give me a personal chance to thank the people who support our ministries and community and develop a relationship with them through writing, technology, or phone," says **Diane** (Malia) Rapozo, BVM. "Keeping in touch will let our supporters know how much we appreciate their generosity and care for the sisters who have been a part of their lives. I consider being a part of the SDN a privilege and an honor."



Families Share Sister continued from p. 19.

When his father died, "Aunt Gen just stepped in and took over the funeral, emotionally, spiritually, and logistically" at a time when his mother needed her, Jeff says.

Now in times of crisis, "Aunt Gen's" family asks for prayers from the sisters at Mount Carmel. And in gratitude, the family supports the BVM mission.

Jeff says Aunt Gen taught him "love above all. She loved unconditionally. Her role, even at a distance, was powerful because of her principles, faith, and spirituality."

But she was not always at a distance.

Vacation Visits

"She would come stay at my mother's house. She had her room there. She had a presence in the house. When there was sauerkraut and potatoes, she ate it all."

His mother and his aunts took trips on a Greyhound bus "just to be sisters together," Jeff says.

"Aunt Gen and her three sisters Rose, Jeane (my grandma), and Sophie loved to take trips to the casinos in Wisconsin like Ho Chunk, but in particular, they loved going to Vegas," said Marian Shah, a grand-niece. "Four middle-aged and

later elderly women, sitting around the gaming table or at the slots, having the time of their lives."

Marian said the sisters shared goodnatured bickering and bantering.

"She was a real person. Aunt Gen had a real love and care for people. She was close to everyone. That's how she was. She was a warm person," says Edward Wendland, another nephew. "She visited all the time," coming to their small farm outside of West Allis, Wis.

"She was very close to all the nieces and nephews. It's like each was the favorite one. She had that ability that if she was focused on you while you were with her, you were the most important person in the room," Edward says.

Aunt Gen loved his wife, Mary, from their first meeting. When Mary started writing poetry and short stories but doubted her abilities, "Aunt Gen said 'why don't you send me a copy?' They became pen pals. Gen was the one that really encouraged her to keep writing. They wrote back and forth and called back and forth. She became much closer to Aunt Gen than I was."

Edward's wife died about 10 years ago, but he promised to finish her book. It is dedicated to Gen.

"It was always a treat and a blessing" when Aunt Gen came for Christmas, Easter, and summers, says her niece Susan Thiel. "We were always grateful to see her."

She loved Chocolate House chocolate whipped cream eggs from a Milwaukee confectionary, available only at Easter.

"Whatever it was, it was always the best: the best hot dog she'd ever eaten. It was actually terrible, but that's a great way to live," Susan says.

Aunt Gen was an avid swimmer who did a running leap cannonball into the pool, went snowmobiling and pony riding with her nieces and nephews and their children. "She was just willing to try anything," Susan says.

The Third Family

Through meeting sisters who visited with their aunt, they felt part of the BVM family. But they know the families of those she taught only through news clippings.

Letters recommending her for the 1984 Teacher of the Year award from the Illinois Adult and Continuing Education Association say she "motivated, pushed, shoved, and encouraged" her students, telling them, "You've got so much going for you. I know you can do it."

She visited former students who landed in jail just to let them know they weren't forgotten.

Hearing those stories and visiting Mount Carmel are ways to honor and keep connected to their aunt.

Once when her family was leaving after a visit at the novitiate, she started to cry. And her brother Edward Phillips pounded on the door, saying, "I want to take my sister home."

But she returned to the door and said "I'm happy here."

"It was her calling. It was good for her, it really was," her nephew Edward Wendland says. ■

About the author: Mary Glindinning is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa.



Altantsetseg Namkhai (l.), Jeane Smoller, and Jeff Smoller attend a Memorial Mass at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, lowa, to honor Jean Agnes Phillips, BVM in 2009.

Gratitude for Catholic Education Lasts a Lifetime

by Mary Glindinning



As he looks back over his life, Gerald Hoeger is thankful for something that began in 1938: his Catholic school education.

"I always loved Catholic sisters," Gerald says. "They taught us solid Catholic theology. They were always right."

The Dubuque Franciscans taught at St. Joseph's Parochial School in Garnavillo, Iowa, his hometown, about 50 miles north of Dubuque, Iowa.

The lessons he learned at school and home reinforced each other, as his parents were "strong Catholics."

As everyone does, he has had trials during his life. His Catholic education helped him through the difficult times.

"I clung to my faith fiercely, especially during the Korean War. I have a strong will to live. That's why I survived," he says.

Throughout his life, though, "I've been blessed. I always felt I had to do something as a single person. I had to help others," he says.

As a farmer, some years were more plentiful in yield and profit than others. When he could afford to help, he did.

One of those times was the 1984 fire at Dubuque's Clarke University, founded by and named for BVM Foundress Mary Frances Clarke.

Three campus buildings were destroyed; Catherine Dunn, BVM, president of Clarke, announced the intention to rebuild immediately.

Gerald watched television news reports of the fire and felt compelled to drive to Dubuque with a check in hand that same day. He also made several trips to Clarke after the fire.

He donates to the BVMs and other religious congregations, but he does more than that.

"I pray for Catholic sisters," he says.

About the author: Mary Glindinning is a communications specialist for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa.



Monica Gray (I.), Margaret Therese "Maggie" Kurt, and Ashley Kurt visit Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, for the annual Mass for Our Benefactors.

66 For many years, Mount Carmel has had a special place in my heart.

I'd love coming to visit Aunt Mary (Anita Therese Hayes, BVM) as a kid and seeing the beautiful Mississippi River, but as I got older I realized the memories that I was able to make and share with her were priceless. We'd take road trips to family events, and the year before she passed away I'd stop by weekly for a visit. During these visits I was reminded of how blessed I was to be able to create these precious memories that I will forever cherish.

Returning to Mount Carmel for the Benefactor Mass gives me and my family a feeling of peace and continues to allow me to connect with the ones that shared the same values, love, and beliefs as Aunt Mary. Aunt Mary loved kids and I'm sure she's looking down smiling at the happiness her great niece Maggie is bringing to the sisters."

—Ashley Kurt

Masses for Our Benefactors

The changing colors of leaves on the trees coincided with the annual Benefactor Masses. More than 70 people attended a Mass and reception at the Felician Sisters Convent in Chicago on Oct. 27. More than 175 attended a Mass and meal at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa on Nov. 3.

In welcoming and thanking those present at Mount Carmel, Teri Hadro said, "Today, we celebrate your role in fostering the continuation of the BVM mission in our world. We can't do it without you, nor do we want to. You are our partners and we are grateful. You are living proof that our lives of service have significance. You encourage us to keep on keeping on."

People invited to Benefactor Masses are donors who contributed to the BVM Sisters in the most recent fiscal year, BVM associates, and former BVMs.

The purpose of the Benefactor Masses is to thank our donors for their continued generosity to the BVM Sisters and to remember deceased donors.

Both Masses included a ritual in memory of Donors of Distinction through lighting of 11 candles while Teri read the names of the donors who died during the past year. These events are typically held close to Nov. 2, the Feast of All Souls.

2018–2019 Project Based Fundraising Outcomes



Watch the video: youtu.be/e07EzzECyho.

Giving Tuesday



Giving Tuesday on Nov. 27, 2018, focused on the theme "Because of You" with snippets of the many

ways contributions from our donors helped the BVM Sisters to continue their mission consistent with core values of charity, education, freedom, and justice. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement created in 2012 with a simple idea to dedicate a day that encourages people to donate to one or more charitable organizations to transform their communities and the world.

Total Raised-\$29,619

Memorial Mass

On June 2, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary welcomed over 140 guests to a Memorial Mass for deceased BVMs at the Motherhouse Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa. After a beautiful Mass, everyone enjoyed a meal and conversation with the sisters.

Because of construction, guests were not able to travel the Pine Walk to visit loved ones in the cemetery. But that did not hamper the spirit of the day. Beautiful weather allowed walking outside to observe progress on construction of the new senior living community, Mount Carmel Bluffs.

Family members and persons with a special connection to deceased sisters are invited to the Memorial Mass.

Left: Guests William and Joan Shermach (middle) attend the Memorial Mass in honor of deceased BVM Marguerite (Valerian) Yezek. They reminisce with BVMs Marjorie (Herberdette) Heidkamp (l.) and Liz (Antoinette) Wirtz.

Right: Candles are lit during the Memorial Mass to honor BVMs who died in the last year.

Join us in prayer for BVMs who died during the past year and those who have gone before them. May 15, 2018-April 16, 2019

- ⊕ Gayle (Luellen) Brabec, BVM
- ⊕ Barbara Cerny, BVM
- ⊕ Mary (Agnes) Crimmin, BVM
- ⊕ Jeroma Day, BVM
- ⊕ Ethel (Howard) Dignan, BVM
- ⊕ Ann Regina Dobel, BVM
- ⊕ Therese (Ann Carmelle) Frelo, BVM
- 4 Ann Ida Gannon, BVM
- ⊕ Jeanne (Suzette) Granville, BVM
- ♣ Anita Therese Hayes, BVM
- ⊕ Madalyn (Renata) Hogan, BVM
- ⊕ Eliza Kenney, BVM
- ⊕ Rose André Koehler, BVM

- ⊕ Clementine (Lioba) Kuhle, BVM
- ⊕ Mary Enid Lodding, BVM
- ⊕ Muriel (Baptist) McCarthy, BVM
- ⊕ Mary Ellen McDonagh, BVM
- ⊕ Marion (John Patrice) Murphy, BVM
- ⊕ Ann Daniel O'Neill, BVM
- ☆ Kathleen (Donall) O'Sullivan, BVM
- ⊕ Teresita Poulin, BVM
- 4 Ann Ellen Quirk, BVM
- Deanna (Mariel) Randall, BVM
- Philomena Rosselli, BVM
- 🕆 Gertrude Ann Sullivan, BVM
- ⊕ Maurine Therese Thiel, BVM
- 4 Helen (St. George) Thompson, BVM
- ⊕ Marguerite (Valerian) Yezek, BVM



The Heart of BVM

Two 2019 fundraisers focused on the theme "The Heart of BVM Mission." Sisters encouraged friends to make donations to help feed the hungry, educate those in need, stand for justice, and provide spiritual support.



Great Give Day was on May 9, 2019. This 24-hour online giving day was established by

the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque in 2014 to celebrate and support local non-profit organizations and build a stronger community.

Total Raised-\$33,277



Birdies for Charity is part of the annual PGA John Deere Classic. The golf tournament's program enables companies,

foundations, and individuals to pledge to a charity or charities of their choice either a minimum of one cent for each birdie recorded at the tournament or in lump sum donations.

Total Raised-\$61,730





Thank you for your generous support and friendship.

The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and those they serve are truly blessed that you have partnered with them in mission. It is with sincere gratitude that we present this accounting from the Office of Development. Total receipts for the fiscal year, Sept. 1, 2018—Aug. 31, 2019, were \$5,041,455.



blessing since we are low-income and it is difficult to meet some requirements to obtain a Catholic education."

—Angel's Mother, Rosa De Leon

Learn more about

BVM Endowed Scholarships:

tinyurl.com/yew7wfbu.

\$353

Total number of gifts

\$5,041,455

Total amount given (includes bequests)

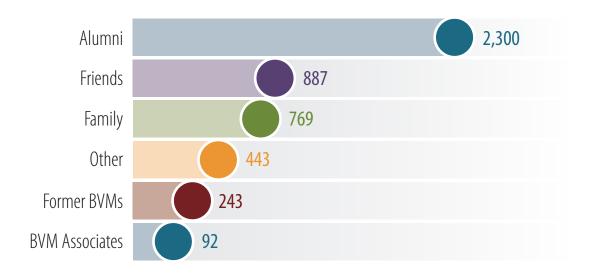


and good heart of helping my son Angel. It has been for me a great

Where do our donors live?



Who are our donors?











The individuals or organizations listed in this report represent the deep level of support of the life and ministry of the Sisters of Charity, BVM. A cross (⊕) is used to indicate that the person has died. We include their names to honor their commitment and their memory.



New Donors of Distinction from the past year are noted in **bold**.



Visit bymsisters.org to view the complete list of donors. For a print copy, contact the Office of Development at 563-585-2854.

BVM Monthly Partners

Friends who contribute monthly to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Names in bold are new members.

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Barbara DePue Dennis Dietrich

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Fred Faller Peter and Marie Ferry Shirley Ford

Katharine and Robert Forrester Fort Bragg Electric Inc Virginia Rose Forte Phillip and Beryl Genovese Donna and Mike Gomez

Michael and Becky Hagerty

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Cheryl and Gary Hannah Marilyn Highlander-Pool

and Llovd Pool Jeannette Holmes Ilene Hruby Alan Kalitzky and Sharon Read

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Christen LaFayette Patricia and Michael Livingston Lois Loveless

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McCaffrey Kathleen McCormac Carol McManus

Barbara and John McNiff

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Deborah and Steven Noack

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and Albert Rago Jennifer and Greg Reese

Daniel and Kathryn Ripple Patricia Robb and Stephen Clarke

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Agnes Saucerman Margaret Schneider

Angela Schreiner

Andy and Kara Schroeder

Sharon Scully Diane Serzen

Nancy and John Singleton

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Douglas Stillings

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John Westemeyer Mary and Jerry Trotter

Francis Tworek

Charles Vermeyen

Therese Wagner Robert and Donna Wahlert

Lynn Whitmore Suzanne Wright

Mary Frances Clarke Society

The Mary Frances Clarke Society honors those whose total lifetime giving to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary has reached the following levels:

Names in bold are new members.

\$250,000 and more

Anonymous (2)

- Mary Sally Aylward The Bisenius Family
- **⊕** Lucy Brabec Trust
- ⊕ William and ⊕ Dorothy Cullen Estate
- ⊕ Dorothy Dake

The ⊕E J and ⊕L R Dondlinger Charitable Trust

⊕ Jeanne and ⊕ James Ferry Estate

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- **₽ John Gormlev Estate**
- ⊕ Patricia Harrison

- ⊕ Elma Jochumsen Estate
- ⊕ Frances Aid MacEinri
- ⊕ Edna McCabe Estate
- **⊕** Gertrude McKay Estate
- ⊕ Anne Mosle Estate
- **₽Leo Mullin**

The George and Amy

Newman Foundation

⊕ Reverend Monsignor Joseph O'Dea Estate

John and Alice Powers Foundation

- **⊕** Lorraine Pucik
- ⊕ Marion Rapp
- **†William and †Alice** Robinson Estate
- ⊕ Edward and ⊕Joseph Ryan Estate Saint Mary Alumnae Association
- ⊕ Reverend Leon Schneider Robert G and Kathryn R Schwemley Foundation

The Immaculata Alumnae Association

Frances Waihel Trust

⊕ James Williams Trust

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Anonymous (6) Joseph and Patricia Barta

⊕ Clara Bendel Estate Helen Brach Foundation

Cathedral High School Alumni Association

Mary Frances Clarke Society continued.

Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus

- ⊕ Margaret Coffey
- ⊕ Dorothy Colucci Estate Conlon Construction Company
- ⊕ Paul and ⊕Mary Conover
- ⊕ Jane Delanev
- ⊕ Frances Rose Dewey Trust **Edward Dolan**
- ⊕ George Dunne Estate
- ⊕ Bernice Ebinger

- ⊕ Virginia C Forte Charitable Fund
- **⊕** Bernadine Foster
- **⊕** Elizabeth Gaul

- Paul Gordon

- **⊕** Louise Healy Estate
- **Dolores** Hope
- **⊕** Lillian Horacek
- ⊕ Dorothy Janssen Estate
- **⊕** Clifford Julius Estate
- **⊕** Barbara June
- **Paula Kelly**
- **⊕** Loretto Kendall
- ₱ Patricia Kommer
- ⊕ Molly Kurtz

- ⊕ Loretta Lifka
- Grace Mark
- ⊕ Reverend James McAlpin
- ⊕ Thomas McHale Trust

Muriel and Ronald Mendonca

- ⊕ Jean Monforti Estate
- **☆ K Angela O'Donnell Estate**
- ⊕ Thomas and Winnie O'Halloran
- **⊕** Mary Ornellas

Virginia Pavant

- ☆ Kathleen Lally Quilter
- ⊕ Kenneth Rittenmeyer Estate
- ⊕ Doretta Roche

Saint Jude Catholic Worker

Saint Paul HS Alumnae Association San Francisco

Ada Schupp Foundation

- ⊕ Marie Townsell Nancy Van Anne
- ⊕ Reverend Patrick Walsh
- ⊕ Helen Walters Estate
- ⊕ Dorothy Watson Cho and Margaret Wu
- ⊕ Audrey Zywicki

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous (6)

🕆 Argentina Andoni Estate

- **⊕** Carol Ann Auclair
- **†** June and **†** Charles Bellingham Estate
- Maribeth and James Benham
- ⊕ Frances Bussanmas
- ⊕ Reverend Monsignor John Cardiff The Carrigan Charitable Trust Annabel Christensen
- ⊕ Victor Colucci Estate

- ⊕ Mary Devitt Loretta Duggan
- Elizabeth Matula Dustman Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation

Patricia Finn

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- ⊕ James Gearen
- ⊕ Dorothy Glancey Estate

- ⊕ Jeanne Horan Robert Huot
- ⊕ Evangeline Jansen Estate John Deere Foundation Marguerite Karnick
- ⊕ Winifred Kelly Estate Donna and Wayne Kern
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- ⊕ Naola McDermott
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- ⊕ Genevieve Moran Estate Marguerite Mullin
- ⊕ Lydia O'Connor Joseph O'Hare III
- ⊕ Rose Marie Princ
- **₽** Joe Rauch Estate

- **₽ Joan Rockwell** Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae, **Dubuque Chapter**
- ♣ Rose Schafer Estate
- ⊕ Marion Schmidt Trust
- ⊕ Dorothy Schumacher Nancy and Dennis Scranton
- ⊕ Dorothy Stegmaier
- ⊕ Margaret Tiedemann Estate
- ⊕ Wilfred and ⊕Mary Jane Von Der Ahe Estate

- Rose Walsh and Shirley Halvorsen
- ⊕ Betty Klein Whitted

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Anonymous (7)

- ⊕ Lois Anderson Richard and Mary Anderson Tom Anzalone
- ⊕ Mary Z Babyar Estate

- ⊕ Bernice Blenker Estate

- ⊕ Elmer Brennan **Burke Family Foundation** Margaret Caddick
- ⊕ Christopher Calt Mary Cannon and ⊕William

Rvan Drew Susan Carlson

- **PReverend Leo Francis Carton Trust**
- - **⊕**Lawrence Casey
- ⊕ Ann Charvat Estate Ann and Michael Ciresi
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Cash Gifts

Gifts in any amount can be made by check, credit card, or online. Gifts can be designated for the area the donor chooses to support.

Stock/Property Gifts

Gifts of stock and other appreciated assets may be given. Additional tax benefits may be available.

IRA/Retirement Asset Gifts

Donors who qualify can make gifts using their individual retirement accounts. Additional tax benefits may be available.

Monthly Giving

Donors can make recurring gifts using their credit card or direct debit from their bank account. Gifts will be automatically made and designated for the area the donor chooses to support. Donors will be recognized as members of the BVM Monthly Partners (listed on p. 28).

Planned/ **Estate Gifts**

Donors can designate the Sisters of Charity, BVM as a beneficiary in their estate plans (wills, insurance policies, etc.). Donors will be recognized as members of the BVM Legacy Partners (listed on p. 32).

For more information, contact the Office of Development at: 563-585-2854 | bymsisters.org | development@bymsisters.org.

Mary Frances Clarke Society continued.

- ⊕ Virginia Durr Marilyn and Donald Duwelius Catherine and Robert Everhart Eleanor and Nickolas Fesunoff **Edward Feuerbacher** Virginia Rose Forte
- ⊕ Loretta Franklin Freas Foundation Inc
- **⊕** Betty Gansinger
- ⊕ Betty Golden
- John Gordon
- **\$ Sarah Gottschall Estate** Ruth and Jake Graves Great Lakes Advisors Inc.
- **⊕** Samuel Green Joan Grossman Mary Haake
- **⊕** Lucile Haley
- ⊕ Francis Hanley
- ⊕ Theresa Healy
- **⊕** Margaret Hovens Estate
- ⊕ Libbie Irmick Trust Camille Jacques
- **⊕** Elaine Johnston
- ⊕ John Kane
- ⊕ Dorothy Bauer Kentner
- ⊕ Frances Kieltyka Estate

James Kineen

⊕ Ann King Estate

The Klauer Family Charitable **Foundation**

William and Rosemarie Kraus Sharon and Rollin Lacy

- ⊕ Ursula Healy Lawson Estate
- **P** Reverend Monsignor Arthur Lirette

Adeline and Bernard LoCoco Fund

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- Sheila Lyng **Tess Malumphy** Mazza Foundation
- ⊕ John McAloon Dorothy and **⊕**Keith McCaffrey Nancy McCarville James McCulloch
- Virginia McDermott ⊕ Marie McEnroe Estate
- ⊕ Helen McKenna
- **⊕** Marie Antoinette McNamara Estate Terry Medhurst Joan Judge Mirabal
- ⊕ Marie and ⊕Paul Montavon
- ⊕ Jeanette and ⊕William Mooney Estate
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- Dianne and Timothy O'Leary
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\$10,000 to \$24,999

- Anonymous (23)
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- ⊕ Richard and ⊕Patricia Albright Father John Aldera Foundation

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- ⊕ Cyrilla and ⊕Frank Bajda Estate Bernadette Baraty
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- James Bolan
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- Helen Brame
- Louis Brizzolara
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Eugene Bruckert

Kathleen Burke

Michael and Monica Caffarella Joseph and Sandra Cain Loretta Campbell

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- Mary Claire Casey
- ⊕ Irma Cashman Estate
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- **⊕** Gladys Chapman **Ruth Charles**
- ⊕ Reverend H Robert Clark Lawrence and Pamela Clennon
- ⊕ Daniel Clyne ⊕ William L Coffey Jr Estate
- ⊕ Dorothy Collins
- **⊕** Catherine Condon
- Steve and Loretta Conlon
- ⊕ Daniel Connolly
- **†** Reverend Edward Connolly
- ⊕ Mary L Connors Trust
- **⊕** Robert Conway Estate
- **†** Frances and **†** Conrad Cook
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Mary Wilens

Most Reverend Gerald Wilkerson Mary and Samuel Winklebleck

Alice Wolfe

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🕆 Helen Zollmann Estate 🔳

Legacy Partners Society

The Legacy Partners Society honors those donors whose commitment and concern for the future of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary are demonstrated through their estate plans:

Names in bold are new members.

- Anonymous (52)
- **₽ John Abbey Estate** Therese and Richard Abril
- ⊕ Mary Adams
- Kathleen Anderson-Knight and Michael Knight
- ⊕ Mary Ann Annetti Estate
- Mary Sally Aylward
- ⊕ Mary Z Babyar Estate Elena Baca
- ⊕ Cyrilla and ⊕ Frank Bajda Estate Maryln and ⊕Louis Balaban
- ⊕ Marcella Barda Estate
- **\$ Lois and \$ Clarence Barrett**
- ⊕ Lucile Barry Estate
- ⊕ Mary Josephine Barry Estate
- ⊕ Nancy Beatty
- ⊕ Robert Beaulieu Estate
- ⊕ Dorothy and ⊕Fred Becklenberg
- ⊕ Norbert Behr Estate
- **†** Reverend Monsignor Elmer Behrmann Estate
- **Bellingham Estate** Karen Morris Bellis and Robert Baker
- ⊕ Mafalda Benchea
- ⊕ Clara Bendel Estate
- Nona and Jeff Bernard
- ⊕ Harold Berneman Estate
- Diane Berryman
- ⊕ Stuart and ⊕Cathy Bintner The Bisenius Family John Bisenius

- ⊕ Catherine Blake Estate
- ⊕ Bernice Blenker Estate

- **⊕** Mary Boden Estate
- ⊕ Lorraine Body
- ⊕ Dorothy and ⊕Evelyn Bouhan Trust Margaret Boyd
- ⊕ Kathleen Boyle Rosemary Boyle
- ⊕ Clara Boyle Estate
- ⊕ Lucv M Brabec Trust
- Kathleen Brannigan
- Diane Maura Broderick and Jim Russell
- **[⊕]Virginia Broderick Estate**
- ⊕ Florence Brown Rita Brown
- Florence Busch-Beaudry
- ⊕ Helen Caffery Estate ♣ Anna Cagney Estate
- ★ Kevin Cahill Estate
- Joseph Caldwell ⊕ Terrence Callahan Estate
- ⊕ Mary Callen Trust
- ⊕ Mary Adele Carlman Trust
- ⊕ Mary Therese and ⊕ Lawrence Casey
- ⊕ Elizabeth Casey Estate
- **†** Catherine Cashman Estate
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- ⊕ Mary Catherine Chezik Estate Stephanie Chodera
- Joan Clark
- John and Bonnie Clark
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- **⊕** Loretta Colby
- **♥ Victor Colucci Estate**

- **⊕** Catherine Condon John and Mary Beth Connelly
- ⊕ Geraldine Connors Estate
- ⊕ Reverend Edward Connors Trust
- ⊕ Mary L Connors Trust
- ⊕ Paul and ⊕Mary Conover
- **⊕** Leona Cook Veronica and Matthew Cook
- Cecilia Cooper
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- ⊕ Ramona Coutre Sandra Craig
- ⊕ Margaret Croke Estate
- ⊕ Patricia Cronin Susan Crook
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- ⊕ Bernard Cunningham
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- ⊕ Dorothy Dake
- John W Dalton
- ⊕ Marie D'Amore
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- ⊕ Louis Dehner Trust Patrick Delaney
- Donna Dening
- ⊕ Frances Rose Dewey Trust

- ⊕ Margaret Diffenderffer Estate
- **†** Santa and **†**Thomas DiMarco Estelle Disselhorst
- ⊕ Barbara Donovan Laurence Donovan
- **₽ Joseph Doran Estate**
- ⊕ Beatrice Dormedy Estate Mary Kay Dougherty
- ⊕ Eleanore M Dowling Estate
- ⊕ Lois Doyle
- ⊕ Marcella Doyle
- Patricia Doyle
- Leo and Norma Drilling
- ⊕ Emma Dry Meneve Dunham
- Shirley Dunne Elizabeth Dustman Betty Dy Cathryn Dye
- Colleen and James Ebbesmeyer
- Catherine Eberle ⊕ Bernice Ebinger
- Arline Elliott
- ⊕ Steven and Dianne Enderle
- ⊕ Florence Endriz Estate Rita Ewalt
- Sheila Feeney
- ⊕ Geraldine Ferring Estate
- ⊕ Mary Finan Estate Michael Finnerty Barbara Fischer Mary Louise Fischer
- ⊕ Marguerite Carroll Fisher Estate Elizabeth Fitting
- ⊕ Dorothy Fitzgerald Estate
- ⊕ L Patricia Fitzmaurice Trust
- Joseph and Elsie Flynn Sharlene and James Flynn
- Shirley Ford
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2020 Save the Date

April 26 The Immaculata High School 43rd Annual Alumnae Luncheon, Niles, IL

April 26 St. Mary High School Alumnae Luncheon Lombard, IL

May 14 Great Give Day

May 17 Memorial Mass, Mount Carmel Dubuque, IA

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Profession of Perpetual Vows Brings Joy to Mount Carmel

In a joyful ceremony, Sister Tram
Thi Thu Tran professed her perpetual
vows as a Sister of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary Nha Tang Congregation
of Vietnam at the Motherhouse Chapel
of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Tram has lived at Mount Carmel for the past four years with three other Vietnamese sisters while they study at Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa.

After she professed her final vows, Tram beamed as the assembly applauded and gave her celebratory hugs. Part of what made the Dec. 17 profession so special was the family and friends who shared in the celebration. Tram's mother and brother-in-law, members of her congregation, friends from Divine Word, and others showed their support with their presence.

"BVM Sisters have given me a lot of support, and I love them. It is hard to express my emotions. I never thought my mother would have a chance to come here from Vietnam, but the BVMs made it possible.

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank the BVMs for all they have done for me, for my congregation, and for my family," Tram says. "The sisters treat me just like a member of their congregation. Whatever I need, they are willing to help me.

"I have learned a lot from the sisters here," Tram says. "God knew this was the best place for me to learn and grow."

